

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 11, 2021

The first regular monthly meeting of the Calais City Council was held this date in the Library at Calais High School.

Present was Mayor Pro Tempore Arthur Mingo presiding over Councilors Cody, Sherrard, Rogers, Carr and Moreside.

On a motion by Councilor Sherrard and a second by Councilor Moreside it was unanimously voted to approve the following consent agenda as submitted:

- A. Previous Minutes
- B. Monthly Departmental Reports
- C. Chase Fund for February - \$200.00
- D. Treasurer's Warrants City through February 10, 2021
\$ 346,246.19
- E. Treasurer's Warrants School through February 10, 2021
\$ 781,789.37
- F. Treasurer's Warrant Water through February 10, 2021
\$ 43,508.56

The City Manager then gave his report on the following:

--Downeast Broadband Update

The following council committee reports were submitted:

1. **Finance Committee** – Met to discuss a TIF Proposal from Eastern Maine Electric Co-Op.
2. **Property Committee** – No report
3. **Public Safety Committee** – met on Ambulance Purchase and Fire Dept Billing for Services Rendered
4. **Public Works Committee** – me to discuss the Kubota Sidewalk Machine
5. **School Liaison Committee** – No report
6. **Economic/Community Development Committee** – No Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with a list of properties that automatically foreclosed on December 28, 2020 and asked that they be referred to the Council Property Committee for a review. On a motion by Councilor Sherrard and a second by Councilor Moreside it was unanimously voted to refer to Committee.

Attendance

Consent Agenda

City Manager's Report

Committee Reports

Tax Acquired Property

The Property Committee will be meeting on February 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

On a motion by Councilor Rogers and a second by Councilor Moreside it was unanimously voted to authorize the City Treasurer to accept full payment and issued a quitclaim deed on the property located at 33 Lafayette St.

At this point, Logan Johnson addressed the Council by conference call asking for permission to Apply for a \$10,000 Forestry Grant to be used for a project at Devil's Head. Following a brief presentation, it was moved by Councilor Moreside, seconded by Councilor Cody, and unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Johnson to submit the grant application.

The next agenda item was a request to open a medical marijuana dispensary. This request was withdrawn.

On a motion by Councilor Cody and a second by Councilor Sherrard, it was unanimously voted to designate Michael Ellis as our representative and Eddie Moreside as alternate to the Maine Service Center Coalition.

On a motion by Councilor Moreside and a second by Councilor Sherrard, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Calais Fire/EMS Chief to purchase a 2015 Chevrolet G-4500 Diesel Type III Ambulance from Ambulance Network, of Elizabeth, New Jersey for \$65,000. With this purchase the monthly payment will not exceed the amount currently being paid to Zoll Medical.

On a motion by Council Moreside and a second by Councilor Carr, the next agenda item, Fire Dept Restitution Policy/3rd party Billing was table until the next meeting.

It was moved by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Carr to authorize the Fire Chief to submit a Firefighter Assistance Grant Application, for the purchase of 16 SCBA units as well as a compressor. All in favor.

On a motion by Councilor Rogers and a second by Councilor Cody, it was unanimously voted to extend the Family First Corona Virus Relief Act until March 31, 2021.

The next agenda item was a request from Eastern Maine Electric for a TIF. Following some discussion, it was moved by Councilor Sherrard to offer a TIF of 15 years. There was no second to this motion. It was then moved by Councilor Moreside and seconded

Quitclaim – 33 Lafayette St

Forestry Grant – Devil's Head

Marijuana Dispensary-
Withdrawn

Maine Service Center
Representatives

Purchase Ambulance

Table Fire Dept Restitution

Fire Fighter Grant

Family First Corona Virus
Relief Act Extension

EMEC TIF

by Councilor Rogers to offer an 80/20 TIF for 20 years with the last 5 years being reduced as 80/20, 60/40, 40/60, 20/80, 00/00. Voting in favor of this motion were Councilors Cody, Rogers, Mingo, Carr and Moreside. Councilor Sherrard was opposed. Motion carried.

Following a brief discussion on consideration of police dept wage increase, it was moved by Councilor Carr and seconded by Councilor Rogers to table this item until a later date, perhaps moving the Union Negotiations up. Voting in favor of this motion were Councilors Carr, Rogers, Sherrard and Moreside. Councilors Cody and Mingo were opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Howard had asked that the City Manager to draft a letter to the County Commissioners expressing our displeasure with the Cell Phone Service in the area. It was moved by Councilor Sherrard, seconded by Councilor Rogers, and unanimously voted to send the following letter to the County Commissioners.

INSERT LETTER TO COUNTRY COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Councilor Sherrard and a second by Councilor Cody, it was unanimously voted to sign the following proclamation in support of Good Mental Health and Wellness.

INSERT PROCLAMATION

Other items addressed with no Council action being taken at this time included:

- Calais Regional Hospital Covid-19 Vaccines have begun
- Scheduling change for Covid-19 Testing
- City speaking in Support of Calais Police Dept

On a motion by Councilor Cody and a second by Councilor Sherrard, it was unanimously voted to retire into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to consider 2 Poverty Abatement Applications.

On a motion by Councilor Sherrard and a second by Councilor Cody, it was unanimously voted to grants 2 Poverty abatements as discuss in Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, it was moved by Councilor Cody, seconded by Councilor Carr, and unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST: Theresa M Porter
Theresa M Porter, City Clerk

Police Dept Wages

Letter to Commissioners –
Cell Phone Service

Proclamation – Mental
Health

Other Items

Exec Session

Poverty Abatements

Adjourn



City Building
11 Church Street
P.O. Box 413
Calais, Maine 04619
207-454-2521
Fax: 207-454-2757
www.calaismaine.org

To: The Washington County Commissioners
PO Box 297
85 Court St.
Machias, ME. 04654

From: The Mayor and City Council of Calais
PO Box 413
11 Church St.
Calais, ME. 04619

Dear County Commissioners,

As a governing body within Washington County, we would like to express our discouragement and dismay regarding the cellular phone service in the Calais area. The coverage in our region for the last several years has continued to worsen, and we fear that if this trend continues, it could jeopardize the safety of our residents in the case of emergency, and may also have a detrimental effect on our ability to develop the local economy as we lack basic cellular service. Although we have made great progress in providing improved high-speed internet in our community, the cell service continues to be sub-par at best. As leaders of our community, we feel this issue deserves the attention of the State Attorney General and the FCC.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Calais City Council

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PROCLAMATION

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

- WHEREAS,** Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss, and
- WHEREAS,** Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background, and suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition, and
- WHEREAS,** Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10 – 34 and the 4th leading cause of death for people 35-54 and the overall suicide rate in the U S has increased by 35% since 1999, and
- WHEREAS,** While half of individuals who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition, research shows that 90% experienced symptoms, and
- WHEREAS,** Our surrounding area has had four suicides by young adults in the past 3 months, causing grief and trauma to an already stressed community that is dealing with the isolation and depression brought on in part by the current pandemic, and
- WHEREAS,** A team consisting of teachers, law enforcement, medical personnel, city and town officials, and others working directly with people was formed to provide a virtual forum on mental health and the resources people can access, and
- WHEREAS,** The Calais City Council and citizens of the City of Calais wish to show support for the Team and for those struggling with Mental Health issues and thoughts of suicide.

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE CALAIS CITY COUNCIL do hereby proclaim our support for those affected by suicide on the 11th day of February, 2021.

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