

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, March 1, 2022**

6:30 p.m. Request to go into Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 6:30 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 7:09 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

7:12 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Due to the ongoing public health crisis, per Emergency Order adopted by the City Council on August 12, 2021, all City Council Meetings will be conducted online using Zoom. If you do not plan to speak at open to the public we encourage the public to stream the meeting on the City website www.cityofbelfast.org, watch live on BEL TV channel 7 or channel 1303.

Regular Council Meeting No. 17

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 Assistant to the City Manager Manda Cushman.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

Mayor noted that Council added a Request to go into an Executive Session on a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A, prior to the start of the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Mayor Sanders requested to add item **10) A #1** To authorize the City Manager to execute and/or accept any and all necessary documents and take all necessary actions, to effectuate the closing of transactions described in the

Options and Purchase Agreement between the City of Belfast, Nordic Aquafarms and the Belfast Water District dated January 30, 2018 and amended on April 15, 2019, June 29, 2020 and April 21, 2021.

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of February 15, 2022.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of February 15, 2022. This motion was approved, 5-0.

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that Council received 0 emails and 0 postal mail, prior to noon today which were shared with Council before the start of the Council meeting to be included as part of the Open to the Public.

No public comments.

B. Organization and Department Reports

City Manager Erin Herbig inquired if one or two Councilors would like to serve on the hiring committee for the Chief of Police. Councilors Mortier and Hurley volunteered to serve.

Councilors discussed how to move forward with committee vacancies mid-terms and how committee members are notified of appointments.

7) Communications

Councilor Bonneville thanked all who applied to the school board.

Councilors thanked all who were involved in coordinating the Belfast Ice Festival.

Councilors discussed what is currently happening in the Ukraine.

8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

- Update from the Climate Crisis Committee.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to confirm Kyle Masse as a part-time Police Officer for the Belfast Police Department.
- B. Request to approve confirm Travis Spencer as a part-time Police Officer for the Belfast Police Department.
- C. Request to approve a Catering Permit for The Otis Group Inc. d/b/a Rollie's for the Belfast Ice Festival located in the dirt lot at 45/47 Main Street on February 25, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- D. Request to approve a Catering Permit for The Otis Group Inc. d/b/a Rollie's for the Belfast Ice Festival located in the dirt lot at 45/47 Main Street on February 26, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- E. Request to approve a Catering Permit for The Otis Group Inc. d/b/a Rollie's for the Belfast Ice Festival located in the dirt lot at 45/47 Main Street on February 27, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- F. Request to close Federal Street on Saturday, February 26th in conjunction with the Belfast Ice Festival for sledding.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion was approved, 5-0.

10) Business

- A) Request to ratify a three-year contract with the City Manager.

Councilors discussed section four of the contract.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to ratify a three-year contract with the City Manager from March 9, 2022 to March 9, 2025. This motion was approved, 5-0.

- A) #1 To authorize the City Manager to execute and/or accept any and all necessary documents and take all necessary actions, to effectuate the closing of transactions described in the Options and Purchase Agreement between the City of Belfast, Nordic Aquafarms and the Belfast Water District dated January 30, 2018 and amended on April 15, 2019, June 29, 2020 and April 21, 2021.

Councilor Hurley thanked all who have worked on this, this is great news.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to authorize the City Manager to execute and/or accept any and all necessary documents and take all necessary actions, to effectuate the closing of transactions described in the Options and Purchase Agreement between the City of Belfast, Nordic Aquafarms and the Belfast Water District dated January 30, 2018 and amended on April 15, 2019, June 29, 2020 and April 21, 2021. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Request to transfer up to \$6,000 from the American Rescue Plan Funding Account to the Police Department Salary and Wage Line for Hazard Pay.

No Council discussion.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request to transfer up to \$6,000 from the American Rescue Plan Funding Account to the Police Department Salary and Wage Line for Hazard Pay. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request to appoint Deputy Chief Dean Jackson as the Interim Police Chief.

Councilors thanked Deputy Dean Jackson for stepping in and thanked the Belfast Police Department for all they do for the City of Belfast.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to appoint Deputy Chief Dean Jackson as the Interim Police Chief. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request to appoint Kristi Osgood as the General Assistance Administrator for the City of Belfast.

