

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, November 19, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Request to go into an Executive Session on a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 6:30 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Personnel Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) A at 7:03 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Public Hearing #1

Pursuant to Belfast Victualer License ordinance a public hearing will be held on November 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter in the Council Chambers at Belfast City Hall on the following applications for a Victualer License renewal, due to expire May 31, 2025.

WineSnak LLC

d/b/a Pulling Corks

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

Regular Council Meeting No. 10

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 requested to move item **10) H** Council discussion and consideration of Municipal Divestment, to item **10) A #1**.

Councilor Dean requested to amend the agenda to include item **10) H #1** Discussion on communicating with the State Legislature on the future closure of the labor and delivery unit of Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast.

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

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of November 6, 2024.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of November 6, 2024. This motion was approved, 5-0.

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that the Council received three emails from Katherine O’Dea, Cara Harshman and Jenna Rose Payne and no postal mail prior to noon today, which was shared with the Council before the start of the Council meeting to be included as part of the Open to the Public.

1. Beth Whitman of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
2. Connie Jenkins of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
3. Ariel Martin of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
4. Alan Gibson of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
5. Kathy Muzzy of Belfast read a letter from Kayla Miller in support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
6. Sam Williams of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
7. Sara Benmatri of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
8. Rae Axner of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.
9. Laura Keyes of Belfast discussed support for the Councils consideration of Municipal Divestment.

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

10) Business

A) Request to appoint Sarah Chapman of Hope as the new Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector.

City Clerk Angie Crosby and City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to appoint Sarah Chapman of Hope as the new Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector.

Councilors welcomed Ms. Chapman to the City of Belfast.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to appoint Sarah Chapman of Hope as the new Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector. This motion was approved, 5-0.

City Clerk Angie Crosby conducted the swearing-in ceremony.

A) #1 Council discussion and consideration of Municipal Divestment.

Mayor Sanders reviewed the request brought forward by local members of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement urging the City Council to consider municipal divestment from any publicly traded companies that are described by BDS as “part of Isreal’s prolonged military occupation, apartheid, and genocide”.

Councilors discussed the request to divest the City of Belfast from any of the publicly traded corporations and adopt a resolution.

Mayor Sanders read the proposed resolution.

City Manager Erin Herbig provided additional information and recommended changes to the proposed resolution.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to direct the City Finance Director to work with the City’s financial institutions to divest the City of Belfast from any of the publicly traded corporations on the list provided by local BDS Movement representatives. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Request to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Northport regarding the Municipal Boundary.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Northport regarding the Municipal Boundary and answered Council questions.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Northport regarding the Municipal Boundary. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request from the Parks and Recreation Director to authorize funding up to \$8,000 to conduct tree work at Belfast City Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request to authorize funding up to \$8,000 to conduct tree work at Belfast City Park and answered Council questions.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to expend up to \$8,000.00 to hire ForTree, Inc. to remove four trees at Belfast City Park, with \$7,000.00 to be allocated from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Account # 610-587 and \$1,000.00 to be allocated from the Parks Maintenance Account # 610-585. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Review of 2024 City Rangeway Assessment and discussion on future maintenance.

City Planner Alexandra Sykes reviewed the 2024 City Rangeway Assessment and discussed with the City Council plans for future maintenance.

Director of Planning and Codes Bub Fournier and City Manager Erin Herbig provided clarification and answered Council questions.

Councilors unanimously supported the maintenance plan as outlined at the meeting.

E) Request from the Planning and Codes Director to update the City's Permit Fee Schedule.

Director of Planning and Codes Bub Fournier reviewed the proposed updates to the City's Permit Fee Schedule and answered Council questions.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to direct City staff to incorporate the February 2024 Building Valuation Data Tables into the fee schedule effective immediately along with the other recommended changes, as presented. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Consideration of a request to remove one City Street Tree.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to remove a City Street Tree located at 19 Elm Street and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to accept the remove one City Street Tree located at 19 Elm Street. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Request to authorize funding up to \$3,385.00 to address fire sprinkler system deficiencies at the Belfast Police Department.

