

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 16, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting No. 12

1) Call to order

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

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

City Manager Joseph Slocum requested to amend item **10) J** to read as follows:
“Council action to adopt a proclamation honoring Belfast native Chris Henderson.”

City Manager Joseph Slocum noted that the Belfast Poet Laureate is present and will be giving a “State of Poetry” report during **6) Open to the public**.

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2014.

City Manager Joseph Slocum noted two minor errors in the minutes that will be corrected.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2014, as corrected and presented at the meeting. 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. Kimberly Callas, Director of the Belfast Creative Coalition thanked the Mayor and Council for the contribution to their foundation, gave an organization update and invited the Council to their Annual Meeting on January 21, 2014 at Waterfall Arts.
2. Ellen Sanders, Poet Laureate read a poem and gave a traditional “State of Poetry” report as the outgoing Poet Laureate.
3. Breanna Bebb, Director of Our Town Belfast spoke about the organizations efforts to raise money for the Belfast Soup Kitchen as well as the upcoming events which include a Holiday Costume Parade along the Harbor and a dance at the American Legion on December 27th.
4. David Black, Belfast presented the Council with an article from the Maine Lobstermen’s Community Alliance about the Yarmouth Harbor dredging.
5. David Smith, Belfast spoke of the Belfast Energy Committees efforts to encourage local businesses and homeowners to switch to LED lighting through Efficiency Maine, and informed people where they can buy the lights locally.
6. Mary Mortier, Belfast spoke about the 18th Annual New Year’s by the Bay, informing the public that they can get more information at the events website: www.nybb.org.

7) Communications

City Manager Joseph Slocum thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the work they put into the holiday events at the Boathouse last weekend.

City Manager Joseph Slocum reminded the public that it is time to register their dogs within the City Clerk’s Office and that after January 31st there will be a \$25.00 late fee.

Councilor Harkness acknowledged the news that Aynne Ames is stepping down from her role as Artistic Director of the Belfast Maskers.

8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

Councilor Sanders gave an update on the Transformation Committees work, informing the public who the candidates for the new School Board are noting that on Monday, January 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Chambers will be having a Candidates Night.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve a one-year Blanket Letter of Approval for Cards for Randall Collins Memorial VFW Post 3108 located at 34 Field Street, Belfast, Maine. This approval is granted from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

- B.** Request to approve a one-year Blanket Letter of Approval for Games of Chance (Sealed Tickets) for Randall Collins Memorial VFW Post 3108 located at 34 Field Street, Belfast, Maine. This approval is granted from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
- C.** Request to approve a “Facility Use” application by Our Town Belfast for a “Holiday Costume Parade” on Saturday, December 20, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. along the Harbor Walk to the Armistice Bridge.
- D.** Request by the Chief of Police to confirm Daniel Cushman as a part-time Police Officer for the Belfast Police Department.
- E.** Request by the Chief of Police to confirm Alan Kaplan as a Crossing Guard for the Belfast Police Department.
- F.** Request by the Fire Chief to confirm Gabrelle Rossignol as a call-in Ambulance Attendant for the Belfast Ambulance Service.
- G.** Request by the Fire Chief to confirm Herb Kronholm as a call-in Ambulance Attendant for the Belfast Ambulance Service.

Chief of Police Michael McFadden introduced to the Council Alan Kaplan and Daniel Cushman who he is recommending for confirmation.

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

10) Business

A) Consideration of a possible appointment of a new Poet Laureate.

Linda Buckmaster introduced Toussaint St. Negritude as the Search Committees recommendation for appointment as the new Belfast Poet Laureate.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to appoint Toussaint S. Negritude as the new Belfast Poet Laureate. This was approved, 5-0.

Toussaint St. Negritude thanked the Council and City of Belfast for this opportunity.

B) Consideration of a request for free use of the Boathouse for a Peace Festival from August 28 to August 31st 2015.

Rev. Deane Perkins, Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast spoke about the request to have the Boathouse for a reduced rate for their 2nd Annual Peace Festival, noting that the group although has access to the local churches for free they wanted to pick a neutral location so that the event could expand.

Councilors discussed their concerns with giving away a prime summer weekend at the Boathouse for free and considered a compromise of a reduced fee of \$750.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request for use of the Boathouse for a Peace Festival on August 28th to August 31st, 2015 at a reduced rate of \$750.00 or to come back to the Council with an alternative date. This was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Mortier opposed).

C) Further consideration of a recommendation to name the green space on Main Street as a City Park.

Breanna Bebb, Executive Director of Our Town Belfast spoke about the top four choices picked by the committee and presented to the Council with the name “Park on Main” as their top choice for consideration.

Council discussed their likes and dislikes with the name choices presented.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept Park on Main as the new name for the Park located on Main Street. This was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Harkness opposed).

D) Further discussion on adoption and implementation of a future plan for the Inner Harbor.

Harbor Master Kathy Pickering discussed with Council their questions about insurance and liability and the possibility of future dredging.

Council requested further information about the dredging that Yarmouth Harbor and estimates on what it would cost to dredge.

E) Consideration of a request to formally prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the 2.3 mile Rail Trail.

City Manager Joseph Slocum reviewed the drafted ordinance and requested that Council approve it as a First Reading with the Second Reading being presented at the January 6th Council Meeting.

Council discussed not only limiting motorized vehicles but to consider prohibiting livestock such as horses on the trail as well.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to accept the First Reading of a City Ordinance that will formally prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the 2.3 mile Rail Trail. This was approved, 5-0.

