

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, February 3, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Public Hearing #1

In accordance with Title 28A Section 653 MRSA 1964 a public hearing will be held on February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter in the Council Chambers – City Hall to hear an application by Capital Pizza Huts, Inc. d/b/a Pizza Hut located at 15 Belmont Avenue, Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt Restaurant liquor license, interior only.

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

Regular Council Meeting No. 15

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.
Absent: Admin. Assistant to the City Manager Manda Cushman.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

City Manager Joseph Slocum requested to amend the agenda to include item **10) E #1** Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A.

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of January 20, 2015 and Special Council Meeting of January 26, 2015.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of January 20, 2015 and Special Council Meeting of January 26, 2015. 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. James Stephenson of Belfast spoke about his request to the City Manager’s Office to look into lowering the speed along Waldo Ave. where he lives and is willing to answer any questions that the Council may have.
2. Ray Estabrook, Co-director of the Game Loft in Belfast gave a brief yearly review of the Game Loft.
3. Brian Johnson, Game Loft Youth Volunteer of the Year spoke about his experience with the Game Loft.
4. Jackson Donnelly, Game Loft member spoke about his experience as a Game Loft member.
5. Patricia Estabrook, Co-director of the Game Loft thanked the City for their support and requested that citizens check out their website at www.gameloft.org.

Councilors thanked the Game Loft directors, volunteers and members for all they do for the community.

7) Communications

Councilor Hurley and Sanders gave an update on the Energy Committee.

City Manager Joseph Slocum discussed the following:

- Thanked both the Police Department and Public Works Department in dealing with these storms.
- Encouraged citizens to drive slowly through town, roads are slick and intersections and driveways are challenging to see around with all this snow.
- Reminded citizens of sidewalk snow removal and winter parking pan.

Councilor Harkness commended the Public Works Department, noting that roads in Belfast are very well taken care of during snow storms.

Councilor Hurley requested that every year on November 1st the City should put notices in all cars informing them of the winter parking ban.

City Manager Joseph Slocum informed the Council that the Belfast Police Department does give out notices every year, noting to Council that one thing we may want to consider this year during budget is giving out parking permits during the winter months so we know who is parking in these lots and how to get ahold of them.

Councilor Mortier noticed that from a safety concern that Public Works is unable to get around fire hydrants as well as needs to be with a plow and requested that any citizen that may have one in front of their home or business look and see if they can assist in removing snow around these for safety purposes.

8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

Councilor Hurley wanted to prepare everyone, in regards to the Energy Committee, some of the request that they will be bringing forward in the future will cost money.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve an application by Capital Pizza Huts, Inc. d/b/a Pizza Hut located at 15 Belmont Avenue, Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt Restaurant liquor license, interior only.
- B. Request to approve a Facility Request Application by the Waldo County YMCA requesting use of public roads for their 6th Annual Family Triathlon on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

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

10) Business

- A) Request from David Smith to use the Boathouse at no cost on April 26, 2015 for the Second Annual Earth Day Harbor Walk parade.

David Smith, Earth Day Harbor Walk parade organizer read a short statement explaining their request to use the Boathouse as a workshop to decorate branches for the parade at no cost and ensure that they will leave it cleaner then when they got it.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request from David Smith to use the Boathouse at no cost on April 26, 2015 for the Second Annual Earth Day Harbor Walk parade.

Councilor Mortier inquired about whether or not application for Facility Use has been submitted.

Councilors discussed the reasoning to let this group have the Boathouse at no cost including the in kind value it provides to the community as well as the date that they are requesting is not conflicting with weddings.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to amend the request from David Smith to use the Boathouse at no cost on April 26, 2015 for the Second Annual Earth Day Harbor Walk parade, contingent that they fill out a facility use application and have it approved by the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department and Council.

Councilor Hurley requested that he remove his motion and they table the discussion until the next Council meeting on February 17, 2015, Councilors where in agreement to table the issue.

This issue will be revisited at the February 17th Council Meeting.

- B) Request from the Window Dressers to use the Boathouse again on November 5th to the 19th 2015.

No discussion.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to accept the request from the Window Dressers to use the Boathouse again on November 5th to the 19th, 2015. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Discussion with the Police Chief about possibly reducing the speed along Waldo Ave.

City Manager Joseph Slocum explained that the Police Chief was unable to make it tonight, but he is requesting that the Council authorize him to request a from the State to do a speed study along the stretch of Waldo Ave. from Marsh Rd. to Rt. 1.

Councilors discussed that there are many contributors to traffic issues including speed, texting and increased population and economic development and that this study could be beneficial in this area, they also discussed the possibility of switching the yield sign onto Waldo Ave. to a stop sign to help reduced speed in that area.

James Stephenson, Belfast spoke about the letter that he wrote to the City Manager and that many of the things that the Council are discussing are concerns that he has had as a citizen living in this area.

City Manager explained that Mr. Stephenson’s letter was directly given to the Police Chief for review and possible action and he would be willing to share it with any Councilor that would like to review it.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request to authorize the Police Chief to send request from the State to do a traffic study along the stretch of Waldo Ave. from Marsh Rd. to Rt. 1. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request for City Manager to move funds from Undesignated Fund Balance to balance accounts for the Capital Project (730-783) RSU #20 Withdrawal.

City Manager Joseph Slocum explained that these extra funds needed are largely due to legal fees and advertising cost and is making a note to the future School Board that he hopes that all future legal fees will be paid for by all five towns of the new RSU #71.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request for the City Manager to move funds from Undesignated Fund Balance to balance account for the Capital Project (730-783) RSU #20 Withdrawal. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request from the City Manager to use \$2,885 of Undesignated Fund Balance to upgrade the existing copier in the City Manager’s Office.

City Manager Joseph Slocum explained the request to upgrade the City Manager’s copier, noting that after having the current copier for the past three years they have found that it is costing the

City money rather than saving the City money, and that this copier is used by not only the City Manager's Office, but also the General Assistance, Maintenance, Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Offices.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request from the City Manager to use \$2,885 of Undesignated Fund Balance to upgrade the existing copier in the City Manager's Office. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) #1 Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6) A.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 8:00 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 8:10 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #34 Signed by Councilor Sanders, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to trade in the existing copier for \$2,100 and to expend up to \$4,385.00 to purchase a new upgraded copier from Bangor Computer Copy Inc. Funds will come from the following accounts: \$1,000 from the Manager's Office Equipment Capital Reserve account, \$500 from the Capital Reserve account 100-603, and \$2,885 from the Undesignated Fund Balance. (Approved February 3, 2015)

Council Order #35 Signed by Councilor Hurley, Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to move \$4,061.93 from Undesignated Fund Balance to the Capital Project account (730-783) RSU #20 Withdrawal to cover legal and advertising expenses. (Approved February 3, 2015)

11) Open to the Public

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

1. James Stephenson thanked the City for considering his request as a citizen to look at safety concerns along Waldo Ave.

12) Communications

Councilor Hurley requested that the Council think about what they want for an “election sign” or marquee.

Councilor Sanders informed the Council that both the Withdrawal Committee and Transition Committee are finished, and the new School Board for RSU #71 has hired Bruce Mailloux as the interim Superintendent and will be working out of the same office as the current Superintendent’s Office. They hope to hire the full time Superintendent by July 1, 2015.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

14) Work Session with Greg Bakos to discuss Rail Trail Project, cost estimates, and construction techniques.

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