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**City of Belfast**  
**Council Chambers-Belfast City Hall**  
**Tuesday, December 15, 2015**  
**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 to the City Manager Manda Cushman.

**3) Pledge of Allegiance**

**4) Adoption of the agenda**

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

- Remove item **10) Q** Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A.
- Add item **10) J #1** Recognition of a Belfast citizen.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Arrison, 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 1, 2015.

Councilor Arrison noted a typo on page two in which Councilor Mortier is recorded as making a motion and the second in the acceptance of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 17, 2015.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the minutes from Regular Council Meeting of December 1, 2015, as amended. This was approved, 5-0.

**6) Open to the public**

1. Councilor Mary Mortier and New Year’s by the Bay organizer gave an update on the upcoming festivities for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual event.

## 7) Communications

Mayor Ash and Councilor acknowledged the loss of Jerry Savitz with a moment of silence.

Councilor Arrison informed the Council about the Greater Bay Area Ministerium's Candlelight Vigil or Mourning, Mercy and Hope that took place December 14<sup>th</sup> on the Armistice Bridge.

Councilor Harkness addressed the recent Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting events in Belfast.

City Manager Joseph Slocum spoke about the following:

- Recent discussions with MDOT regarding the proposed additional travel lane.
- Installation of a Christmas tree on the East Side.
- Informed the public that City Park is closed for the season.
- Reviewed the Portland Press Herald article on the Front Street Shipyard.
- Requested that Council consider closing City Hall early on Christmas Eve.
- Noted recent correspondence from the Garden Club and their position on pesticide use within City Parks.
- Briefly discussed with Council that the Mayor has been in discussion with the Mayor's Coalition and their request to have the City of Belfast join the Coalition.

Councilor Sanders discussed the recent meeting with the RSU 71 School Board and Elected Officials and requested further discussion with Council regarding this meeting.

Mayor Ash requested that the Council add to the agenda item **10) Q** Discussion on the Mayor's Coalition and the recent meeting with the RSU 71 School Board and Elected Officials, Council unanimously agreed.

Councilor Mortier addressed the Garden Clubs concerns with pesticide use.

## 8) Old Business and Council Committee Reports

Accept with regret the resignation of Cheryl Fuller as a Broadband Committee member.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Cheryl Fuller as a Broadband Committee member. This motion was approved, 5-0.

## 9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve a one-year Blanket Letter of Approval for Beano for the American Legion Post #43 located at 143 Church Street, Belfast, Maine. This approval is granted from January 7, 2016 through December 29, 2016.
- B. Request to approve an off premises catering permit for Randall Collins VFW Post 3108 for a benefit event located at the Randall Collins VFW Post 3108 (Hall), 34 Field Street, Belfast, Maine on December 11, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

- C. Request to approve a Facility Use Request application for use of the Armistice Foot Bridge by the Greater Bay Area Ministerium for a Candlelight Vigil of Mourning, Mercy and Hope on Monday, December 14, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

#### 10) Business

A) Request to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day or alternatively to create a separate day to commemorate indigenous peoples.

Diane Oltarzewski discussed the petition from the people of Belfast for the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day and gave a brief history and backup information regarding this request.

Councilors briefly discussed the request and what effect it would have if they approve it.

Councilor Arrison noted that he would abstain from voting, not because he was against the request, but because he would like more information regarding the formal protocol of the request.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the request to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. This motion was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Arrison abstained).

B) Further discussion on the idea of creating a Green Cemetery.

Council discussed with Cemetery Superintendent Steve Boguen questions that they have regarding the possible creation of a Green Cemetery in Belfast and what cost or maintenance is associated with it.

Councilor Hurley requested that the Cemetery Trustees continue to research the idea and bring back more information regarding cost and maintenance.

C) Discussion on possible changes to the Cemetery Ordinance.

City Manager Joseph Slocum reviewed the proposed changes and requested that if the Council is comfortable bringing back the request for a First Reading at the January 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to schedule the First Reading of the proposed changes to the Cemetery Ordinance for the January 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, with Councilor

Arrison reviewing and editing the proposed changes prior to the First Reading. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**D) Update on activities of the Energy Committee.**

Assistant City Planner Sadie Lloyd reviewed the projects that the Energy Committee is looking a pursuing such as the lighting audit, retrofitting street lights, and options for biomass boilers.

**E) Request from Lincolnville Telephone Company to locate two poles off the edge of the pavement on state Highway 52.**

Louis Rector of Lincolnville Telephone Company explained the request noting that these poles will help them to continue to run their fiber optic lines into need areas.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the request from Lincolnville Telephone Company to locate two new poles off the edge of the pavement on Highway 52. This motion was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Hurley stepped out of the room during the vote).

