

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 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing #1

The Belfast City Council, at its meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 2014, in the Council Chambers of Belfast City Hall, which is located at 131 Church Street, shall conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 pm or as soon as practical thereafter, regarding the Inner Harbor Improvement Project Plan prepared for the City by Gartley & Dorsky Engineering & Surveying. The Plan identifies recommendations for the lay-out of the Inner Harbor, particularly areas for moored floats and moorings. The City and the Harbormaster intend to use this Plan to guide future use and lay-out of the Inner Harbor, and the City is considering implementing this Plan for the 2015 season. Persons affected by this Plan are encouraged to offer comment at the public hearing. Comment may also be submitted in writing or email prior to the hearing. Written comment should be sent to Manda Cushman, City of Belfast, 131 Church St, Belfast, ME, 04915, and email comment to managersasst@cityofbelfast.org. A copy of the Plan is available for inspection on the City website, cityofbelfast.org, reference the Harbor file, or at the City Manager's office in Belfast City Hall.

Will Gartley of Gartley & Dorsky Engineering and Surveying spoke about the challenges associated with creating this Inner Harbor Improvement Plan.

Mayor Ash asked for proponents and opponents:

1. David Black, read a letter addressing his concerns that not all moorings have been accounted for, and requested that the Council insure that all moorings are accounted for and a new and acceptable location is assigned to each mooring owner before any action is taken on this plan.
2. Captain Jon Finger, Rockland. He owns and operates the Windjammer J & E Riggin, recently acquired the Schooner Timberwind which he hopes to operate out of Belfast as a day sailor.
3. Jim Black, Harbor Committee Chair spoke about concern with the plan and urged the Council to be very careful with whatever decision they make due to the fact that it is a limited resource.

Mayor Ash declared the hearing closed.

Regular Council Meeting No. 11

1) Call to order

2) **Present:** Mayor Walter Ash, Jr.; Councilors Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Eric Sanders, Michael Hurley and John Arrison, and City Manager Joseph Slocum.

Absent: Admin. Assistant Manda Cushman.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

City Manager Joseph Slocum requested to amend the agenda as follows:

- Add item 10) G #1 Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A.

Councilor Hurley requested to amend the agenda as follows:

- Add item 10) H #1 Discussion on Council Goals (time dependent).

Councilor Sanders, 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 November 18, 2014.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of November 18, 2014. This was approved, 5-0.

6) Open to the public

Please state your name and town you are from when addressing the City Council.

1. Alan Crichton, Board President of Waterfall Arts spoke about plans to update and expand their facility which will include a two phase project: phase one, reducing their carbon footprint and phase two, creating a performance center.
2. Larry Theye, serving as the interim Secretary for the new RSU 71 reported information regarding the upcoming January 13th election for school board members.
3. Councilor Sanders noted that they are planning on having a candidate's night on Monday, January 5th in the Council Chambers.

4. Wayne Canning, spoke about the Inner Harbor and requested that the Council consider dredging.
5. Bre Bebb, Director for Our Town Belfast spoke about the organizations fundraising efforts for the Belfast Soup Kitchen, the efforts to name a Belfast park, and the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 6th at 4:30 p.m.

7) Communications

City Manager Joseph Slocum discussed the following:

- Wreaths across America will be coming through Belfast on Sunday, December 7th at 12:20 p.m.
- Deloris Page is retiring from the Waldo County Registry of Deeds; they will be hosting a celebration for her on December 12th from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.
- Spoke about the article in the article in the Republican Journal about the City’s efforts to remove vegetation around the Airport, and informed the public that the City is still working with the Federal Government to create a map that correctly depicts the areas that may need cutting.
- Reminded the public that it is the responsibility of the owner to maintain the sidewalk in front of their property and if there are any problems please report to City Hall.
- Discussed parking enforcement during this time of year and urged the public to be mindful.
- Talked about damage to the well by the Head of the Tide Rd. and the City’s plan to reconstruct it in the spring.

Councilor Harkness noted to Council that the Maine Preservation listed the Belfast Opera House as one of its 2014 Most Endangered Properties, and hopes that there is a community effort to help revive this space.

Councilor Mortier reminded citizens about the 18th Annual New Year’s By the Bay on December 31st, website to come soon.

Councilor Hurley discussed the Opera House, the Energy Committee, and efforts to install the new Christmas tree in Post Office Square.

Councilor Arrison spoke about the Colonial Theatres fundraiser event for the Greater Bay Ministerium Interfaith Fuel Fund and upcoming fundraising events.

8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

No comments.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

No consent items.

10) Business

- A) Further discussion on approving a layout plan for the Inner Harbor.