No discussion.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to authorize funding of \$3,385.00 for the fire sprinkler deficiency project at 2 Franklin Street, transferring these funds from the Undesignated Fund Balance into the City Building Maintenance, Repairs and Misc. Account #140-520. This motion was approved, 5-0.

H) Council discussion and consideration of Municipal Divestment.

Item moved to **10) A#1** on the agenda.

H) #1 Discussion on communicating with the State Legislature on the future closure of the labor and delivery unit of Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast.

Councilors discussed the best options for best communication to the State Legislature.

City Manager Erin Herbig suggested drafting a letter, that Council could approve at the December 3rd Council Meeting, to State Representatives requesting that they provide more information about the closure and if any Legislative action could be taken. Councilors unanimously agreed.

I) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #23 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

**AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 38 PARKS AND RECREATION**

Editor’s Note: All text shown in black font is current text in the adopted City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 38 Parks and Recreation. **All text shown in red font** is new language that is proposed to be added. ~~All text shown with blue strike through~~ is to be removed. (See attached text of adopted amendments).

First Reading: October 15, 2024

Second Reading: November 6, 2024

(Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #24 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

**AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 80, INTOWN DESIGN REVIEW**

Editor’s Note: All text shown in black font is current text in the adopted City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 80, Intown Design Review. **All text shown in red font** is new language that is proposed to be added. ~~All text shown with blue strike through~~ is to be removed. (See attached text of adopted amendments).

First Reading: October 15, 2024

Second Reading: November 6, 2024

(Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #25 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

**AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 102 ZONING,
ARTICLE VIII SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICT
REGULATIONS,
DIVISION 4 MOBILE HOMES AND MANUFACTURED
HOUSING**

Editor’s Note: All text shown in black font is current text in the adopted City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 102 Zoning. **All text shown in red font** is new language that is proposed to be added. ~~All text shown with blue strike through~~ is to be removed. (See attached text of adopted amendments).

First Reading: October 15, 2024

Second Reading: November 6, 2024

(Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #26 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$49,000 for the purchase of a GMC Sierra 1500, to include the two add-on items, from the Maine Fleet Vehicle State Purchasing Contract through O’Conner in Augusta for the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding is to come from account #610-537 Parks and Recreation Equipment Capital Reserve. (Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #27 Signed by Councilor Harkness Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to accept donations, in the amount of \$1,200, and authorize the payment of \$1,200 to David Hurley for the airport mural project. (Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #28 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to award the bid for City of Belfast surplus equipment (2009 Chevy 3/4 -ton) to Wendall Harvey of Penta for \$4,000.00. Funds will be deposited into Account# 990-3070, Miscellaneous Revenue. (Approved November 6, 2024)

Council Order #29 Signed by Councilor Bonneville Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$8,000.00 to hire ForTree, Inc. to remove four trees at Belfast City Park. Funding of \$7,000.00 is to be allocated from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Account # 610-587 and funding of \$1,000.00 is to be allocated from the Parks Maintenance Account # 610-585. (Approved November 19, 2024)

Council Order #30 Signed by Councilor Harkness Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$3,385.00 for the fire sprinkler deficiency project at 2 Franklin Street. Funding is to be transferred from the Undesignated Fund Balance into the City Building Maintenance, Repairs and Misc. Account #140-520. (Approved November 19, 2024)

11) Open to the Public

No public comments.

12) Communications

Councilor Bitely addressed downtown shopping for the holiday season.

Councilor Sanders thanked everyone for their words and support tonight.

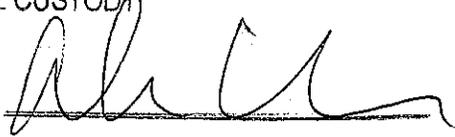
Councilor Dean discussed concerns brought forward by constituents about lack of communication from the City and noted he would like to give an overview of how the public can engage at the next Council Meeting.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 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