

\*These are "Action Only" minutes. Video of comments may be found on recorded discs at City Hall or at [www.cityofbelfast.org](http://www.cityofbelfast.org).\*

**City of Belfast**  
**Council Chambers-Belfast City Hall**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Regular Council Meeting No. 14**

**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 and Admin. Assistant to the City Manager Manda Cushman.

**3) Pledge of Allegiance**

**4) Adoption of the agenda**

Councilor Harkness requested to move item **10) D** Request from Dorothy Odell to remove a tree from her property bordering on Peach Street to **10) A #1** and item **10) F** Discussion and possible action on the creation of an Accessibility Committee to identify and improve accessibility challenges inside the City to item **10) A #2**.

Councilor Hurley requested to add item **10) H #1** Update on winter Parking.

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

**5) Acceptance of the minutes**

Regular Council Meeting of January 7, 2020.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of January 7, 2020. This was approved, 5-0.

**6) A. Open to the public**

1. Dorothy Odell of Belfast noted she was here to speak to item 10) E on the agenda.

2. Cheryl Fuller of Belfast discussed an ad hoc committee that has been created to address accessibility concerns and how they could assist the City in looking into how best to address accessibility moving forward.
3. Becky Hayes Boober of Rockport provided a 2020 Census update.

### **B. Organization and Department Reports**

- Steve Ryan, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, provided an organization update.
- Report from the Director of Code and Planning on the upcoming Planning Board Public Hearing on January 29th regarding the proposed building height amendment for the Washington Street area in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District.
- Update from the Director of Code and Planning on the Planning Board meetings regarding the Nordic Aquafarms project.
- Kenn Ortman, Airport Manager, provided a Department update.

### **7) Communications**

Councilor Bonneville discussed recent visit to City departments and thanked staff for taking time to show her around and explain their operation.

Councilor Harkness thanked those who organized the 31<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Belfast and informed the public of an upcoming browntail moth informational event at the Belfast Boathouse on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Councilor Hurley thanked Parks staff for maintaining the ice rink behind Waterfall Arts and informed the public of a house sharing discussion that will be held at the Library on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Dean thanked Public Works for their maintaining of the roads.

Councilor Hurley requested an Executive Session on a Personnel matter be added to the agenda as item **10) I #1**, Council unanimously agreed.

### **8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports**

Mayor Sanders and Councilors Hurley and Dean provided an Energy Committee update.

### **9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda**

- A. Request to approve a renewal application by Nutjarin Sukkasemsri d/b/a Rice & Noodle Thai Restaurant LLC located at 160 Searsport Ave., Belfast, Maine for a Malt and Vinous Restaurant/Lounge (Class I-IV) license, interior only.
- B. Request to approve an off premises catering permit for Rollie's Bar & Grill for the Business Afterhours event located at Nordic Aquafarms Inc., 159 High Street, Belfast, ME on January 15, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- C. Request to approve an off premises catering permit for Delvino's Grill and Pasta House for the Belfast Winter Whoopla event located at the Belfast Boathouse, 34 Commercial Street, Belfast, ME on January 31, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- D. Request to approve an off premises catering permit for Front Street Pub for the Robert Burns Night event located at the United Farmers Market of Maine, 18 Spring Street, Belfast, ME on January 25, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

## 10) Business

- A) #1 Request from Dorothy Odell to remove a tree from her property bordering on Peach Street.

Dorothy Odell explained her request to remove the tree and replace it with several fruit trees and answered Council questions.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to remove the maple tree on her property at 47 Church Street. This motion was approved, 5-0.

- A) #2 Discussion and possible action on the creation of an Accessibility Committee to identify and improve accessibility challenges inside the City.

Councilor Dean explained his request to possibly create a City Accessibility Committee.

Councilors discussed the ad hoc committee versus creating a City committee, deciding to start with just an ad hoc and see if in time it needs to evolve into a City committee.

Cheryl Fuller provided insight into what the ad hoc committee could provide to the City and noted they could have a couple more committee members if there is someone interested in joining.

A) Request from the Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, to enter into a contract with Ransom Consulting for the management of the remediation of contaminated soils and building abatement and demolition for the City-owned property at 115 Congress St.

Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, explained the request to enter into a contract with Ransom Consulting and answered Council questions.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to enter into a contract with Ransom Consulting for the management of the remediation of contaminated soils and building abatement and demolition for the City-owned property at 115 Congress Street, as presented. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Consideration and possible acceptance of the recommendations of the Pedestrian, Biking and Hiking Committee's priority list of pedestrian and bicycle improvements the 2020 construction season.

