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**CITY OF BELFAST
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Belfast City Hall-Council Chambers
Monday, January 26, 2015
6:30 PM**

Public Hearing #1

The City of Belfast will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at the Council Chambers of Belfast City Hall, 131 Church Street, Belfast, Maine, to discuss an application being submitted to the State of Maine CDBG program for an Economic Development Program grant of up to \$1,100,000. The purpose of the request is to provide funding to OnProcess Technology to be used as working capital, to purchase telephone, computer, and other equipment, and to provide job training. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the application’s required documentation.

All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the proposal are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Thomas Kittredge, Economic Development Director, City of Belfast, 131 Church Street, Belfast, Maine 04915 or via e-mail at economicdevelopment@cityofbelfast.org at any time prior to the Public Hearing. TDD/TTY users may call 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the City’s programs or services, please call Thomas Kittredge, Economic Development Director, at (207) 338-3370 extension 16, so that accommodations can be made.

The above listed Public Hearing was read aloud by City Manager Joe Slocum for the benefit of those in attendance as well as for the general public as the Public Hearing and meeting was televised live.

Mayor Ash then asked for proponents and opponents:

None of the people at the meeting stepped forward to speak.

After repeating the offer to speak to the public hearing and seeing no interest to address the matter Mayor Ash declared the hearing closed.

1) Call to order

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

*Council member John Arrison was in route. Councilman Eric Sanders had a conflict with his work schedule and would not be able to attend until later.

3) Adoption of the agenda:

City Manager Joe Slocum proposed an amendment at 6-1 to allow the Economic Development Director to update the Council of a couple of possible additional grants the City might pursue on behalf of other local businesses.

Councilmember John Arrison arrived as this proposed amendment was being made.

Councilor Neal Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mike Hurley made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. With Council member John Arrison now present this motion was approved 4-0

4) Discussion and possible action on a request to submit an application to the State of Maine CDBG program for an Economic Development Program grant of up to \$1,100,000.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge explained the nature and purpose of the Grant application and the responsibilities of both the City and OnProcess Technology under the grant.

Peter DelGreco, Executive Director of Maine and Company a privately funded non-profit business attraction and growth entity also addressed the Council and expressed his excitement at the possibility of helping to attract this Company to Belfast and to Maine.

Discussion followed with individual questions and statements of support from all 4 voting Council Members that were present as well as the Mayor. Responses were provided by Thomas Kittredge, the City's Economic Development Director and Peter DelGreco from Maine and Company.

The Council was then presented with a formal written resolution regarding the CDBG Grant Application and it was read aloud by City Manager Joe Slocum for the benefit of all those present as well as those watching the meeting on television live from their homes. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes and incorporated by reference into these minutes.

Councilor Michael Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mary Mortier made a motion to accept the request to submit an application to the State of Maine CDBG program for an Economic Development Program grant of up to \$1,100,000 in conformity with the written resolution that was read into the record and is attached and incorporated into these minutes by reference. This motion was approved, 4-0.

5) Further discussion on snow removal concerns.

City Manager provided an update on arrangements to notify, inspect and redress anyone in the downtown area that violates the City Code of Ordinance requirements for snow removal. Councilmember Neal Harkness requested our inspector also check the places where recent walks have been replaced to make sure they are not too slippery because of the underlying insulation.

There were no motions this was merely a reporting update.

6) Further discussion on status of Rail Trail.

City Manager provided an update on where we have been and where we may go on the Rail Trail Project. The project is paid for by donations and fundraising efforts in progress. We are working with Coastal Mountain Land Trust to raise the money. Kristen Lindquist, Development Director of the Trust was also present and addressed the Council.

Council Member Eric Sanders arrived at the meeting at 7:05 pm

There were no motions on this matter as it was scheduled for discussion purposes only.

6-1 Amendment to agenda: Update on some Economic Development subjects from Thomas Kittredge, Economic development Director.

He first reported on the success of the City supported Creative Coalition and their recent all day annual conference that attracted 60 attendees including himself and the Director of the Maine Arts Director. He pledged to secure and distribute information supplied by Julie Richard as Director of the Maine Arts Commission that talked about the huge impact on the economy generated by the Arts.

He then addressed a possible CDBG Grant Application for the Front Street Shipyard for equipment associated with the construction of building #6 and that we might be sending in a letter of intent to the State letting them know that we would be submitting a formal application.

City Manager stated that based upon the Council's historical support for the Shipyard that he would be signing this letter of intent to apply for this grant as an expression of the will of the Council unless they would otherwise tell him not to now. The entire Council expressed their support to send in such a letter of intent on behalf of the City.

7) Request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss a request for a Poverty Abatement 36 M.R.S.A. 841.

Councilor Mary Mortier, seconded by Councilor Eric Sanders, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a request for a Poverty Abatement 36 M.R.S.A. 841 at 7:25 p.m. This motion was approved 5-0.

Councilor Eric Sanders seconded by Councilor Mary Mortier, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session out of executive session at 7:40pm. This motion was approved 5-0.

- 8) Request from the City Manager to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) A.

Councilor Mary Mortier, seconded by Councilor Eric Sanders, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 7:40p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0

Councilor Eric Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 7:45 pm. This motion was approved, 5-0

9) **Adjourn**

Councilor Eric Sanders, seconded by Councilor Neal Harkness, made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed, 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