

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, March 5, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Committee Interviews

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Regular Council Meeting No. 17

1) Call to order

2) Present: Mayor Eric Sanders, Councilors Mary Mortier, Neal Harkness, Brenda Bonneville, Chris Bitely, Paul Dean; City Manager Erin Herbig and Deputy City Manager Manda Cushman.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of February 20, 2024.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 20, 2024. This motion was approved, 5-0.

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that Council received forty emails from the following individuals: Jonathan Tucker, Jamila Levasseur, Jonathan Haines, Jennifer Hill, Anya Steele, Mark Salwasser, Natalie Charles, Joanne Moesswilde, Diane Oltarzewski, Aimee Moffitt, Pia Gibson, Michael Alpert, Cloe Chunn, Jean Ashland, Melissa McLaughlin, Alison Picton, Tony Kulik, Mia Bertelli, Margaret Pulkingham, Holly Faubel, Eric Anderson, Marje Stickler, Trudy Miller, Erica Schlueter, Lauren and Scott Stark, Reverend Amy McCormick, Lindsay Piper, Anne Hallee, Luna Cote, Deborah Capwell, Dawn Clark, Meredith Bruskin, Maura McCampbell, one hand delivered letter from David Losee, Esq. 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. Karen Spitfire of Belfast spoke in support of item 10) A and opposed to items 10) D and 10) E on tonight's agenda.
2. Lawrence Reichard of Belfast discussed item 10) D on tonight's agenda and requested that the Council not act on this item.
3. Joanne Moesswilde of Belfast requested the Council vote no to item 10) E on tonight's agenda.
4. Susan Cutting of Belfast spoke in opposition to items 10) D and 10) E on tonight's agenda.
5. Margret Faulkingham read a letter on behalf of Reverend Amy McCormick in support of item 10) A on tonight's agenda.
6. Carol Herwig of Belfast spoke on behalf of the Friends of Belfast Parks and the Belfast Garden Club, acknowledging their excitement to begin working with the new Parks and Recreation Director.
7. Mo Lotman of Belfast discussed concerns with items 10) D and 10) E on tonight's agenda.
8. Kathy Muzzy, President of the Friends of Belfast Parks welcomed the new Parks and Recreation Director and noted the groups excitement to begin working together.
9. Christopher Hyk of Belfast discussed concerns with the proposed Nordic project and its impact on the community, requested Council consider accepting the proposal from Upstream Watch.
10. Kayla Miller of Swanville spoke in support of item 10) A on tonight's agenda.
11. Paul Bernacki discussed surveying of Little River area and town line history.
12. Kim Ervin Tucker, Esq. on behalf of her clients Jeffrey Mabee and Judith Grace, discussed municipal boundary lines and requested that the City Council return her clients' land.
13. Andy Stevenson of Belfast discussed item 10) D and 10) E on tonight's agenda, requesting that Council not spend the \$5,000.00.
14. David Losse, Esq. on behalf of his clients Upstream Watch, withdrew the letter that was submitted to the Council as part of Open to the Public, noting that following discussions with the City Attorney this afternoon they endorse hiring an independent surveyor.

B. Organization and Department Reports

John Steed provided an update from Waterfall Arts.

7) Communications

Councilor Bonneville thanked all who have voted today and reminded the public that polls are open until 8:00 p.m.

Councilor Dean thanked all who helped make the Ice Festival a success.

Councilor Harkness thanked the City Manager and the Cemetery Superintendent for their responsiveness to a citizen's concerns.

Councilor Mortier thanked all who made the Ice Festival a success and acknowledged Our Town Belfast Executive Director Amanda Cunningham for all her hard work.

Mayor Sanders thanked all the Election workers.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

- Consideration of Committee Appointments.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to appoint David Somers as a member to the Climate, Energy and Utilities Committee to expire July 2025. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to appoint Paul Naron as the Associate Member to the Harbor Advisory Committee to expire July 2024. This motion was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Bonneville opposed).

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request from the Police Chief to confirm Damon Lefferts as a part-time Officer for the Belfast Police Department.
- B. Request from the Fire Chief to confirm Graham Burford as a part-time EMT and on-call Firefighter for the Belfast Fire and Ambulance Department.
- C. Request to approve an application by Daniel Rock d/b/a Fon's Kitchen located at 132 High Street, Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous liquor license.

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

10) Business

A) Request to adopt a Resolution in support of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.

The City Council discussed their support for the draft resolution.

Mayor Sanders read the draft resolution.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to adopt a Resolution in support of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Request to appoint Pamela Salokangas of Unity as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Belfast.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to appoint a new Parks and Recreation Director and introduced Pamela Salokangas of Unity to the City Council and public.

Councilors welcomed Pamela Salokangas to the City of Belfast.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to appoint Pamela Salokangas of Unity as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request to appoint Elena Thomas of Camden as the Executive Assistant for the City of Belfast.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to appoint a new Executive Assistant and introduced Elena Thomas of Camden to the City Council and public.

