

City of Belfast
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Belfast City Hall – Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
7:00 P.M.

All City Council Meetings will be conducted online using Zoom and can be streamed on the City website at www.cityofbelfast.org. They will air live on BEL TV as well as on Belfast Community Radio WBFY 100.9.

1) Call to order

2) Present: Mayor Eric Sanders, Councilors Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Brenda Bonneville, Michael Hurley and Paul Dean, City Manager, Erin Herbig and Admin. Assistant Manda Cushman.

3) Adoption of the agenda

Mayor Sanders read an email from Phillip Prince regarding the Transfer Station.

Councilor Hurley requested that communications be added to this agenda and all Special Council Meetings moving forward.

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

Councilor Harkness requested to add item **D)** Discussion on City support for Tall Pines.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to adopt the agenda to include item **D) Discussion on City support for Tall Pines. This motion was approved, 5-0.**

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

4) Communications

Councilor Hurley thanked essential services workers.

Councilor Harkness noted that Hannaford would be altering their hours.

5) Agenda:

A. Presentation from the RSU #71 School Board on their FY 2020-2021 Budget.

School Board Members David Crabiel, Charlie Grey, Caitlin Hills and Jessica Woods with Superintendent Mary Alice McLean and Finance Director Chandra Hodgdon provided a brief summary of remote learning, overviewed the proposed budget and answered Council questions.

B. Request to approve a Facility Use Request by Public Health Nurse, Susan Dupler, in conjunction with the Red Cross to use the Belfast Boathouse for a Blood Drive.

Councilors discussed the need to take extra precautions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to approve a Facility Use Request by Public Health Nurse, Susan Dupler, in conjunction with the Red Cross to use the Belfast Boathouse for a Blood Drive at a date and time coordinated with the Parks & Recreation Director. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C. Further discussion and possible action on an economic relief program for small business grants and grocery vouchers.

City Manager, Erin Herbig, reviewed the proposal to create a program that would assist residents with grocery vouchers and small businesses with grants and recommended the Council approve the funding Appropriated on an Emergency basis for the Belfast Keep the Faith Fund, from the following accounts:

DOWNTOWN TIF ACCOUNT:	\$ 46,000
BEFAST DEVELOPMENT CORP RESIDUAL FUNDS:	\$ 19,500
TOTAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM:	\$ 65,500
UNDESIGNATED FUND (sourced from 2019-2020 Budget):	\$ 84,500
TOTAL FOR GROCERY VOUCHER PROGRAM:	\$ 84,500

TOTAL BELFAST KEEP THE FAITH FUND APPROPRIATION: \$ 150,000

Councilors discussed support for the program and discussed how best to get information out to the public regarding how to apply.

Councilor Bonneville noted support for both the grants and vouchers but noted that she would be recusing herself from the vote as an interested business owner.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the Belfast Keep the Faith Fund proposal as presented by the City Manager, to accept the Emergency Appropriation Resolve, and to appoint committee members Zach Schmesser, Executive Director of Our Town Belfast, Steve Ryan, Executive Director of the Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Kittredge, Economic Development Director for the City of Belfast to the Belfast Keep the Faith Fund Small Business Grant Committee, as outlined. This motion was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Bonneville abstained).

D) Discussion on City support for Tall Pines.

Councilors discussed ways in which the City could potentially support staff at Tall Pines; unanimously agreeing to direct the City Manager to reach out to Tall Pines and Harbor Hill and to bring back suggestions of ways that the City could best help and support them at the next Council Meeting.

5) Communications

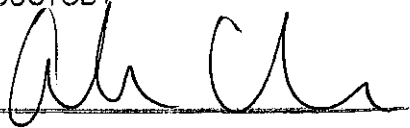
Councilor Hurley thanked Tall Pines and reminded the public that we should all stay positive and support each other during this time.

Mayor Sanders thanked the City Manager and City staff for their work.

6) Adjourn

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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