



Mayor Michael T. Foley

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TO: Honorable City Council
FROM: Mayor Michael T. Foley
DATE: January 27, 2024
RE: Notice of Resignation

Honorable City Council Members,

It is with mixed emotions that I hereby submit to you notice of my resignation as your Mayor, effective February 12, 2024, as I have accepted the incredible opportunity to serve as the Town Manager for the Town of Gray, Maine. I have been honored to have served our community as your Mayor and other various positions over two decades accomplishing many incredible things for our community. I thank you all for your support and collaboration during that time.

As many of you know, working in municipal management as a Town or City Manager has been a career goal of mine since early in my service to the public. My time as Mayor has allowed me to demonstrate my skills and abilities needed for such a position while being focused on the success of my hometown. More recently, several local officials in the region have encouraged and even recruited me to apply for the unprecedented number of open municipal management positions in the area. My family and I were uncertain that similar opportunities would exist at the end of my term as Mayor and therefore decided to pursue some of the opportunities available to better support my family financially and my long-term career goals.

Like Westbrook, Gray has tremendous opportunity for the region and feel I can deliver on the leadership they are looking for. Much like the incredible things we have accomplished together in Westbrook, I hope to put Gray on the map like we have done in Westbrook, where my family and I will continue to call home while serving in Gray.

I will continue to serve as Mayor through the end of the Special City Council meeting scheduled on February 12, 2024, at which point City Council President David C. Morse will be sworn in as Acting Mayor in accordance with Section 3.3 of the Westbrook City Charter, as follows:

Whenever there shall be a vacancy in the office of Mayor, and whenever by reason of sickness, or absence from the City, or other cause, the Mayor shall be disabled from performing the duties of the office, the President of the City Council shall act as Mayor and possess all the rights and powers of Mayor during such vacancy or disability, except that when so acting as Mayor, the President of the City Council shall not have the power of appointment or removal unless thereto in any instance authorized by vote of the City Council.

The City Solicitor has advised that President Morse would continue to serve in his capacity as Council President, and vote upon legislation in his capacity as a Councilor. Following adoption, he would be presented with legislation to be signed into effect under his authority as Acting Mayor.

I am confident that with the incredible staff team we have in place lead by City Administrator Jerre Bryant, Assistant City Administrator Angela Holmes, and President Morse's leadership and commitment to maintain the stability in municipal governance that we have collectively worked to achieve. I will continue to make myself available to Westbrook should any assistance be needed. In accordance with Sections 6.5 – 6.6 of the Westbrook City Charter, the City Council shall call for a special election to elect a Mayor to serve for the remainder of the term. Note that with a municipal election occurring on November 5, 2024, it may be desirable for the City Council to call for a special election for the position of Mayor on that date, to coincide with an existing municipal election.

In addition, a procedural modification to standard municipal operations will need to be addressed upon my resignation. As noted above, Section 3.3 of the Charter will require Council authorization for any appointments or removals. To maintain the stability of day-to-day operations without disruption, the City Council may wish to adopt a Resolve delegating the authority of appointments and removals to City Administrator Jerre Bryant, until such time as a new Mayor has been elected to office.

Thank you for your continued support over the years, and my best wishes to each of you. I am looking forward to seeing the groundwork we have laid together continue to result in tremendous success for the City of Westbrook. I will always be available to support you all, city staff, and soon-to-be Acting Mayor David C. Morse during this time of transition with the goal of maintaining stability for the organization.