

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, July 1, 2025**

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

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, 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 Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session on a Real Estate Matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) C at 6:36 p.m. This motion was approved, 5-0.

6:30 p.m. Committee Interviews

7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Regular Council Meeting No. 1

Public Hearing #1

Pursuant to Belfast Victualer License ordinance a public hearing will be held on July 1, 2025, 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, 2026.

Baywrap Inc
Bethany Gregory

d/b/a Bay Wrap
d/b/a Brackish River Bistro Vista & Vows Catering

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

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

Mayor Sanders noted the following amendments to the Agenda:

1. Add item **10) B #1** Request from the Pool Operator to expend up to \$68,165.00 to Affordable Pools of Hudson, New Hampshire for repairs necessary to open the City Park Pool for the 2025 season.
2. Remove item **10) G** Request from the Economic Development Director to authorize the submission of a letter of intent to the Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Grant Program.

Mayor Sanders also noted that under Organization and Department Reports instead of an update on the pool the Parks and Recreation Director will be introducing the new Parks and Recreation Steward to the Council and community.

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 June 17, 2025.

Councilor Dean noted that on page 10 of the minutes under item 10) S the motion is missing the names of the Councilors who made and seconded the motion and should read Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of June 17, 2025, as amended. 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 would be shared with Council before the start of the Council meeting to be included as part of the Open to the Public.

1. Amy Drinkwater of Belfast introduced herself as the owner of Double Ds Dairy Cup which will be located at AllPlay and thanked Council for consideration of her application on tonight's Consent Agenda.

B. Organization and Department Reports

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas introduced Sky Milstein as the new Parks and Recreation Environmental Steward through Maine Conservation Corps.

City Manager Erin Herbig provided an update on City of Belfast Independence Day closures and reminded the public regarding the use of fireworks in Belfast.

7) Communications

Councilor Harkness thanked Ms. Drinkwater for attending tonight's meeting as it always nice to meet new business owners, reminded the public of best practices if you see a bear, and discussed the installation of E-911 markers on the Rail Trail.

Councilor Bitely discussed increased traffic as summer visitors are here, make sure you give yourself extra time to get to where you are headed.

8) Old Business and City Committee Reports

- Consideration of Committee Appointments

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to reappoint Jennifer Craig and appoint Lauren Ware Stark to the Library Board of Trustees Committee. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to reappoint David Somers and Shwan Rumery and appoint Emilie Gruchow and Forest Pitkin (Student Member) to the Climate, Energy and Utilities Committee. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to reappoint Lewis Baker and Philippa Jollie to the Planning Board. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to reappoint Dominic Meradante and Declan O'Connor to the In Town Design Review Committee. This motion was approved, 5-0.

Councilors thanked all who applied and inquired about committees with openings and the process to apply if anyone is interested.

B) #1 Request from the Pool Operator to expend up to \$68,165.00 to Affordable Pools of Hudson, New Hampshire for repairs necessary to open the City Park Pool for the 2025 season.

Pool Operator Carolyn Steeves and Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request to expend up to \$68,165.00 to Affordable Pools of Hudson, New Hampshire for repairs necessary to open the City Park Pool for the 2025 season and answered Council questions.

Councilors discussed the need to start investing in the pool and requested that the department come back in the fall to discuss future investments.

Councilor Bonneville, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to approve the request to expend up to \$68,165.00 to Affordable Pools of Hudson, New Hampshire for repairs necessary to open the City Park Pool for the 2025 season, with funding to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. This motion was approved, 5-0.

C) Request to install a Donor Bench honoring Jane Sanford at Belfast Common.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request to install a Donor Bench honoring Jane Sanford at Belfast Common.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to approve the request to install a bench honoring Jane Sanford located at Belfast Common. This motion was approved, 5-0.

D) Request from the Parks and Recreation Director for authorization to expend up to \$38,482.48 to purchase a tractor and backhoe.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request to expend up to \$38,482.48 to purchase a tractor and backhoe.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to expend up to \$38,482.48 for a tractor and backhoe from Greenway Equipment Sales with funding allocated from the Capital Improvement Account. This motion was approved, 5-0.

E) Request by Belfast Bible Church for approval of a new Facility Use Request for use of Steamboat Landing Park on Saturdays, July 26 and September 13, 2025, from 12PM to 2PM.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request for a new Facility Use Request for use of Steamboat Landing Park on Saturdays, July 26 and September 13, 2025, from 12PM to 2PM.

