

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, January 22, 2003 7:00 PM
City Council Chambers, Bath City Hall

Present: Councilors Hall, Winglass, Blake, Wyman, Hart, Rogers, Mitchell and Chairman James

Late: Councilor Daigle

Also Present: City Manager Bubier, City Solicitor Therriault and City Clerk White

Chairman James called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk White called the Roll.

I. Presentation by C.R. Davis, President of the Board of Trustees for the Bath Area YMCA – 7:03 PM #83

Mr. Davis gave a brief history of the Bath YMCA. He presented an overview of the YMCA's funding, programs and resident involvement. Mr. Davis shared the Y's Mission Statement, which promotes the health and well being of individuals, families and communities by being values driven.

II. Committee Reports – 7:17 PM #480

Councilor Hart gave reports for the Student Council Liaison meeting and the Recycling Committee. The SCLC has been participating in a food drive, a protection watch for students going and coming from the Dike Newell School and a Pride in Morse campaign. The Recycling Committee is involved with a new education program and has a new mascot.

III. Correspondence – 7:20 PM #566

Councilor Mitchell shared a letter he had received regarding a Thank You to the Bath Public Works Department for all their good work done during the recent snowstorms.

IV. City Manager's Report – 7:21 PM #614

The City Manager spoke regarding the following items:

- Working on Tax Reform where the loss of GPA is
- Grand opening of the Mid Coast Learning Center
- Still looking for a new Finance Director
- Met with the Main Street Committee regarding Heritage Days festivities and the Streets' Program
- Natural Gas Project coming to Bath
- Welcomed Brackett's Market to their new site in the downtown

V. Public Hearing: - Public Comment on 2003 Housing Initiative Grant Application - 7:31 PM #922

Al Smith, CDBG coordinator, stated that he had come before Council to discuss a possible application for a Housing Assistance grant. Bath's recent Public Infrastructure proposal has been approved to enter Phase II. This grant will help with infrastructure improvements in the Union to Shepard Streets neighborhood and Elm Street. Mr. Smith said the Housing Assistance Grant would provide up to \$400,000 to low and moderate-income applicants to address housing rehabilitation, innovative housing and housing repair. Mr. Smith said they would like to address housing problems at the Orchard Courts.

The CDBG funds would be used for:

- Assist in acquisition, and some improvements of 8 units for Cooperative Housing owners.
- Provide pre and post ownership classes for first-time homebuyers.
- Provide a small soft second loan for closing costs for the new first-time homeowners.
- Provide relocation assistance for families that might need to relocate to other units
- Cover Administration costs.

Joanne Troy of the Bath Housing Authority explained the logistics of the project. She stated that this project would help stabilize the neighborhood and make it look much nicer than at the present time.

It was the consensus of the Council that the CDBG team should go forth with the Grant Application process.

V. Public Hearing – Update and Public comment on 2001 Housing Rehabilitation - 8:00 PM #1827

Chairman James opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the 2001 Grant projects. He stated that over 110 units of housing throughout the City had been renovated. Mr. Smith answered questions regarding mortgages on these units.

Chairman James closed the Public Hearing.

Council went to Workshops regarding criteria for Zoning Changes and establishing an Economic Development Committee at this time.

Councilor Daigle joined the Council during the Workshops.

Motion by Councilor Mitchell, second by Councilor Blake to waive the Rules to add Labor Negotiations to the Executive Session. Vote: 8-0.

Motion by Councilor Mitchell, second by Councilor Wyman to go into Executive Session to discuss Labor Negotiations and a Real Estate Matter. Vote 7-0 (Councilor Daigle not in Council Chambers for Vote).

Motion by Councilor Rogers, second by Councilor Blake to come out of Executive Session. Vote: 7-0 (Councilor Daigle had left meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM with a motion made by Councilor Hart and second by Councilor Hall.
Vote: 7-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary J. White, City Clerk

Please note: These minutes are not recorded verbatim. A tape recording of the meeting is available for review in the City Clerk's office during regular business hours.