No Council discussion.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to appoint Kristi Osgood as the General Assistance Administrator for the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request from the Fire Chief to approve Fire and Ambulance Contracts.

Fire Chief Patrick Richards answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve Fire and Ambulance Contracts, as presented. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Presentation from the Economic Development Director Regarding an Application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program.

Economic Development Director gave a brief presentation regarding an application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program.

G) Public Hearing for an Application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge read the public hearing notice; additionally he noted that three comments were submitted before the deadline from the following citizens:

1. Loren Brown - 33 Booth Drive, Unit 106, Belfast:

As a resident of EJ Reynolds house on Booth Drive, I am aware of increased motor vehicle traffic on Wight and Congress Street, increased difficulty in walking and bicycle riding to access City Park and the hospital. I would like to propose a feasibility study of making one lane motor vehicle traffic and creating bike lane as well as sidewalk to serve the elderly and low income population. Additionally, some accommodation for Electric scooters and golf cars as can be found in many retirement villages. I believe the net effect would be better environmental quality in addition to public safety. Thank you for your consideration.

2. Cheryl Farley - 80 Wight Street, Unit 101, Belfast:

I received the letter about this Grant and what you would like to do . . . I live at Belfast Acres on Wight Street . . . I think it would be awesome to have sidewalks on both sides of the street . . . and to have easy exits from said sidewalks for scooters and wheelchairs . . . but having them on one side would be a great improvement also . . . fixing the road would be awesome too . . . as I still drive . . . and signage too . . . I hope this all happens . . .

3. Jacquie Lacoste - 75 Wight Street, Unit 204, Belfast:

I've just moved into Penobscot Landing on Wight St. and I chose to live here because of my ability to walk to the downtown and City Park. When I look at my environs, there are many senior housing occupants on Wight St. as well as Volunteers of America across the way. I think it would be of great benefit for seniors to have the ability to walk on the sidewalk rather than narrow Wight St. All of the prospective plans for Wight St. would be of great benefit to support the increase of residents on Wight St. I fully support the CDBG plans for Wight St.

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

H) Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Submission of and Commitment of Matching Funds to an Application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to commit matching funds in the amount of \$1,760,000 to an application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program, in the form of a letter of commitment; authorize the submission of the application to the Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant Program; and authorize the City Manager to sign any documents related and necessary to the submission of the application. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I) Presentation on proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding the “Outside Rural Area.”

Project Planner Wayne Marshall reviewed the proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding the “Outside Rural Area.”

J) Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding the “Outside Rural Area.”

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

Project Planner Wayne Marshall noted that he received two public comments prior to the deadline from Eric Nation and Edward Earle, these comments were provided to Council before the start of the meeting.

K) First Reading on proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding the “Outside Rural Area.”

Project Planner Wayne Marshall answered Council questions and discussed potential additional amendments to the proposed language.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to accept the First Reading of proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding the “Outside Rural Area” and to schedule the Public Hearing and Second Reading for the Regular Council Meeting of April 5, 2022. This motion was approved, 5-0.

L) Request from the Parks and Recreation Director to change the name of the Four Seasons Recreational Area.

Parks and Recreation Director Norm Poirier reviewed the request to change the name.

Councilor Hurley requested to table the item until the next Council Meeting to allow for further discussion.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to table the request to change the name of the Four Seasons Recreational Area to “Belfast Bike Park”. This motion was approved, 5-0.

J) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #69 Signed by Councilor Bonneville Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to transfer up to \$6,000 from the American Rescue Plan Funding Account to the Police Department Salary and Wage Line for Hazard Pay. (Approved on March 1, 2022)

11) Communications

Councilor Hurley encouraged other towns to join in on Belfast's efforts to get broadband.

Mayor Sanders discussed moving forward with an evaluation for the City Manager.

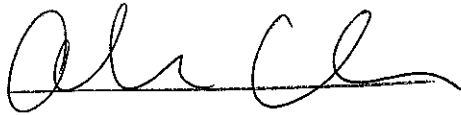
Councilor Hurley discussed the difference between a private conversation and a private review of the City Manager.

12) Adjourn

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to adjourn at 10:07 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