

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 17, 2018**

The City of Belfast City Council, at its meeting of Tuesday, April 17, 2018, beginning at 7:00 pm or as soon as practical thereafter, in the Council Chambers of Belfast City Hall which is located at 131 Church Street, shall conduct a public hearing on the following proposed amendments to the City Code of Ordinances and to the 2009 adopted Future Land Use Plan. The amendments are associated with the proposal by Nordic Aquafarms to construct a land based salmon aquaculture farm on property now owned by the Belfast Water District and Sam Cassida that is located near the lower Reservoir on the Little River.

- 1) Second Reading, proposed amendments to Chapter 102, Zoning. The main purpose of the amendments is to expand the boundaries of the current Industrial IV district, to identify aquaculture and associated activities as an allowed use, and to include all lands associated with the Nordic Aquafarm project in the Industrial IV zoning district. Provisions of Chapter 102 affected by the amendments include:
 - Article V, District Regulations, including Division 7, Residential II district; Division 18, Industrial IV Perkins Road district; and Division 20, Protection Rural district.
 - Article IV, Description of Districts, including Sec 102-256, Residential II district, and Sec 102-267, Industrial IV district.
 - Article IX, Performance Standards, Div 2, Environmental Standards; amendments establish performance standards for significant groundwater wells and significant water intake/outfall pipes.
 - Changes to the adopted Zoning Map for the boundaries of the Industrial IV and Residential II districts.
- 2) Second Reading, proposed amendments to Chapter 82, Shoreland. Amendments include: expanding the amount of area near the Reservoir that is included in the General Development district rather than the current Resource Protection district; clarifying the current range of permitted uses to specifically allow land based aquaculture in the Resource Protection and General Development Shoreland districts and to allow water discharge/intake pipes in Belfast Bay for this use; and adopting language to specifically allow significant groundwater wells in support of an aquaculture/industrial use in the Shoreland districts.
- 3) Second Reading, proposed amendments to Chapter 66, General Provisions, to clarify some of the current definitions in this Chapter with respect to aquaculture, significant groundwater wells and significant water intake/discharge pipes.
- 4) Amendments to the City 2009 adopted Future Land Use Plan (part of Comprehensive Plan) to establish that the area proposed for the Nordic Aquafarms project can be used for a salmon aquaculture farm and accompanying uses. In the 2009 adopted Plan, the area is proposed to be included in the Outside Rural area; an area that does not allow aquaculture or associated industrial uses. The amendments propose to include the area associated with the proposed Nordic Aquafarm project in an Industrial area.

The Council, at the Second Reading, has the authority to take any of the following actions: adopt the amendments as proposed, to reject the amendments as proposed, to make changes to the proposed amendments, or to take no action on the amendments at this meeting. If the Council makes significant changes to the amendments, the Council must conduct a new duly noticed public hearing at a follow-up Council meeting.

Persons who may be affected by the proposed amendments are encouraged to attend the April 17 public hearing and to express your concerns to the Council. Comment also may be submitted in writing or via email by the date of the hearing. Written comment to Wayne Marshall, Director, Code & Planning, City of Belfast, 131 Church St, Belfast, ME, 04915. Email comment to wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org. The proposed language for the Second Reading amendments is posted on the City website, cityofbelfast.org. A copy of the proposals also is available for inspection at the Code and Planning Department offices in City Hall, Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Wayne Marshall at 338-1417, x 125, or at wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org.