

Government Operations Committee

Wednesday January 20, 2016

(Immediately following the Finance Committee meeting)

City Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Accepting state law provisions for counting write-in votes at elections.
 - Please see the attached memorandum from City Clerk Goodwin along with the draft Council Action page and Order.
2. Authorization to apply for a \$10,000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation to support the on- going efforts of the Community Health Leadership Board (CHLB).
 - Please see the attached Council Action page and Council Order
3. Authorization to apply for a \$3,000 grant from FM Global Company to purchase computer tablets for the Fire Inspection Bureau.
 - Please see the attached Council Action page and Council Order
4. Authorization to apply for an \$8,416.32 State of Maine Recreational Trails grant to fund improvements on the Kenduskeag Stream Trail between Franklin Street and Harlow Street.
 - Please see the attached memorandum from Parks and Recreation Director Willette and the associated Council Action page and Council Order
5. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 6 (c) -- Property Acquisition
 - Please see confidential memorandum from City Solicitor Heitmann provided separately
6. Committee action, if necessary, related to Agenda Item #5 above.
7. Presentation from and discussion with representatives from Transportation for All regarding recommendations for public transit service improvements.
 - Representatives from Transportation for All have requested to meet with the Committee to review findings from their recent passenger survey and to discuss recommendations for enhancements to the Community Connector transit service.
 - Please see the attached memorandum outlining the general topics to be presented / discussed.

MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FROM: LISA J. GOODWIN, CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: TALLY OF WRITE-IN CANDIDATE VOTES
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2015

During the last legislative session, I reviewed with the previous City Council legislation submitted on behalf of the Maine Town & City Clerks' Association to amend M.R.S.A. 21-A. The amendment would allow towns and cities the option of selecting the same method of determining and counting write-in votes for local candidates as is used with state and federal candidates. This change was approved by the Legislature in June 2015.

In order to follow the same procedures in a municipal election as is followed in a state election, the new law requires that the City Council hold a public hearing and vote to adopt the provisions outlined in Title 21-A for determining and counting write-in votes.

Currently in the City of Bangor, election workers can spend hours after the polls close examining ballots with write-in votes to determine if they are valid. Then election clerks must manually record any of those valid votes. For example, if 5,000 voters opted to write-in their own name, a name of a friend or even their favorite Disney character, then each of those ballots would need to be hand sorted and examined.

The provisions of Title 21-A still allows for an individual to run as a write-in candidate as long as he or she files the required declaration with the City Clerk before the 45-day deadline. Under the revised law, if there are no candidates listed on the ballot for either City Council or School Committee, then all write-in votes would be counted.

If approved, the attached Council Order would accept the method of counting write-in votes that is currently followed in state and federal elections. This method of counting will greatly enhance the efficiency of tallying write-in votes and also will allow for election results to be determined in a shorter period of time. Aligning our local procedures with the methods used by the state and federal governments will also reduce election worker confusion at the end of the night as all ballots will be counted in the same manner.

Item No. _____

Date: February 8, 2016

**Item/Subject: ORDER, Accepting Provisions of Title 21-A, Section 696, Subsection 2,
Paragraph C and Title 21-A, Section 722-A, As Governance For
Counting Write-In Votes**

Responsible Department: City Clerk

Commentary:

On June 11, 2015, the Maine Legislature passed L.D. 626 An Act Regarding Write-In Candidates in Municipal and City Elections. This law provides towns and cities with the opportunity to accept the provisions of State law regarding counting write-in candidates. If accepted, the provisions would require write-in candidates to declare candidacy with the City Clerk on or before the 45th day prior to the election. Only write-in votes for declared candidates would require hand count. All other write-in votes would not be hand counted.

Should there be no candidates for either School Committee or City Council, all write-in votes would be hand counted.

This action requires a public hearing. Staff recommends approval.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information:

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for

- Passage – Public Hearing
- First Reading
- Referral

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Assigned to Councilor

CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) **Order**, Accepting Provisions of Title 21-A, Section 696, Subsection 2, Paragraph C and Title 21-A, Section 722-A, As Governance For Counting Write-In Votes

WHEREAS, an amendment to the law regarding the counting of write-in votes, 30-A M.R.S.A. §2501, subsection 3, was enacted last year; and

WHEREAS, municipalities now have the option of having the same requirements regarding write-in candidates and vote counting for municipal elections as for other elections.

By the City Council of the City of Bangor:

ORDERED, that the provisions of Title 21-A, Section 696, Subsection 2, Paragraph C and Title 21-A, Section 722-A, are accepted as governance for Counting Write-In Votes. Votes for a write-in candidate are counted only if that candidate has filed a timely declaration of write-in candidacy with the municipal clerk in accordance with Title 21-A, section 722-A, except that votes for write-in candidates who have not filed a declaration of write-in candidacy must be counted if:

- (1) The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office; or
- (2) A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day.

Item No. 16-

Date: January 25, 2016

Item/Subject: ORDER, Authorizing the City Manager to apply for funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Maine Community Foundation to support the Community Health Leadership Board

Responsible Department: Public Health and Community Services

Commentary:

This order will authorize the City Manager to direct staff from the Public Health and Community Services Dept. to apply for funds from the Maine Community Foundation/ Penobscot Valley Health Association Fund/Penobscot Fund in the amount of \$10,000.

These funds would support the work of the Community Health Leadership Board (CHLB). The CHLB was first convened to address pressing health concerns in our community. The CHLB is a group of hospital, city, and health and human service leaders utilizing its members' unique leadership roles and the strength of their organizations to achieve positive outcomes through collaboration and cooperation. The CHLB is initially focused on measurably reducing the impact of addiction and substance abuse in our community. Maine Community Foundation funds would be used for strategic planning, group facilitation and coordination.