Glenn Montgomery, committee member briefly reviewed the committee's revised list of priorities.

Councilor thanked the committee for their thoughtfulness and practicality.

Director of Code and Planning, Wayne Marshall, discussed the post script and what the Planning Board can reasonably request based on the current City ordinance.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to accept the recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle improvements for the 2020 construction season, as presented. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request from the City Manager for resolution of the Council directing that City owned trusts to be divested of investment in fossil fuel based companies.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, briefly reviewed the request.

Councilors discussed their support.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to direct the City Manager to work with the City Treasurer changing City owned trusts to be divested of investment in fossil fuel based companies. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**D)** Request from Dorothy Odell to remove a tree from her property bordering on Peach Street.

Item moved to **10) A #1**.

**E)** Request from the City Manager to appoint Gerry Lincoln as the Police Chief of the City of Belfast.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, reviewed his recommendation to appoint Gerry Lincoln as the new Police Chief for the City of Belfast.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to appoint Gerry Lincoln as the Police Chief of the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Police Chief, Gerry Lincoln, thanked the Council for the opportunity.

**F)** Discussion and possible action on the creation of an Accessibility Committee to identify and improve accessibility challenges inside the City.

Item moved to **10) A #2**.

**G)** Request from the Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, to authorize a grant application to Maine Bicentennial commission and to provide matching funds for the application.

Economic Development Director, Thomas Kittredge, explained the request noting that at this time he is requesting a \$5,000 match, but once the budget is complete if they find they would not need the full \$10,000 to complete the project he would adjust the City match to stay at a 1 to 1 match.

Councilor Hurley provided more detail regarding the project vision and what they are hoping to accomplish with these mural installations.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to authorize submission of the grant application to the Maine Bicentennial Commission for the installation of murals in Belfast, approving matching funds of up to \$5,000 to come from Undesignated Fund Balance, and to authorize

the City Manager to sign a letter of support and any other required documents on behalf of the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) Request from the Cemetery Superintendent, Steve Bogue, for authority to move \$900 from the HM Payson Cemetery Trust fund to expense account #630 – 504 to pay for seasonal flower arrangements for Grove cemetery for fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

No Council discussion.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to move \$900 from the HM Payson Cemetery Trust fund to expense account #630-504 to pay for seasonal flower arrangements for Grove cemetery for fiscal year 2019-2020. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) #1 Update on winter parking.

City Manager, Joseph Slocum, provided a brief update regarding changes to winter parking.

D) #1 Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 9:47 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 10:25 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I) Request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss Poverty Abatements and Possible Waivers of Foreclosure pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to go into Executive Session on Poverty Abatements and Possible Waivers of Foreclosure matter pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841 at 10:25 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session on Poverty Abatements and Possible Waivers of Foreclosure matter pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841 at 10:25 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**J)** Possible action on requests for poverty abatements and possible waivers of foreclosure.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to grant waivers of foreclosure for Map 8, Lot 96 and Map 1, Lot 26H. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**M)** Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

**Council Order #46** Signed by Councilor Mortier, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$105 for invoices to Bernstein Shur for work related to the City's Downtown-Waterfront TIF District. Funding is to come from the City's Downtown-Waterfront TIF District account #730-638. (Approved January 7, 2020)

**Council Order #47** Signed by Councilor Mortier, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$26,284.64 for invoices to Bernstein Shur for work related to the City's Tax Increment Financing Districts. Funding is to come from Undesignated Fund Balance. (Approved January 7, 2020)

**Council Order #48** Signed by Councilor Mortier, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to transfer \$2,500 from the Cable TV Equipment Capital Reserve Account to the Cable TV Supplies and Expenses Account, and to expend up to \$2,500 to purchase a new computer for the department used for editing, rendering and uploading videos for Bel TV. (Approved January 7, 2020)

## 11) Open to the Public

1. Ridgely Fuller of Belfast discussed concerns regarding including jet fuel as part of the Airport's future fuel farm and that impact it would have on the City's carbon footprint.

**12) Communications**

Mayor Sanders discussed recent power outages.

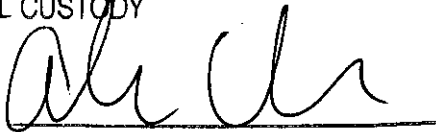
Councilors discussed upcoming meetings.

**13) Adjourn**

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I 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