Councilors discussed possibilities with dredging.

Councilors discussed concerns which included the following: liability where floats are going to be so close together, noting that they would like input on the subject from the City's insurance company as well as marine insurance companies, lack of deep water areas available after the plan, ability to navigate in such tight spaces, and lack of input from commercial users of the Harbor.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to tentatively approve the layout plan for the Inner Harbor as a "working plan" subject to hearing back from the Harbor Master and Harbor Committee about some of the concerns that were addressed at this meeting by the City Council (such as insurance, fees, cost of floats, ect.). This was approved, 5-0.

B) Consideration of a request from the Harbor Master to approve Harbor Usage Fees for 2015.

Harbor Master Kathy Pickering spoke about the annual fees that the Harbor Committee reviews, she noted that there is a typo under Thompson's Wharf that should read as follows:

Summer slip rental fees May 15th – October 15th: \$70/ft./season

Winter Slip rental fees October 16th – May 14th: \$4.00/\$5.00ft./month

Councilors discussed kayak fees, which were missing from the proposed 2015 schedule of Harbor Usage Fees.

Harbor Master Kathy Pickering noted that the committee was recommending no changes for kayak fees, keeping it at: \$40 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

Councilor Arrison, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve Harbor Usage Fees for 2015 as proposed. This was approved, 5-0.

C) Consideration of a request from the Harbor Master to approve Charter Vessel Contracts for 2015.

Harbor Master Kathy Pickering discussed the three requested contracts which include:

1. Coast to Island Charters
2. Belfast Bay Company LLC
3. Bonnie Lynn Charters

There is a fourth charter vessel that has come forward with a request, the Timberwind, which at this point the Harbor Master is uncertain about where to place them or if they have room, and is unable to approve a contract with them.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to approve the three Charter Vessel Contracts for 2015 which include: Coast to Island Charters, Belfast Bay Company LLC, Bonnie Lynn Charters. And to give authority to the Harbor Master to negotiate the possible four contract with Timberwind. This was approved, 5-0.

D) Further discussion on a proposal to dredge and redevelop the Muck and consideration of a request from the Parks and Recreation Commission to spend up to \$6,000 for purposes of hiring a contractor and equipment.

Parks and Recreation Director Norm Poirier, Chris Dyer of the Maine Wardens Service, and Jason Snyder a biologist for Inland Fisheries spoke about the proposal to dredge and redevelop the Muck.

Councilors discussed the proposal and requested further clarification on what it would entail to successfully dredge the Muck.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to spend up to \$6,000 for purposes for purposes of hiring a contractor and equipment to dredge and redevelop the Muck, funds will come from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve account. This was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Hurley opposed).

E) Request from Linda Buckmaster for the Council to approve a search committee for a new Belfast Poet Laureate.

Linda Buckmaster spoke about the guidelines in which the committee needs to be comprised of, which include: a City Council Representative, a Library Representative, an individual who is involved with the arts community, a City resident, and a former Poet Laureate. She is requesting approval for the following members:

Linda Buckmaster, Chair
Mary Mortier, City Council Rep
Kimberly Callas, Belfast Creative Coalition Rep
Brenda Harrington, Library Rep
Tom Maycock, Community Member

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve a search committee for a new Belfast Poet Laureate as proposed. This was approved, 5-0.

F) Requests from the Police Chief to accept bids submitted for a new Detective's car and to award the bid.

Police Chief Mike McFadden spoke about the bid process and recommend purchasing a 2014 Chevy Impala from O'Connor Chevrolet for \$13,980.00.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the bids submitted for a new Detective's car and to award the bid to O'Connor Chevrolet for a 2014 Chevy Impala LS for \$13,980.00. This was approved, 5-0.

G) Request from the Police Chief to accept bids submitted for a new Police Cruiser and to award the bid.

Police Chief Mike McFadden recommended purchasing a 2015 Ford Utility Police Interceptor from Quirk Auto Group for \$24,279.00.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the bids submitted for a new Police Cruiser and to award the bid to Quirk Auto Group for a 2015 Ford Utility Police Interceptor for \$24,279.00. This was approved, 5-0.

G) #1 Request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A at 9:30 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A at 10:20 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) Request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D at 10:21 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss union negotiations matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D at 11:05 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) #1 Discussion on Council Goals

No discussion, removed from agenda.

I) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

11) Open to the Public

Please state your name and town you are from when addressing the City Council.

- 1. Lance Meadows, Captain of the Timberwind thanked Council for their consideration.

12) Communications

Councilor Hurley discussed the need to address ice on the Harbor Walk and clearing out a path for the public to easily access the public bathrooms.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 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