F) Further discussion and possible action on a proposed land swap between the City of Belfast and the Maine Army National Guard.

Economic Development Director and Airport Manager Thomas Kittredge updated the Council on the proposed land swap noting what land the City and the Maine Army National Guard would be swapping on a map.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to reaffirm the acceptance of the proposed land swap between the City of Belfast and the Maine Army National Guard. This was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Sanders stepped out of the room).

G) Update on clean-up of 45 Front Street and the old Maskers/ Rail Building.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge informed the Council and public that the City will be addressing this clean-up in two stages, first focusing on the building and secondly addressing the land.

Council discussed the possible historic preservation of the building and what that could entail.

H) Request from the Police Chief to sell two old and unusable vehicles for scrap for \$1,300.

Mayor Walter Ash requested more information about what types of vehicles were being sold, to whom, and if the City needed to go out to bid?

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request to sell two old and unusable Police vehicles for scrap to Littlefield's Garage in Corinna, ME for a total of \$1,300. This was approved, 5-0.

I) Consideration of a request to appoint members to the Energy Committee.

Councilor Hurley reported to the Council the following names which they are requesting appointment to the City of Belfast Energy Committee:

Councilor Michael Hurley, Councilor Eric Sanders, Assistant Planner Sadie Lloyd, Matt O'Malia, Andrew Carpenter and Jonathan Fulford.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to appoint Eric Sanders, Mike Hurley, Sadie Lloyd, Matt O'Malia, Andrew Carpenter, and Jonathan Fulford as members of the Energy Committee. This was approved, 5-0.

J) Council action to adopt a proclamation honoring Belfast native Chris Henderson.

Councilor Hurley read the proclamation:

In the form of a motion:

The Belfast City Council, on behalf of the people of Belfast, makes special recognition of Belfast native Chris Henderson and his band Bronze Radio Return for their song *Further On*, featured in the movie St. Vincent and reflective of Belfast's positive and forward-looking spirit. The Belfast City Council congratulates Chris Henderson and his parents Jody and Stew Henderson on his musical career and accomplishments and wishes him and his band continued success. For the year of 2015 we will all be moving *Further On!*

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion as the Belfast City Council, on behalf of the people of Belfast, makes special recognition of Belfast native Chris Henderson and his band Bronze Radio Return for their song *Further On*, featured in the movie St. Vincent and reflective of Belfast's positive and forward-looking spirit. The Belfast City Council congratulates Chris Henderson and his parents Jody and Stew Henderson on his musical career and accomplishments and wishes him and his band continued success. For the year of 2015 we will all be moving *Further On!* This was approved, 5-0.

K) Authorization for the City to apply for a Project Canopy Grant.

No discussion.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to approve authorization for the City to apply for a Project Canopy Grant. This was approved, 5-0.

L) Adoption of a Municipal Election Warrant for Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

No discussion.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adopt the Municipal Election Warrant for Tuesday, January 13, 2015. This was approved, 5-0.

M) Request to remove three trees at the corner of Court and Grove Streets.

Elizabeth Connelly spoke about her request to remove three trees that have been inspected by a local arborist and are considered to be diseased.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request to remove three trees at the corner of Court and Grove Streets. This was approved, 5-0.

N) Approval of the new Coast Guard lease negotiated by the City Manager.

City Manager Joseph Slocum spoke about the process of negotiation and requested authority to sign and 5 year lease with a 5 year extension with the Coast Guard.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to give authority to the City Manager to sign a 5 year lease with a 5 year extension with the Coast Guard. This was approved, 5-0.

O) Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A at 9:37p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A at 10:07p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

P) Executive Session on Union Negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Union Negotiations matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D at 10:07 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss a Union Negotiations matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) D at 10:14 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Q) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #26 Signed by Councilor Hurley, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$8,000.00 to create temporary construction on the trestle bridge of the Rail Trail for pedestrian passing. Funds will come from Rail Trail Donor account (1-2014-00). (Approved on October 7, 2014)

Council Order #27 Signed by Councilor Sanders, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$13,980.00 for a new Detective's Car from O'Conner Chevrolet for a 2014 Chevy Impala LS. Funds will come from the Purchase of Equipment account (220-535). (Approved on December 2, 2014)

Council Order #28 Signed by Councilor Mortier, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$24,279.00 for a new Police Cruiser from Quirk Auto Group for a 2015 Ford Utility Police Interceptor. Funds will come from the Purchase of Cruiser account (220-535). (Approved on December 2, 2014)

Council Order #29 Signed by Councilor Sanders, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$6,000.00 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. (Approved on December 2, 2014)

11) Open to the Public

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

1. Mary Mortier informed the public that the Parks & Recreation Department is putting together a Swing Band performance at the Boathouse from 2-4 pm as part of New Years by the Bay.
2. Councilor Hurley spoke about the need for volunteers to build the bonfire on New Year's Eve.

12) Communications

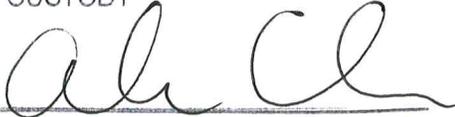
Councilor Hurley addressed the following:

- Acknowledged everyone who worked to create the bridge on the Rail Trail.
- Would like to let everyone know that there is an article that was just written by a former Broiler Queen, and will email it to the Council.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 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