

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, December 17, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Request to go into an Executive Session on a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C.

Councilor Bitely, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to go into Executive Session on a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C at 6:00 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C at 6:47 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Regular Council Meeting No. 12

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 Dean, made a motion to adopt the agenda. This motion was approved, 5-0.

5) Acceptance of the minutes

Regular Council Meeting of December 3, 2024.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of December 3, 2024. This motion was approved, 4-0 (Councilor Bonneville abstained).

6) A. Open to the public

City Manager Erin Herbig noted that Council received one email from Tina DelSanto 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. Zafra Whitcomb of Belfast spoke about the recent open house event for the new Congress Street Housing project.
2. Judy Stien of Belfast discussed concerns with increased antisemitism in Belfast.

B. Organization and Department Reports

No comments.

7) Communications

The Mayor and Councilors discussed the new Congress Street housing project and open house and thanked all who helped make it into a reality as this will be a benefit to the community.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

Glenn Montgomery of the Pedestrian, Transportation and Accessibility Committee provided a committee report regarding the recent public meeting on a master plan for pedestrian, bicycling, and accessibility.

9) Permits, Petitions and Licenses - Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve an application by Randall-Collins VFW Post 3108 d/b/a Randall-Collins VFW Post 3108 located at 34 Field Street, Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt, Spirituous and Vinous liquor license.
- B. Request to approve an application by Belfast Theatre Arts Company d/b/a Colonial Theatre located at 163 High Street, Belfast, Maine for a new Malt and Vinous liquor license.

- C. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for The Otis Group Incorporated d/b/a Rollie's Bar and Grill for the Waldo County YMCA Ugly Sweater Party on December 5, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. located at the Bayview Event Center, 15 Front Street, Belfast, Maine.
- D. Request to approve an off-premises catering permit for The Otis Group Incorporated d/b/a Rollie's Bar and Grill for the Solar Logix Company Holiday Party on December 6, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. located at the Waldo County Shrine Club, 20 Northport Ave., Belfast, Maine.
- E. Request to approve an application by Satori Belfast LLC d/b/a Satori Restaurant located at 108 Main Street, Belfast, Maine for a renewal Malt, Spirituous and Vinous liquor license.
- F. Request to approve a Facility Use Application by Our Town Belfast for the Annual Menorah Lighting on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Post Office Square.

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 appoint Steve Warman of Swanville as the new Public Works Foreman for the Public Works Department.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to appoint Steve Warman of Swanville as the new Public Works Foreman for the Public Works Department.

The City Council congratulated Mr. Warman on his new role within the Department.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to appoint Steve Warman of Swanville as the new Public Works Foreman for the Public Works Department. This motion was approved, 5-0.

B) Request from the Public Works Director for authorization to utilize funds to purchase a replacement sander.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to utilize funds to purchase a replacement sander and answered Council questions.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to utilize funding of up to \$6,930.00 from the Department's Capital Reserve Account #410-537 to purchase a Fisher Tempest Spreader from Allied Equipment. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Discussion with Belfast Bay Watershed’s Plastic Pollution Solution Committee regarding the reduction of use of single-use plastics in our community.

Belfast Bay Watershed’s Plastic Pollution Solution Committee Members, Kris Shula and Dianne Torresen discussed with the City Council their request to address how to reduce the use of single-use plastics in our community.

Councilors discussed the need for more communication and feedback from local businesses that may be impacted by such proposed changes.

D) Request from the Police Chief to apply for a 2025 Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Speed Enforcement Grant.

Police Chief Bobby Cormier reviewed the request to apply for a 2025 Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Speed Enforcement Grant.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to authorize the City of Belfast to apply for a 2025 Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Speed Enforcement Grant and authorize the City Manager to sign any and all related documents associated with the request. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request to accept a \$1,000,000 grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance 2024 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to accept a \$1,000,000 grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance 2024 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program.

Councilor Bitely, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to authorize the Economic Development Director to accept the award agreement for the City of Belfast’s Bureau of Justice Assistance Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program grant award. This motion was approved, 5-0.

F) Request by the Economic Development Director to have the City Council authorize the submission of an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and to commit matching funds.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge reviewed the request to authorize the submission of an application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and to commit matching funds.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program; authorize matching funds in the amount of \$4,607.47, from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Account; and authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents necessary for the submission of this grant application. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Presentation from the Economic Development Director regarding a Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge gave a presentation on a Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant.

City Manager Erin Herbig clarified the process, noting that this public hearing is regarding accepting the grant and there will be opportunities for more public engagement before any designs are finalized.

H) Public Hearing regarding the City of Belfast’s acceptance of a Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge noted that no written or email comments were submitted prior to the meeting and he read the following Public Hearing Notice:

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
THE CITY OF BELFAST

The City of Belfast will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, as part of its regularly scheduled City Council meeting, which begins at 7:00pm on that date, in Council Chambers at Belfast City Hall, 131 Church Street, Belfast, Maine, to discuss the acceptance of a

\$990,000 CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant. The purpose of this CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant is to make infrastructure improvements to the entirety of Salmond Street and to a section of Congress Street located between Grove Street and U.S. Route 1. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the Project Development Phase. All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the acceptance of these funds are invited to attend this Public Hearing.

