

Manager's Report

City Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

7:00 p.m.

TO: Honorable Mayor Ash & Belfast City Councilors

FROM: Joseph J. Slocum, City Manager

DATE: Friday, October 29, 2010

Non-Agenda items:

Thanks, farewell and warm regards to Lewis Baker

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Councilman Lewis Baker for all that he has done for the City over the last two years. Lew's strong intellect and articulate manner brought to the table a level of scrutiny that helped us all make better decisions and do a better job. Like his colleagues, he was consistently concerned about the welfare of this City and more importantly -its people. His effort here was tireless in its advocacy, dedicated to his strong sense of fairness and unwavering on some important policy issues. Wednesday will be Lewis last Meeting as the City Councilman representing Ward 5. On behalf of all of us who have worked with him I thank him for his service and my privilege to have had the opportunity to work with him.

I have had the honor to work with some truly great and highly dedicated former Council Members: Robert Gordon, Jim Roberts, Cathy Heberer, Jan Anderson and Larry Theye. I invite Lew to join them and all of the other former City officials to stay in touch with me and to continue to share with me their concerns as well as their perspectives on how we can be better. That continuing dialogue is so important because these are the people the community chose to get a very intimate look at your City business, its challenges as well as its shortcomings. Their collective experience and knowledge- like Lew's- is a crucial ongoing resource to our ability to understand and deliver the quality and financially responsible local government that people here so richly deserve.

Thanks Lew. Good luck in your future endeavors. The door will always be open.

Agenda Items:

10.B Discussion and possible approval of road names recommended by the City Assessor under the E 9-1-1 system.

The City Assessor regularly updates City maps and requests for the naming of roads to comply with the E9-1-1 System. City Assessor Bob Whiteley has recommended the naming of five (5) roads and lanes in conformity with the E9-1-1 system. That system requires the naming of the road when a single house is

not visible from the main road or when two or more residential buildings are visible but off on their own road.

10.C Discussion and possible acceptance of bids on sidewalk improvements on Route 3 and Route 52.

We put some sidewalk work out to bid on Route 52 and Route 3. The Route 52 work will replace some walkway too damaged to repair from athenahealth toward the YMCA and then the repair and resurfacing down to Troy A. Howard Middle School.

The Route 3 work will run from the existing sidewalk at Starrett Drive and create a connecting sidewalk to an existing walkway at Dutch Chevrolet.

We directly solicited three (3) bids: Vaughn D. Thibodeau II Inc. is the lowest combined bidder and I recommend approval to him. We hope to get the work done immediately before the Plants close for the winter. The bids packages and results are in your packets.

10.D Acknowledgement of Votes Cast.

After each election the City Clerk certifies the voting results. It is appropriate to present these results to the City Council as the governing body of the City and for the Council to acknowledge these results, by vote to acknowledge the results conditioned upon and subject to any legal challenge that may arise.

The Council is not certifying the vote, it is merely acknowledging the Clerks report on the results and in doing so the acknowledgement is merely a report to the people. Such a vote of acknowledgement does not preclude any challenge brought by anyone.

10.E Discussion and possible action to approve the annual update of the City's General Assistance Ordinance.

Diane Wood, the City's General Assistance Administrator, has written you a nice summary on eligibility, which is located in your packed. Every year the State does a survey of market data and based upon that survey sets eligibility requirements for maximum benefit entitlements. These numbers are customized by regional economic forces and so they are not uniform through out the State. They are based upon size of household. We ask that you approve the State Maximums for Belfast from October 1, 2010 to October 1, 2011. We would have given them to you sooner but the State was late in releasing them

That's it for what is traditionally our shortest meeting of the year. Nothing amazes us more in this election than the number of people willing to be a part of government at all levels at a time where the challenges to government are so enormous.

There's an old joke about some one asking about 2nd prize when they realize 1st prize isn't really all that great. At City Hall, we try to make an effort to stay out of the people's decision making. We have faith and pride in the people of this community and their ability to choose their leaders. We are not always so neutral at the State and Federal level because we know that we are all in this together. We regularly

advocate and pursue really good communication, cooperation and understanding with all other levels of government.

These are very tough times and it is likely that we will have to rely on ourselves- closer to home -for our recovery. Belfast can do that and the State and Nation will ultimately find their recovery on the good foundations those local communities like ours continue to lay. To do this we need not only the work of dedicated elected officials but also the ongoing commitment of all of our local people to make this better place for everyone. It is easier and likely more effective for each of us to support the local economy that is here than to react to the decisions being made in Boardrooms around the globe

Good luck to all candidates here and everywhere. Please everyone please take the time to vote. There is no perspective without value and our value is diminished without our participation.

This is your community and every piece of it needs every piece you can afford to share with it.