

Notice of Council Work Session on Belfast Yards following the regular Council meeting Tomorrow night  
Council meeting around 9:00pm

Following the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of June 18, 2018 (Tomorrow night) the City Council will adjourn the meeting around 9:00 pm and retire to a "work session" on the Belfast Yards Project. Work sessions are informal meetings where the public may attend but usually does not have an opportunity to participate in the discussion. Most of them are not televised. The Council set aside money for a consultant in the current 2017-2018 budget to hire a consultant to advise them with some professional planning.

The Council is looking to provide opportunities for smaller private enterprises, businesses, offices, and residences as private property owners to have a long term physical and community presence on the Belfast waterfront in keeping with the nature of the Belfast downtown.

The Council envisions mixed-use with exclusively commercial use on the lower floors with offices and residential use on the upper floors. One concept envisioned two main structures or two groups of contiguous structures: one with storefronts facing onto Front Street and the other building's storefronts facing onto the Harbor Walk itself with pedestrian and/or pedestrian and vehicular and services access in between the two structures.

It is currently imagined that each of the two structures, or group of buildings, would contain individual units that would be sold as smaller privately owned commercial enterprises with upper floor office and residential opportunities.

The number of units and their size is at this juncture is undetermined and the Council is motivated to try and create as many usable units as feasible. The City will explore all options to accomplish this goal including consideration of finding a private developer who would embrace this concept, finance it and develop it and sell off the individual units as well as the City may consider individual private sales and development.

The City has hired a consultant to assist in the visioning and initial planning considerations of how this would look and best work regarding layout, building sizing, shared access, traffic, utilities, parking, services, pedestrians, etc.

At the Council meeting of May 1, 2018 the Council hired Rob Frank of WBRC to help lay out a potential concept options. This work session on June 18<sup>th</sup> will be a kick off for Mr. Frank who is coming to better understand the Council's thoughts and ideas