

These are "Action Only" minutes. Video of comments may be found on recorded discs at City Hall or at www.cityofbelfast.org.

**City of Belfast
Council Chambers-Belfast City Hall
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Regular Council Meeting No. 12

1) Call to order

2) Present: Mayor Eric Sanders, Councilors Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Brenda Bonneville, Michael Hurley and Paul Dean; City Manager Joseph Slocum.

Absent: Admin. Assistant to the City Manager Manda Cushman

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, requested to remove items **10) R** and **10) S**.

Councilor Hurley requested to add **10) P #1** Request to go into an Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. This motion was approved, 5-0.

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of December 3, 2019.

Councilor Dean noted that under item **10) F#1** the motion was moved by Councilor Harkness and seconded by Councilor Dean, not moved by Councilor Mortier and seconded by Councilor Mortier.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of December 3, 2019, as amended. This was approved, 5-0.

6) A. Open to the public

1. Walter Ash Jr. thanked Council for naming the park on the East side after him and requested that signage include thanking the neighbors for helping maintaining the area as well.
2. Councilor Mortier provided a New Years by the Bay event update

B. Organization and Department Reports

- Wayne Marshall, Director of Code & Planning provided an update regarding the Planning Board's review of the Nordic Aquafarm permits.
- Ken Ortmann, Airport Manager, provided an Airport update.

7) Communications

Councilor Bonneville thanked all who help with the local school food drive and noted anyone still interested in providing donations should contact the principle of the school they are hoping to donate to.

Councilor Hurley requested the list of Council goals from the City Manager and thanked all those who assisted with Christmas tree lighting this year.

Councilor Dean noted that Miller Street stop sign is fine during winter weather and thanked Parks & Recreation

8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

No comments

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve a twelve-month Blanket Letter of Approval for Game of Chance (Cards) for Randall Collins & Auxiliary VFW Post 3108 located at 34 Field Street, Belfast, Maine. This approval is granted from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to accept the consent agenda. This motion was approved, 5-0.

10) Business

- A) Discussion on letter received from Library Board President regarding the need for a new heating system at the Library.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, reviewed the concerns brought forward by the Library Board of Trustees.

Steve Norman, Library Director, answered Council questions.

Councilors requested that the Energy Committee to look into it providing the Library and Council more information regarding upgrading a heating system at the Library.

B) Request from the Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, for authority to construct a new gravity sewer line down Charles Street to Waldo Avenue.

Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, reviewed the proposed construction of a new gravity sewer line and answered Council questions.

C) Request from the Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, for authority to construct a new out fall covert with the backflow check valve at the bottom of Miller Street.

Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, reviewed the proposed construction of a new out fall cover with backflow check valve at the bottom of Miller Street and answered Council questions.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, discussed funding for the three proposed projects.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to expend up to \$295,000 to construct a new gravity sewer line down Charles Street to Waldo Avenue and to construct a new out fall covert with the backflow check valve at the bottom of Miller Street with funding to come from the Sewer Expansion account. This was approved, 5-0.

D) Request from the Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, for authority to construct a new D chlorination building.

Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment, Jon Carman, reviewed the proposed construction of a new D chlorination building and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to go out to bid for design and construction of a new D chlorination building with funding to come from the Wastewater Treatment Undesignated Fund Balance. This was approved, 5-0.

E) Brief presentation from Parks and Recreation Director, Norm Poirier, on proposed changes to the Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

Parks and Recreation Director, Norm Poirier, reviewed the proposed ordinances amendments.

F) Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

Mayor Sanders asked for proponents and opponents.

1. Dale Kuhnert, member of Friends of Belfast Parks, spoke in support of the proposed ordinances.
2. Carol Good, Chair of the Belfast Parks & Recreation Commission, spoke in support of the proposed ordinances.

Mayor Sanders declared the hearing closed.

G) Second Reading and possible vote on proposed changes to the Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

Councilors discussed whether or not the Rail Trail and Harbor Walk should be solely managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilors noted a few grammatical errors needed to be fixed.