The term of the grant would be June 1, 2016 to June 1, 2017.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information Order

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for
 Passage,
 First Reading
 Referral



Assigned to Councilor

CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Order, Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Maine Community Foundation to support the Community Health Leadership Board

BE IT ORDERED THAT: The City Manager is authorized to apply for funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Maine Community Foundation for the term June 1, 2016 to June 1, 2017 to support the on-going efforts of the Community Health Leadership Board.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: January 25, 2016

Item/Subject: Authorizing the Fire Department to submit a Grant Application to FM Global Company for \$3,000 for the Purchase of two Computer Tablets.

Responsible Department: Fire

Commentary: This Order will authorize the Fire Department to submit a grant application to FM Global for two Computer Tablets. They are an Industrial Insurance Company that provides Fire Prevention Grants to Fire Departments with no required matching funds from the department. The funds will be used to purchase two computer tablets for the Fire Inspectors to use while on inspections. The tablets will increase the efficiency, tracking and reporting of violations, as well as improve quality assurance of inspections. These tablets will also enhance the effectiveness of both residential and commercial inspections programs.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: Order

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for

Passage
 First Reading
 Referral

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Assigned to Councilor

CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) Order, Authorizing the Fire Department to submit a Grant Application to FM Global Company for \$3,000 for the Purchase of two Computer Tablets.

By the City Council of the City of Bangor:

ORDERED, THAT the Bangor Fire Department is hereby authorized to submit a grant application in the amount of \$3,000 to FM Global Company for the purpose of purchasing two computer tablets that will be used to assist Inspectors in the Fire Inspection Division.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Government Operations Committee

FROM: Tracy Willette, Director
Parks and Recreation

SUBJ: Application for Recreational Trails Grant

DATE: January 14, 2016

The Kenduskeag Stream Trail is one of the City's trails that starts in downtown and eventually makes it way to the upper end of Valley Avenue. We have been fortunate recently to have groups from a variety of businesses as well as local citizens and residents of the downtown volunteer to complete projects that have improved the trail conditions.

One of the sections of the trail that starts at Franklin Street and proceeds to the footbridge that eventually leads to Harlow Street is in need of repair. Specifically, sections of fencing and railing needs to be replaced and there is trail surface repair that needs to be done. The State of Maine, administers a Recreational Trail Grant program that funds such materials and repairs for successful applicants. This is a reimbursement grant and the City can use in kind resources as its local match. In this case, City staff can perform the necessary work and this will serve as our match.

We are requesting authority to apply for a grant in the amount of \$8,416.32 through the Recreational Trails Program. These funds will be used to purchase the needed railing and fencing materials as well as aggregate to make trail repairs. Staff will be at your meeting if there are any additional questions.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. _____

Date: 1-25-16

Item/Subject: Authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to Apply for Grant Funding through the State of Maine Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$8,416.32 to Repair the Kenduskeag Stream Trail

Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation

Commentary:

The Parks and Recreation Department has been working with a group of individuals who are interested in making repairs and improvements to the section of the Kenduskeag Stream Trail that runs from Franklin Street to the footbridge leading to Harlow Street. The State of Maine through the Bureau of Parks and Lands administers the Recreational Trails Program which awards grants to successful applicants for such projects. Staff would like to proceed with a grant application in the amount \$8416.32 to make repairs to the trail and fencing in this section of the Kenduskeag Stream Trail.

Department Head

Manager's Comments:

City Manager

Associated Information: Order

Budget Approval:

Finance Director

Legal Approval:

City Solicitor

Introduced for

Passage
 First Reading
 Referral

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Assigned to

CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) ORDER, Authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to Apply for Grant Funding through the State of Maine Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$8,416.32 to Repair the Kenduskeag Stream Trail

BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, BE IT ORDERED, THAT:

The Parks and Recreation Department is hereby authorized to apply for a grant through the State of Maine Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$8,416.32 to repair portions of the Kenduskeag Stream Trail between Franklin Street and Harlow Street, including, but not limited to replacing fencing and railings, and upgrading the walking surface of the footpath

To: Government Operations Committee

From: Bob Farrar, Assistant City Manager and Laurie Linscott, Community Connector Superintendent

Subject: Meeting with Transportation for All – Discussion Topics

Date: January 14, 2016

In November, the City Council had asked staff to arrange a meeting with Transportation for All at a future Government Operations Committee meeting. As you may recall, this group has been active in advocating for improved transit service and has spoken at previous Council and Committee meetings. We have now scheduled that meeting, and in preparation for next Wednesday's meeting with Government Operations, Superintendent Linscott and I met on January 12th with Martin Chartrand and Kim Meyerdierks, representatives with Transportation for All. The meeting was both positive and constructive. The group is very supportive of the current transit system and its operations, and is hoping to make recommendations to improve the system over time.

At our meeting on Tuesday we reviewed and discussed topics that Transportation for All would like to present to the Committee. We thought it would be helpful for the Committee to have that list in advance of the meeting, and the topics are outlined below:

1. Bus Ambassador Program
2. Additional System Operating Hours
3. Pickering Square Operational Issues – Waiting Area and Restrooms
4. Bus Cleaning
5. General Signage at Key Locations -- Map and Schedules (Kiosk at Pickering)
6. Additional Passenger Waiting Shelters

Transportation for All and city staff are looking forward to discussing these issues and other related topics with the Committee on Wednesday night. Transportation for All is also seeking Committee feedback on how they can partner with and the City to improve our transit operation.