Comments may be submitted in writing to: Thomas Kittredge, Economic Development Director for the City of Belfast, Belfast City Hall, 131 Church Street, Belfast Maine, 04915; or via email to: economicdevelopment@cityofbelfast.org at any time prior to the Public Hearing. TDD/TTY users may call 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the City of Belfast's programs or services, please contact Thomas Kittredge at (207) 338-3370, extension 116, so that accommodations can be made.

All interested persons are invited to participate in the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard at that time. If any written or emailed comments have been submitted prior to the public hearing as referenced in the notice, the Economic Development Director will present them at this time.

Mayor Sanders asked for proponents and opponents.

1. Zafra Whitcomb of Belfast noted that as an abutter to the proposed infrastructure he is aware that such a proposed project would impact him negatively during construction, but all the same he is very happy and supportive of this project and what it will mean to the community and residents in this area long term.
2. Mike Patterson of Belfast discussed the Wight Street project and discussed how the City could learn from both the positives and negatives of that project and apply them to this one, for example the positioning of the road and the design of the pathway. He also requested that Council consider putting in sewer to Pracilla Lane.

Mayor Sanders declared the hearing closed.

I) Request by the Economic Development Director to have the City Council authorize the acceptance of a \$990,000 Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant.

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge answered Council questions regarding the request to authorize the acceptance of a \$990,000 Community Development Block Grant Public Infrastructure Grant.

Councilors thanked members of the public who spoke during the Public Hearing, noting that they look forward to continued and future discussions with residents and abutters of the proposed project.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to authorize the acceptance of the \$990,000 in CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant funds; approve and sign the supplied resolution; and authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary paperwork associated with the acceptance of these grant funds. This motion was approved, 5-0.

J) Request by the Deputy Economic Development Director to authorize the submission of an application to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to submit an application to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Harkness, made a motion to authorize the submission of an application to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and authorize the City Manager to sign any and all related documents associated with the request. This motion was approved, 5-0.

K) Request to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City of Belfast Wage and Salary Scale.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City of Belfast Wage and Salary Scale, effective July 1, 2025.

Mayor Sanders suggested that staff look into median income verses cost of living percentage next year to see what that would look like.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City of Belfast Wage and Salary Scale, effective July 1, 2025. This motion was approved, 5-0.

L) Request to approve the Calendar Year 2025 City of Belfast Observed Holiday Schedule.

City Manager Erin Herbig briefly reviewed the request to approve the Calendar Year 2025 City of Belfast Observed Holiday Schedule and answered Council questions.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to approve the Calendar Year 2025 City of Belfast Observed Holiday Schedule. This motion was approved, 5-0.

***Councilor Harkness requested to add and additional item, 10) L #1 To reaffirm the Anti-Semitism Proclamation approved by the City Council on February 15th, 2022, Councilors unanimously agreed.**

L) #1 To reaffirm the Anti-Semitism Proclamation approved by the City Council on February 15th, 2022.

Councilor Harkness noted that this request is in response to Ms. Stiens comments during open to the public, he read the Anti-Semitism Proclamation approved by the City Council on February 15th, 2022, and requested that Council consider taking action to reaffirm the proclamation tonight.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to reaffirm the Anti-Semitism Proclamation approved by the City Council on February 15th, 2022, as read at the Council Meeting. This motion was approved, 5-0.

M) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #65 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to accept the pre-approved rebate from Efficiency Maine to install a VRF system at the former courthouse at 137 Church Street, and provide the required match be not more than 10% of the project costs from the City's Energy Capital Reserve Fund. (Approved April 16, 2024)

Council Order #31 Signed by Councilor Bitely Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$6,930.00 to purchase a Fisher Tempest Spreader from Allied Equipment. Funding to come from the Public Works Department's Capital Reserve Account #410-537. (Approved December 17, 2024)

Council Order #32 Signed by Councilor Mortier Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$4,607.47 as matching funds for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Funding is to come from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Account. (Approved December 17, 2024)

11) Open to the Public

No public comments.

12) Communications

Councilor Dean thanked all who stayed for the entire meeting, noting that public attendance for a whole meeting is a rare occurrence.

Councilor Bonneville wished everyone a Happy Holiday and reminded everyone that the Menorah Lighting will be held on Wednesday, December 25th at 3:00 p.m. at Post Office Square.

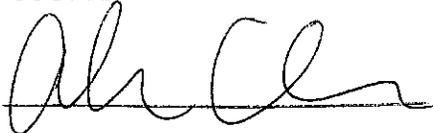
Councilor Bitely thanked staff for their continued efforts to get outside funding to support projects that will benefit the community.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 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