Councilor Dean discussed being more specific regarding the material of cup.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the Second Reading on changes to the Parks and Recreation Ordinance, with grammatical errors addressed and tabling to a future date whether or not to transfer responsibility for the Rail Trail & Harbor Walk. This was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Bonneville opposed).

H) Presentation from the Director of Code and Planning, Wayne Marshall, on a proposed ordinance amendments relating to solar installations in Belfast.

Director of Code and Planning, Wayne Marshall, reviewed the proposed amendments.

I) Public Hearing on proposed ordinance amendments relating to solar installations in Belfast.

Mayor Sanders asked for proponents and opponents and hearing none declared the hearing closed.

Director of Code & Planning, Wayne Marshall, noted that no comments were submitted prior to tonight's meeting.

J) Consideration of accepting the proposed amendments on solar installation as a First Reading and scheduling a Second Reading and Public Hearing at the Council meeting of January 7, 2020.

Director of Code & Planning, Wayne Marshall, recommended small modifications to be addressed before Second Reading.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to accept the First Reading on proposed amendments on solar installation Ordinance, as presented with the Public Hearing and Second Reading scheduled for January 7, 2020, with recommendations from the Director of Code & Planning. This was approved, 5-0.

K) Request from the Code and Planning Director, Wayne Marshall, for authority to proceed to project bidding for the construction repairs to storm damage to the East side of the Armistice Bridge.

Code and Planning Director, Wayne Marshall, reviewed the request to proceed with project bidding for the construction repairs to storm damage to the East side of the Armistice Bridge.

Council discussed how to maintain pedestrian access during construction.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request for authority to proceed to go out to bid for the construction repairs for the storm damage to the East side of the Armistice Bridge. This was approved, 5-0.

L) Request from the Cemetery Trustees to appoint Steve Boguen as Superintendent of Belfast Cemeteries for a three-year term.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, reviewed the request from the Cemetery Trustees to appoint Steve Boguen for a three-year term effective April 2020 and noted that this would be subject to annual budget appropriation.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to accept the request to appoint Steve Boguen as Superintendent of Belfast Cemeteries for a three-year term starting on April 2020, subject to annual appropriation. This was approved, 5-0.

M) Request from the Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, for authority to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase and install internet switches at five City facility locations.

Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, reviewed the request for authority to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase and install internet switches at five City locations and discussed funding sources with Councilors.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to spend up to \$22,000 with \$5,888.32 coming from the Public Works Facility Project account with the remaining coming from Undesignated Fund Balance to purchase, install and manage internet switches. This was approved, 5-0.

N) Update on health insurance coverage for City employees.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, updated the Council on changes to health insurance for City employees.

Councilors discussed having a Work Session on January 7th, time to be determined to discuss this further.

O) Consideration of hiring a part-time independent contractor to help administer WBFY.

Charlie Crane, WBFY Board member, gave a brief review of the radio stations request.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request to hire a part-time independent contractor to help administer WBFY, \$15 an hour for 15 hours per week. This was approved, 5-0.

P) #1 Request to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to go into Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 10:32 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 10:37 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

P) Request to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to go into Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 10:37 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 11:10 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Q) Request to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to go into Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 11:10 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session on an Economic Development matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) C at 11:40 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

R) Request from City Manager to go into an Executive Session on a Poverty Abatement pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841.

Item removed.

S) Request from City Manager to go into an Executive Session on a Poverty Abatement pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841.

Item removed.

M) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

11) Open to the Public

No comments.

12) Communications

Councilor Dean read a letter from Public Health Nurse, Susan Dupler, regarding services to the community.

Councilor Hurley discussed homelessness in the area and what local groups are doing to help address it and requested looking into getting a sign out on Rt.3 by Crocker Rd. to indicate where to turn to get to the Public Works Facility.

Councilor Harkness informed the public that the menorah lighting will take place on Sunday, December 22nd at 3:30 p.m. at Post Office Square.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE
IS A TRUE COPY OF INFORMATION
ON THE RECORD WHICH IS IN MY
OFFICIAL CUSTODY

ATTEST



AMANDA CUSHMAN, BELFAST MAINE