Councilors discussed their sentiments regarding the request.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to approve a new Facility Use Request for use of Steamboat Landing Park on Saturdays, July 26 and September 13, 2025, from 12PM to 2PM. This motion failed, 2-3 (Councilors Mortier, Bonneville and Dean opposed).

F) Request by organizers of the Belfast Street Party for approval of a Facility Use Request for use of High Street on Monday, July 28, 2025, from 2PM to 11PM.

Parks and Recreation Director Pam Salokangas reviewed the request for a Facility Use Request for use of High Street on Monday, July 28, 2025, from 2PM to 11PM and answered Council questions.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to approve the Facility Use Request by organizers of the Belfast Street Party for approval of a Facility Use Request for use of High Street on Monday, July 28, 2025, from 2PM to 11PM. This motion was approved, 5-0.

G) Request from the Economic Development Director to authorize the submission of a letter of intent to the Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Grant Program.

Item removed from the agenda.

H) Request to appoint Steven Weed and Brooks Taber-Grotton as the 911 Addressing Officers for the City of Belfast.

City Manager Erin Herbig answered Council questions regarding what this authority means.

Councilor Harkness, seconded by Councilor Dean, made a motion to appoint Steven Weed and Brooks Taber-Grotton as 911 Addressing Officers for the City of Belfast and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Emergency Services Communication Bureau Addressing Officer Confirmation Form authorizing both as Addressing Officers. Both are fully capable and willing to serve in this role. This motion was approved, 5-0.

I) Request from the Public Works Director for authorization to expend up to \$61,833.00 to purchase a 2024 Ram 3500.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to expend up to \$61,833.00 to purchase a 2024 Ram 3500.

Councilor Mortier, seconded by Councilor Bonneville, made a motion to expend up to \$61,833.00 for a new 2024 Ram 3500 with funding allocated from the Public Works Department Purchase of Equipment Account #410-535. This motion was approved, 5-0.

J) Request to remove one City Street Tree.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to remove one City Street Tree located between 44 and 50 Bayview Street.

Councilors thanked Ms. Herbig for her written assessment.

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to remove one City Street Tree located between 44 and 50 Bayview Street. This motion was approved, 5-0.

K) Request from the BelTV Media Manager to expend up to \$2,644.00 for media equipment.

City Manager Erin Herbig reviewed the request to expend up to \$2,644.00 for media equipment.

Councilor Bitely, seconded by Councilor Mortier, made a motion to expend up to \$2,644.00 for media equipment with funding allocated from the Cable Television Capital Reserve Account #250-537. This motion was approved, 5-0.

L) Signing of Council Orders and housekeeping items.

Council Order #1 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$17,500.00 to repair the Treatment Plant digester. Funding is to come from the Wastewater Department's Capital Reserve Account #990-537. (Approved July 1, 2025)

Council Order #2 Signed by Councilor Dean Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$38,482.48 for a tractor and backhoe for the Parks and Recreation Department from Greenway Equipment Sales. Funding is to come from the Capital Improvement Account. (Approved July 1, 2025)

Council Order #3 Signed by Councilor Bitely Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$2,644.00 for media equipment for BelTV. Funding is to come from the Cable Television Capital Reserve Account #250-537. (Approved July 1, 2025)

Council Order #4 Signed by Councilor Bonneville Ordered That:

The City Manager and the City Treasurer are authorized to expend up to \$68,165.00 to Affordable Pools of Hudson, New Hampshire for repairs necessary to open the City Park Pool for the 2025 season. Funding is to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. (Approved July 1, 2025)

11) Open to the Public

No public comments.

12) Communications

Councilors Harkness and Bitely thanked Councilors for a healthy discussion tonight.

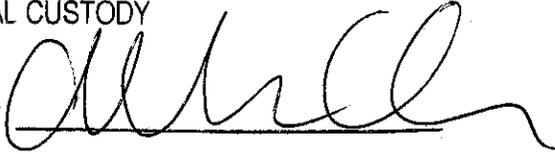
Councilor Dean noted the influx of visitors to town over the weekend for Arts in the Park.

13) Adjourn

Councilor Dean, seconded by Councilor Bitely, made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Cushman', written over a horizontal line.

AMANDA CUSHMAN, BELFAST MAINE