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**City of Belfast
Council Chambers-Belfast City Hall
Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Regular Council Meeting No. 11

1) Call to order

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

Absent: Councilor Brenda Bonneville.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Sanders invited Boy Scout Troop #37 member Max Dyer to help lead the Council with the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Adoption of the agenda

Mayor Eric Sanders noted two amendments:

- Remove item **10) A** Request to appoint Timothy Nisbet of Waldo as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Public Works Department.
- Remove item **10) E** Request from the Parks and Recreation Director to close Front Street from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 14th, 2024, for Holiday on the Harbor.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. This motion was approved, 4-0.

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024.

Councilor Dean requested that under item 10) G it be noted that Councilor Mary Mortier made the second for that motion.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024, as amended. This motion was approved, 4-0.

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that Council received two emails from Ellie Sloane-Barton and Natassia Mullally 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 Towey of Belfast discussed item 10) K on the agenda and requested that the City Council's letter be broader in the scope of their requests.
2. Glenn Montgomery of Belfast thanked the City Council for the decision to divest at the last Council Meeting.
3. Chris Battaglia of Torchlight invited the Council and the public to view their showcase next Tuesday, December 10, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Colonial Theatre.
4. Mike Hurley of Belfast discussed item 10) I on the agenda and concerns with how tree removal requests come before the Council.

B. Organization and Department Reports

- Presentation from Executive Assistant Ava Kelley regarding various ways in which the public can receive information from the City of Belfast and answered Council questions.

7) Communications

Councilor Harkness discussed recent personal experience with Waldo County General Hospital and the importance of having critical medical services in Waldo County.

Councilor Dean reminded the public about the public sand shed at the Public Works Facility that they can utilize for icy conditions and encouraged the public to utilize the City website, social media or newsletter to stay informed about what is happening in the City of Belfast and what is being discussed at City Meetings.

Mayor Sanders thanked Boy Scout Troop #37 for attending tonight's Council Meeting and congratulated Belfast businesses Young's Lobster Pound and Matthews Brothers for being finalists for Maine Family Business Institute's 2024 Maine Family Business Award and Tina Delsanto for being recognized by Hospitality of Maine as Restaurateur of Year for Delvino's.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

No comments.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

A. Request to approve an Incorporated Civic Organization License for Bagaduce Music for a New Years Eve Celebration located at the Bayview Point Event Center, 15 Front Street, Belfast, Maine on December 31, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

B. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for The Otis Group Incorporated d/b/a Rollie's Bar & Grill for a private retirement celebration on November 16, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. located at the Waldo County Shrine Club, 85 Northport Ave., Belfast, Maine.

C. Request to approve an application by Belfast Curling Club, Inc. d/b/a Belfast Curling Club located at 211 Belmont Ave., Belfast, Maine for a renewal on-premise Malt, Spirituous and Vinous liquor license.

D. Request to approve an application by Crusty Crab LLC d/b/a Front Street Pub located at 37 Front Street, Belfast, Maine for a renewal on-premise Malt, Spirituous and Vinous liquor license.

E. Request to approve an application by Dos Gatos Gastropub LLC d/b/a Dos Gatos Gastropub located at 84 Main Street, Belfast, Maine for a renewal on-premise Malt, Spirituous and Vinous liquor license.

F. Request to approve an extension of liquor license permit for Dos Gatos Gastropub, LLC d/b/a Dos Gatos Gastropub to extend the seating capacity of their property located at 84 Main Street into City parking spaces as part of the Curbside outdoor seating area.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion was approved, 4-0.

10) Business

A) Request to appoint Timothy Nisbet of Waldo as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Public Works Department.

Item removed.

B) Request to appoint Russell Moore of Swanville as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Public Works Department.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to appoint Russell Moore of Swanville as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Public Works Department.

Councilors welcomed Mr. Moore to the City of Belfast.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to appoint Russell Moore of Swanville as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Public Works Department. This motion was approved, 4-0.

C) Presentation by Consolidated Communications Regarding Expansion of Broadband Internet in Belfast.

Vice President Market Development Sarah Davis of Consolidated Communications gave a presentation regarding expansion of broadband internet in Belfast and answered Council questions.

D) Request from the Belfast Garden Club to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Belfast to place a storage shed on City property.

Garden Club Member Lexa Clifford reviewed the request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Belfast to place a storage shed on City property and answered Council questions.

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that the City Attorney had reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and provided the Council with recommended edits.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Belfast Garden Club to place a storage shed on City property, as amended at the meeting. This motion was approved, 4-0.

E) Request from the Parks and Recreation Director to close Front Street from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 14th, 2024, for Holiday on the Harbor.

Item removed.

F) Presentation on a Contract Rezoning Agreement Amendment #1 at 2 Pinchy Lane Three Tides Restaurant.

Director of Code and Planning Bub Fournier and City Planner Alexandra Sykes gave a presentation on a Contract Rezoning Agreement Amendment #1 at 2 Pinchy Lane Three Tides Restaurant.

G) First Reading on a Contract Rezoning Agreement Amendment #1 at 2 Pinchy Lane Three Tides Restaurant.

Director of Code and Planning Bub Fournier, City Planner Alexandra Sykes, and applicant Daniel Waldron provided additional information and answered Council questions regarding the Contract Rezoning Agreement Amendment #1 at 2 Pinchy Lane Three Tides Restaurant.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve the First Reading of the proposed Contract Rezoning Agreement Amendment #1 and to schedule the Second Reading and Public Hearing for the next Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. This motion was approved, 4-0.

H) Request to Authorize a Community Facilities Grant Agreement and Adopt a Resolution to Accept a Community Facilities Grant.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to authorize a Community Facilities Grant Agreement and adopt a resolution to accept a Community Facilities Grant.

Councilor Bitely, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to approve the resolution to accept a \$1,500,000 Community Facilities Grant; and to authorize the City Manager to sign a Community Facilities Grant Agreement on behalf of the City of Belfast. This motion was approved, 4-0.

I) Request from the Public Works Director to remove one City Street Tree.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request to remove a tree at 79 Congress Street.

Councilors discussed the health of the tree.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to remove one City Street Tree located at 79 Congress Street. This motion was approved, 4-0.

J) Request from Waldo Community Action Partners for City support of a grant application to Maine Housing.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request from Waldo Community Action Partners for City support of a grant application to Maine Housing.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign on behalf of the City of Belfast in support of Waldo CAP grant submission to Maine Housing retroactive to November 21, 2024. This motion was approved, 4-0.

K) Consideration of a draft letter to local representatives to the State Legislature regarding the closure of labor and delivery services at MaineHealth Waldo Hospital.

Councilors discussed the proposed letter and provided recommendations for changes to the letter.

City Manager Erin Herbig recommended that the Council make a motion to approve a letter as discussed in concept and authorize herself and the City Attorney to contact Maine DHHS as needed to challenge the 2008 unification of MaineHealth agreement and determine any avenues available to challenge this action.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to approve a letter as discussed in concept to local representatives to the State Legislature and several State agencies regarding the closure of labor and delivery services at MaineHealth Waldo Hospital and authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to contact Maine DHHS as needed to challenge the 2008 unification of Maine Health agreement and determine any avenues available to challenge this action. This motion was approved, 4-0.

L) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

11) Open to the Public

No comments.

12) Communications

The Mayor and Councilors discussed their recent decision to divest and how to provide additional opportunities for citizens to voice their opinion before taking Council action.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. This motion was approved, 4-0.

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