

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, September 3, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Committee Interviews

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Regular Council Meeting No. 5

1) Call to order

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

Absent: Mayor Eric Sanders (Arrived at 8:12 p.m.)

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Adoption of the agenda

City Manager Erin Herbig noted the request to amend the agenda to add item **10) H #1** Request to authorize a Short-Term Independent Contractor Agreement for the City Park Pool.

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of August 20, 2024.

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

6) A. Open to the public

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

1. Meredith Bruskin of Swanville discussed concerns regarding the proposed Nordic Aquafarm project and the impact it has had on the community.

B. Organization and Department Reports

No comments.

7) Communications

Councilor Bonneville wished all the students returning to school this week good luck and reminded the public to be mindful while driving as students are out walking and waiting for the bus.

Councilor Dean discussed Police Department's speed enforcement, noting that it's a good reminder to all to slow down and leave five minutes early. He also discussed his hope to have continued communications with the Waldo County General Hospital.

Councilor Mortier noted to the public that Public Works is starting to complete work at the intersection of High and Miller Streets to create a 3-way stop.

Councilor Harkness discussed a recent article in The Main Monitor regarding MaineCare transportation services contract and requested that the public read this article and reach out to the Governor and State Representatives.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

- Consideration of Committee Appointments

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to appoint Biff Atlas as an associate member to the Planning Board, moving Gianne Conard into the full member position, appoint Molly Miller as a member to the Parks and Recreation Commission and appoint Sharon Goguen as an alternate member to the Cemetery Board of Trustees. This motion was approved, 5-0.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for Sophialk d/b/a Blue Spoon for the Mid Coast Charities fundraiser event on August 22nd, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. located at the Belfast Yacht Club & Event Center, 15 Front Street, Belfast, Maine.
- B. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for Belfast Maskers for a Haunted House event on October 26, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. located at 17 Court Street, Belfast, Maine.

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

10) Business

A) Update from the Cemetery Superintendent regarding the installation of the City's first columbarium within Grove Cemetery.

Cemetery Superintendent Leigh Wilcox and members of the Cemetery Trustees reviewed the proposed rules and regulations along with a fee schedule and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to approve the rules, regulations and fee schedule for the columbarium. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Request to approve a Facility Use Application by Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County for use of Steamboat Landing Park's patio area on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the Facility Use Application by Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County for use of Steamboat Landing Park's patio area on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM and answered Council questions.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to approve the Facility Use Application by Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County for use of Steamboat Landing Park's patio area on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM as presented. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request from the Belfast Public Health Nursing Association for Council Consideration of a Boathouse Rental Fee Waiver.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request from the Belfast Public Health Nursing Association for Council Consideration of a Boathouse Rental Fee Waiver and answered Council questions.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to approve the requested fee waiver by the Belfast Public Health Nursing Association to hold free flu vaccine clinics on September 25th, October 2nd, October 16th, October 23rd and December 4th. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to waive the security deposit of \$75 for the Belfast Public Health Nursing Association free flu vaccine clinics at the Belfast Boathouse. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request to approve a Facility Use Application by the Belfast Poetry Festival for use of the City Hall High Street Parking Lot on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:00PM through Friday, October 18, 2024, following the end of the event.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the Facility Use Application by the Belfast Poetry Festival for use of the City Hall High Street Parking Lot on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:00PM through Friday, October 18, 2024, following the end of the event and answered Council questions.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to approve the Facility Use Application by the Belfast Poetry Festival for use of City Hall High Street parking lot on Thursday, October 17, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM through Friday, October 18, 2024. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request from the Public Works Director to accept the bid and award the bid for crushed stone aggregate for resurfacing the Rail Trail.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to accept the bid and award the bid for crushed stone aggregate for resurfacing the Rail Trail.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to accept the bid as presented and award the bid to the only bidder, Dirigo Materials for \$22.50 per cubic yard (cy) for material and \$6.50 per cy for delivery of the material, for a total cost of \$29,000.00 with funding to be expended from the Rail Trail Resurfacing Capital Project Account #720-932. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Request from the Police Chief to expend up to \$35,035.00 to purchase a 2023 Ford Police Explorer PUI from Quirk Ford.

Police Chief Bobby Cormier reviewed the request to expend up to \$35,035.00 to purchase a 2023 Ford Police Explorer PUI from Quirk Ford and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to purchase the replacement vehicle from Quirk Ford for \$35,035.00, which includes the trade-in of the 2020 Ford Explorer PUI for \$11,999.00, with funding to come from the Police Purchase of Equipment Account #220-535. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Presentation and discussion regarding 74 High Street, Map 37 Lot 151 as a public safety threat.

Director of Code and Planning Bub Fournier and Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge provided a presentation on the history of the property, steps taken thus far, and staff concerns regarding the status of the property.

City Attorney Kristin Collins reviewed possible next steps and requested Council feedback and direction on how to proceed.

Councilors discussed their concerns with the health, safety and structural integrity of the property and directed the City Attorney and City staff to take steps to conduct a Public Hearing and draft Order for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

H) Request from the City Clerk to accept the 2024 Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request from the City Clerk to accept the 2024 Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to accept the 2024 Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant of \$5,000.00, and to authorize the City Manager to sign all documentation related to the grant. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) #1 Request to authorize a Short-Term Independent Contractor Agreement for the City Park Pool.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request to authorize a Short-Term Independent Contractor Agreement for the City Park Pool.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bately, made a motion to authorize a Short-Term Independent Contractor Agreement for the City Park Pool. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #13 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$35,035.00, which includes the trade-in of the 2020 Ford Explorer PUI for \$11,999.00, to purchase a 2023 Ford Police Explorer PUI from Quirk Ford. With funding to come from the Police Purchase of Equipment Account #220-535. (Approved on September 3, 2024)

Council Order #14 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$22.50 per cubic yard (cy) for material and \$6.50 per cy for delivery of the material, for a total cost of \$29,000.00 for crushed stone aggregate for resurfacing the Rail Trail from Dirigo Materials. With funding to come from the Rail Trail Resurfacing Capital Project Account #720-932. (Approved on September 3, 2024)

11) Open to the Public

No public comments.

12) Communications

No communications.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 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 

AMANDA CUSHMAN, BELFAST MAINE