Councilors welcomed Elena Thomas to the City of Belfast.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to appoint Elena Thomas of Camden as the Executive Assistant for the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager, on behalf of the City Council, to engage the statutory perambulation process with the Town of Northport in order to establish the shared boundary between the two municipalities and to appropriate up to \$5,000 to contribute to the cost of professional assistance as needed to conduct perambulation and set the line.

City Attorney Kristin Collins reviewed the request to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager, on behalf of the City Council, to engage the statutory perambulation process with the Town of Northport in order to determine the physical location of the shared boundary between the two municipalities as set by the Legislature in 1813, by resolving the physical location of the “mouth of the Little River,” and to appropriate up to \$5,000 from #110-512 Legal Services to contribute to the cost of professional assistance as needed to conduct the perambulation process and answered Council questions.

Councilors discussed concerns brought forward by citizens.

Councilor Bitely, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager, on behalf of the City Council, to engage the statutory perambulation process with the Town of Northport in order to determine the physical location of the shared boundary between the two municipalities as set by the Legislature in 1813, by resolving the physical location of the “mouth of the Little River,” and to appropriate up to \$5,000 from #110-512 Legal Services to contribute to the cost of professional assistance as needed to conduct the perambulation process. This motion was approved, 4-1 (Councilor Bonneville opposed).

E) Request to authorize the City Manager to execute a Fifth Amendment to the Options and Purchase Agreement between Belfast Water District, Nordic Aquafarms, Inc., and the City of Belfast that would extend Nordic Aquafarm’s option to purchase the Little River Lower Dam for no more than two years.

City Attorney Kristin Collins reviewed the request to authorize the City Manager to execute a Fifth Amendment to the Options and Purchase Agreement between Belfast Water District, Nordic Aquafarms, Inc., and the City, to extend Nordic’s option to purchase the Lower Dam from the Water District and answered Council questions.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a Fifth Amendment to the Options and Purchase Agreement between Belfast Water District, Nordic Aquafarms, Inc., and the City, to extend Nordic’s option to purchase the Lower Dam from the Water District. This motion was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Bonneville abstained).

F) Discussion regarding the Keep the Faith Fund and support for Belfast businesses and their employees that have been impacted by storm damage.

City Manager Erin Herbig and Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to authorize a second round of grant funding for Belfast businesses impacted by the January 2024 storm in the amount of \$1,000 per business and further authorize \$5,600 in

Hannaford Gift cards to be distributed to all Nautilus employees that have been without work since the January storms and answered Council questions.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to authorize a second round of grant funding for Belfast businesses impacted by the January 2024 storm in the amount of \$1,000 per business and further authorize \$5,600 in Hannaford Gift cards to be distributed to all Nautilus employees that have been without work since the January storms. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Request from the Planning and Codes Director to waive permit fees for repair work on the Harbor Walk area adjacent to Front Street Shipyard’s Building #1.

Planning and Codes Director Bub Fournier reviewed the request to waive permit fees for repair work on the Harbor Walk area adjacent to Front Street Shipyard’s Building #1.

Councilors thanked the Planning and Code staff for their work and acknowledged JB Turner and Front Street Shipyard for their partnership in the creation and maintenance of the Harbor Walk.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to waive a total of \$2,323.41 in permit fees for Front Street Shipyard. This motion was approved, 5-0.

JB Turner of Front Street Shipyard provided an update on the damage and repairs to the Harbor Walk area adjacent to Front Street Shipyard’s Building #1.

H) Request by the Economic Development Director to have the City Council finalize a ranked list of Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional Earmark Requests and authorize applications for these requests to be submitted.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to have the City Council finalize a ranked list of Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional Earmark Requests and authorize applications for these requests to be submitted and answered Council questions on the recommended earmark requests.

Councilor discussed each request and decided on the following:

1. Retrofitting of Former Waldo County Superior Court Building
2. CSO Improvements

3. Public Safety Building Additional Funding

4. Pump Station Telemetry Improvements

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve the ranked list of fiscal year 2025 earmark requests as decided at the meeting, for which the City of Belfast will submit applications to the offices of Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, and Representative Jared Golden; and to authorize the City Manager to sign any and all paperwork related to and necessary for the submission of these requests. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I) Request to go into Executive Session on a Real Estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Real Estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C at 9:09 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Real Estate matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C at 9:54 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

J) Request to go into Executive Session on a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A.

No action taken.

K) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #50 Signed by Councilor Bitely Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$5,000 to contribute to the cost of professional assistance as needed to conduct the perambulation process. Funding is to come from account #110-512 Legal Services. (Approved March 5, 2024)

Council Order #51 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to waive a total of \$2,323.41 in permit fees for Front Street Shipyard. (Approved March 5, 2024)

11) Open to the Public

No comments.

12) Communications

Councilor Dean acknowledged the appointments of Damon Lefferts as a part-time Officer for the Belfast Police Department and Graham Burford as a part-time EMT and on-call Firefighter for the Belfast Fire and Ambulance Department on tonight's Consent Agenda.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn at 9:54 p.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