**F) Request to accept bids for the purchase of a new police cruiser and requests to award the bid.**

Chief of Police Michael McFadden reviewed the bids and requested to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Darlings of Bangor for \$20,093.00

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to accept the bids and to award the bid to the lowest bidder Darlings of Bangor, ME for \$20,093.00. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**G) Consideration of a request to spend up to \$23,650 to convert a basketball court at City Park into four pickle ball courts.**

Parks and Recreation Director Norm Poirier explained the request, noting that after the Commission met on Thursday they are hoping to get Council input before they pursue the idea any further.

Council discussed the request and whether or not it would impact those who utilize the basketball courts and discussed having the Department and Commission look into alternate locations of another court or to work with schools to improve the courts that they have available to the youth.

**H) Update on the ice-skating rink.**

Parks and Recreation Director Norm Poirier apologized to the Mayor, Council and Manager for not bringing the request of sponsorship boards at the ice-skating rink to them for approval before installation. He explained the request, stating that the sponsorship signs are created by the business and placed at either end of the rink to assist with keeping pucks in the rink and as a source of revenue, each sign costing \$100 per season which will go into the Parks Fees Account.

Council discussed the request, and requested that the Department reach out to the school who the City leases from to make sure they do not have any concerns regarding the type of sponsorship boards are located on their property.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to accept the request for sponsorship signs at the ice-skating rink at a fee of \$100 a sign per season with fees added to the Parks and Recreation Fees Account. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**I) Request from the City Treasurer for permission to open to bids on a mobile home located on property at Map 18 Lot 39.**

City Manager Joseph Slocum requested to open the two received bids for the mobile home located on property Map 18 Lot 39.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to open the two bids received for the mobile home located on property Map 18 Lot 39. This motion was approved, 5-0.

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|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Shaina Brown, Searsport  | Bid: \$1,500  |
| 2. Jennifer Wenz, Searsport | Bid: \$10,000 |

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to accept the bids and to award the bid to Jennifer Wenz of Searsport for \$10,000. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**J) Request from the East Coast Greenway Alliance to add the Harbor Walk as part of its 2,900 mile network of existing multiuse paths from Key West Florida to Canada.**

Council discussed the signage and whether or not there are fees associated with the placement of these signs.

City Manager Joseph Slocum informed Council that he will look into the Council's questions further and report back at the January 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to table the request from the East Coast Greenway Alliance to add the Harbor Walk as part of its 2,900 mile network of existing multiuse paths from Key West Florida to Canada. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**J) #1 Recognition of a Belfast citizen.**

City Manager Joseph Slocum read a letter and certificate recognizing Belfast citizen Carol Bisbee as a community educator, performer and volunteer and wishing her a Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor and Councilors spoke fondly of all that Mrs. Bisbee has done for the community over the years and thanked her for her volunteerism.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to recognize Belfast citizen Carol Bisbee as a community educator, performer and volunteer with a letter and certificate signed by the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**K) Update from the City Planner on the Front Street Reconstruction Project.**

City Planner Wayne Marshall briefly reviewed the project status.

**L) Update from the City Planner on the Washington Street Project.**

City Planner Wayne Marshall briefly reviewed the project status.

**M) Update from the City Planner on the completion of the Harbor Walk and the improvements on the East Side of the Armistice Bridge.**

City Planner Wayne Marshall reviewed the proposed plan which addressed the following: parking, pump station screening, low level landscaping, memorial benches, kiosk, memorial bricks and sidewalk.

Council discussed the proposed plan and doing the project in phases and requested estimates of different aspects of proposed work to be brought back before the Council at a future meeting.

**N) Consideration of Boathouse fees.**

Council discussed creating a payment scale for nonprofits who utilized the Boathouse for events to create revenue that would help sustain the gift of the Boathouse while maintaining equitable fairness and a clearer understanding of rates for those interested in renting it.

Councilor Mortier volunteered to work with City Manager Joseph Slocum and Boathouse Rental Agent Sandra Squire to create a rental scale to bring back and present to the Council at an upcoming meeting for consideration.

Boathouse Rental Agent Sandra Squire spoke about rental rates and seasonality.

**O)** Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 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 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 11:22 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to adjourn Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 12:11 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**P)** Request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 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 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 12:12 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Sanders, 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 12:21 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**Q)** Discussion on the Mayor's Coalition and the recent meeting with the RSU 71 School Board and Elected Officials.

Mayor Walter Ash discussed with Council the Mayor's Coalition, explaining what they do and some of the recent issues they are lobbying for.

Councilors discussed their recent meeting with the RSU 71 School Board and Elected Officials.

**R)** Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

- Letter and certificate of recognition of Belfast citizen Carol Bisbee as a community educator, performer and volunteer.

## **11) Open to the Public**

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

1. Diane Oltarzewski thanked the Council for their decisive action in changing the name of Columbus Day.
2. Ridgely Fuller expressed how happy she is with the Council's decision regarding the renaming of Columbus Day.

**12) Communications**

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Sanders, made a motion to close City Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2015. This motion was approved, 5-0.

**13) Adjourn**

Councilor Sanders, seconded by Councilor Arrison, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 a.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