

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
Wednesday, July 5, 2023**

5:30 p.m. Request to go into Executive Session on a Legal matter with the City Attorney pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) E.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Legal matter with the City Attorney pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) E at 5:32 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Legal matter with the City Attorney pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) E at 6:58 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

All City Council Meetings and City Committee Meetings will be conducted in-person at Belfast City Hall, effective May 3, 2022.

Regular Council Meeting No. 1

- 1) Call to order**
- 2) Present:** Mayor Eric Sanders, Councilors Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Brenda Bonneville, Michael Hurley and Paul Dean; City Manager Erin Herbig and Deputy City Manager Manda Cushman.
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4) Adoption of the agenda**

Mayor Sanders noted that there was a Council request to add item **10) F #1** Council discussion regarding the former Robertson School property.

Councilor Dean, 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 June 20, 2023, and Special City Council Meeting and Budget Hearing of June 22, 2023.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of June 6, 2023, and Special City Council Meeting and Budget Hearing of June 22, 2023. This motion was approved, 5-0.

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that the Council received five emails and no postal mail, prior to noon today which were shared with Council before the start of the Council meeting to be included as part of the Open to the Public.

1. Mike Mercer of Belfast discussed concerns that the video of the June 20th Council Meeting was not available for viewing until ten days after and read a statement regarding the Covid Pandemic.
2. Ari Meil, co-owner of Botany, requested the Council consider allowing recreational marijuana stores in Belfast.
3. Karen Connelly of Belfast thanked the Climate Crisis Committee for their work, requested that the Council have them present their plan at a Regular City Council Meeting and discussed the committee reorganization.
4. Jim Roberts of Belmont discussed item **10) B** on the agenda and requested on behalf of the VFW that the request be withdrawn.

B. Organization and Department Reports

- Our Town Belfast Executive Director Amanda Cunningham and Chief of Police Bobby Cormier provided the Council and public with an update on the upcoming Summer Movie Series.
- Director of Code and Planning Bub Fournier provided an update on upcoming Planning Board Public Hearings for proposed Ordinance Amendments.

7) Communications

Councilor Harkness addressed public comments made regarding the reorganization of committees.

Councilor Hurley discussed his conversation with the VFW regarding their proposal and updated the Council on the 250th Celebration events.

Councilor Dean discussed recent 250th Anniversary Events.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

Councilor Hurley provided an update on the Housing and Property Development Committee.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for Frank D Hazeltine Post #43 d/b/a American Legion Post #43 for the 250th Anniversary of the City of Belfast celebration on July 1st and 2nd, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. located at Belfast City Park, City Park Rd., Belfast, Maine.
- B. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for Bell the Cat Inc. d/b/a Bell the Cat for the Cheryl O’Heir’s Project gathering on July 11th, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. located at the Fireside Inn & Suites, 159 Searsport Ave., Belfast, Maine.
- C. Request to approve an extension of liquor license permit for Moonbat LLC d/b/a Marshall Wharf Brewing Company for the Beer Festival on October 7, 2023 to extend their capacity of their property with a roped off area located at 36 Marshall Wharf, Belfast Maine.
- D. Request to approve an application by Allplay Bowling Center LLC d/b/a Allplay Bowling Center located at 49 Searsport Ave., Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt and Vinous Restaurant (Class I, II, III and IV) liquor license.
- E. Request to approve an Itinerant Vendor’s Permit for Jackson M. York d/b/a Renewal by Andersen located at 615 Odlin Rd., Bangor, Maine offering window and door consultations.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion was approved, 5-0.

10) Business

A) Discussion regarding addressing accessibility within the City of Belfast.

Belfast residents Neva Allen and Aynne Ames reviewed their proposed accessibility projects with the City Council.

Councilors discussed the need to have a systematic and prioritized plan to address accessibility.

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that she would share the information provided to the Pedestrian, Transportation, and Accessibility Committee as this will be important information for them to include in their Master Plan.

B) Request from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Randall Collins Post 3103 to build and install a building on the East Side to house the model ship “USS Independence.”

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to withdraw the request from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Randall Collins Post 3103 to build and install a building on the East Side to house the model ship “USS Independence” from the agenda. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request to authorize an earned carryover vacation time payout for City of Belfast First Responders for FY2022-23.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to authorize an earned carryover vacation time payout for City of Belfast First Responders for FY2022-23 and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Finance Director to pay out up to 80 hours of earned carryover vacation time for each City of Belfast First Responder with funding for these buyouts be designated from FY2022-23 funds in account # 220-501 Police Salary and Wages and account # 270-501 Ambulance Salary and Wages. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request by the Code and Planning Director to review, discuss, and authorize improvements at the Church Street and Northport Avenue intersection designed by the City Engineer.

Director of Code and Planning Bub Fournier reviewed the proposed design by the City Engineer and answered Council questions.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to approve the installation of the proposed improvements at the Church Street and Northport Avenue intersection as presented and to authorize funding for the project of up to \$18,000.00 from account #420-573 Sidewalk Improvements and Maintenance. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request to authorize City staff to apply to the Community Resilience Partnership for a Community Action Grant.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to apply to the Community Resilience Partnership for a Community Action Grant and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Hurley, made a motion to authorize the submission of an application to the Community Resilience Partnership for a Community Action Grant, for up to the maximum allowable amount of \$50,000; authorize the solicitation of one or more letters of support in support of, and to be included with this application; and authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents necessary for the submission of this application. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Discussion regarding newly formed Policy Committee terms, member roles and meeting schedule.

City Manager Erin Herbig reported on the information she received from the three City Policy Committees: The Climate, Energy, and Utilities Committee; the Pedestrian, Transportation, and Accessibility Committee; and the Housing and Property Development Committee regarding their terms, member roles and meeting schedule and answered Council questions.

10) F #1 Council discussion regarding the former Robertson School property.

Councilor Hurley briefly reviewed the request and noted information that would be important to obtain from RSU #71 regarding the status of the building.

Councilor Hurley, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to request that the City Manager Herbig reach out to RSU #71 regarding the current use of the former Robertson School property. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #1 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to pay out up to 80 hours of earned carryover vacation time for each City of Belfast First Responder. Funding for these buyouts are to be designated from FY2022-23 funds in account# 220-501 Police Salary and Wages and account# 270-501 Ambulance Salary and Wages. (Approved on July 5, 2023)

Council Order #2 Signed by Councilor Hurley Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$18,000.00 for the installation of improvements at the Church Street and Northport Avenue intersection as presented on July 5, 2023, by the City Engineer. Funding is to come from account #420-573 Sidewalk Improvements and Maintenance. (Approved on July 5, 2023)

11) Open to the Public

1. Mike Mercer of Belfast discussed concerns with the lack of downtown parking due to the Curbside Belfast program.
2. Bill Bruns of the American Legion thanked the City Council for including them in the 250th Celebration at Belfast City Park noting that he hopes that the City and the American Legion can continue to collaborate on City events.

12) Communications

Councilor Hurley reminded the public that the Belfast Street Party will be on Monday, July 31st.

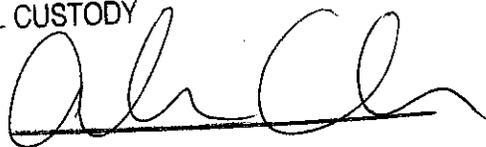
Mayor Sanders thanked the City Manager for her initiative in implementing a sick leave policy and noted that the Council is thinking of the current employee who is out due to an accident.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Cushman', written over a horizontal line.

AMANDA CUSHMAN, BELFAST MAINE