

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
City Council of the City of Bath, Maine
Wednesday, February 5, 2003 7:00pm
City Council Chambers, Bath City Hall

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

Also in attendance was the City Manager - John Bubier, Acting City Solicitor - Michael Therriault and Deputy City Clerk – Pam Gray.

Chairman James led the Pledge of Allegiance and Deputy City Clerk Gray called the Roll.

C. Presentations

Bath Trolley Company – Joseph Byrnes, President – 7:03 PM #0033

Joe Byrnes addressed the City Council and stated that the Trolley Company was founded in 1999. This project by the City is operated by non-profit Bath Trolley Company. It runs Heritage Days through Labor Day. There is free trolley Christmas caroling available during the month of December. The trolley participates in all civic parades and activities for non-profits. There is an all-volunteer staff. Jim Upham is the Secretary and Bonnie Williams does the books. The trolley averages around 3,000 paid riders a year, and there are about 50 memberships. The trolley is also available for charter. A major source of revenue is the advertising on the sides of the trolley. Existing advertisers have until March 15th to renew. The web site is bathtrolley.org and they hope to tie in with the Main St. web site. The trolley has three dedicated drivers: Charlie Williams, Charlie Gabelmann, and Ray Watson. Bill Reed has been servicing the trolley so there has been very little down time.

Bath City Bus – Jim Upham, City Planner – 7:09 PM #0195

Jim Upham addressed the City Council regarding the City Bus and stated that a lot of credit should go to Joe Byrnes as he puts in a lot of time operating and managing the trolley. Jim stated that he is Secretary and Treasurer for the Bath City Bus. He stated that Bonnie Williams does a good job in providing assistance with this and Greg L’Heureux assisted by setting up the system. There were four buses but one was transferred to RTP in Portland because we didn’t need it, so there are 22 passenger buses remaining. The plan is to replace all three with new vehicles this summer. Sherry Sutton, liaison to John Bubier, and Dana Snow, who supervises the drivers, are all part of the team. Maintenance is done by Bill Reed. The plan is to have two of these buses (14 passenger buses) and the other bus would be replaced by a year-round trolley. He explained that they were prohibited from doing charters with a federally subsidized vehicle. Jim Upham then covered the bus route for the public and concluded that they have a difficult time selling advertising on the bus.

D. Time Devoted to Residents to Address the City Council 7:20 PM #0533

Joe Byrnes addressed the City Council in his capacity as President of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. He extended an invitation to attend the annual dinner with the delegates (16 representatives from the entire state) on the issues of the day. He said they are hoping to have a strong show of support at this event. It will be held at 5:30 p.m. on 2/11/03 at New Meadows Restaurant.

E. Committee Reports: 7:23 PM #0600

John Hall, Council rep to the School Board, announced that the surrounding towns are sending representatives to the School Board now (He noted that there are five of us and one of them). They are dealing with a joint school workshop starting the budget process on Monday. He suggested that they may want to have a joint workshop with City Council and the School Board sooner rather than later.

F. Correspondence/Petitions: 7:25 PM #0658

A communication was received from David Fuller regarding the Tour D'America Cycle Ride. It will be held on August 9, 2003 and will be a 46 mile route including Topsham, Brunswick and Woolwich. They are asking the City to participate and will need to discuss traffic control, etc. It was suggested to appoint a Council rep to this Committee.

G. Manager's Report #0718 7:25 PM

- Re-started discussion with Natural Gas Pipeline people
- School funding – The Governor is going to recommend the lowest level of last year's budget. School Boards will have to cut approximately \$80 million from budgets or shift to local property taxes
- Discussion on expansion at Wing Farm
- Landfill presentations will be coming forth over the next two or three weeks
- He and Jim Upham went to the DOT regarding the wharf at the City Park. They are also trying to figure out if there is any hope of resurrecting the traffic light issue on the Hannaford project
- First meeting of the Midcoast Council of Economic Development last week
- Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce dealing with the Naval Air Station and putting together a strong defense of the region
- Infill building project in the downtown
- Maine Service Center Committee – John Melrose will be representing them dealing with legislation for this organization

H. Public Hearings – None

I. Consent Agenda #1010 7:35 PM

Councilor Blake made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Councilor Mitchell.

Vote: Unanimous

J. Ordinances, Resolutions and Orders #1015 7:37 PM

Ordinance: LUC Amendment, Section 16.09 Maine Maritime Museum Contract Zone (first passage)
(A complete copy of this ordinance is on file with the February 5, 2003 agenda materials in the City Clerk's Office.)

There was a motion by Councilor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Winglass to put this item on the floor for discussion.

Vote: Unanimous

There was a motion by Councilor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Blake to waive the reading of the ordinance.

Vote: Unanimous

There was a motion by Councilor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Winglass to approve the ordinance.

Vote: Unanimous

The Public Hearing for second passage was set for 2/19/03 at 6:00 p.m.

K. Old Business None

L. New Business #1637 7:55 PM

3) Appointment of one member to the Planning Board term to expire September 2005

Councilor Hall reported that the Interview Committee met last Monday and interviewed four candidates for this position. He announced that it was a difficult decision as all the candidates were very well-qualified. The Interview Committee is recommending James Hopkinson of 1303 Washington St. to fill the slot. Councilor Hart made a motion to approve James Hopkinson as the new Planning Board member, which was seconded by Councilor Mitchell.

Vote: Unanimous

4) Appointment of one member to the Forestry Committee term indefinite (3-year commitment)

Councilor Hall announced that there was only one applicant for the Forestry Committee, so the Interview is recommending David Marsh to fill this position.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to appoint David Marsh to the Forestry Committee, which was seconded by Councilor Winglass.

Vote: Unanimous

5) Appointment of two members to the Bath Housing Authority Board term to expire February 2008

It was announced that there were two applicants to fill these positions. Robert Peabody is a re-appointment, and Patricia Levan would be a new member.

Councilor Wyman made a motion to appoint Robert Peabody and Patricia Levan to fill the Bath Housing Authority vacancies, which was seconded by Councilor Mitchell.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman James asked for a motion to waive the rules to add Goals and Objectives to the Workshop session.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to waive the rules to add Goals and Objectives to the Workshop session following the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Blake.

Vote: Unanimous

Councilor Wyman made a motion to adjourn to workshop at 8:00 p.m., which was seconded by Councilor Winglass.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela J. Gray
Deputy 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