

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL
December 15, 2022

The only December regular monthly meeting of the Calais City Council was held this date in the Council Chambers of the Calais City Building at 6:00 p.m.

Present was Mayor Mingo presiding over Councilors Niles, Sherrard, Rogers, Beale, and Macdonald.

On a motion by Councilor Rogers and a second by Councilor Niles it was unanimously voted to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. *Previous Minutes*
- B. *Approval of Monthly Departmental Reports*
- C. *Approval of Chase Fund for December \$300*
- D. *Treasurer's Warrants City through December 14, 2022*
\$ 432,953.33
- E. *Treasurer's Warrants School through December 14, 2022*
\$ 1,265,607.79
- F. *Treasurer's Warrant Water through December 14, 2022*
\$ 44,277.97

The mayor then called for a public hearing regarding an application for a Special Amusement Permit for Crumbs, Inc. After no one from the public commented, a motion to approve the permit was made by Councilor Rogers and seconded by Councilor Beale. The motion carried with Councilors Rogers, Beale, and Sherrard along with Mayor Mingo in favor. Councilor Niles abstained from the vote.

A second public hearing was then held regarding an application for a Medical Marijuana License for The Higher Class. No comments from the public were offered. Councilor Niles made a motion to approve with a second from Councilor Sherrard. The motion carried with all in favor.

Councilor Macdonald arrived at 6:03 pm.

A third and final public hearing was held regarding an application for a Medical Marijuana License for Smoke On the Water. Again, no public comment was offered. A motion to approve was made by Councilor Niles with a second from Councilor Sherrard. The motion carried with all in favor.

Attendance

Consent Agenda

Public Hearing-Special
Amusement Permit

Public Hearing-Medical
Marijuana License

Councilor Macdonald arrived

Public Hearing-Medical
Marijuana License

The City Manager then gave his report on the following:
--Welcome to new Office Assistant Dana Riquier
--Thank you to the Calais Lioness Club for a great Christmas parade

After sharing these items, City Manager Ellis then asked the council to suspend the rules to add an executive session to the agenda for the discussion of union negotiations and a personnel matter. Councilor Rogers made a motion to do so with a second from Councilor Macdonald. All were in favor.

No updates were given on follow up items.

For committee updates. Councilor Macdonald shared that the Public Safety Committee met on 12/13/22. Items discussed included recruiting and retention ideas for public safety employees along with the need for an improved public safety building.

Councilor Rogers shared that prior to the School Liaison Committee scheduling a meeting there is going to be a Building Committee meeting on 12/19/22 at 4:30 pm at Calais Elementary School.

Old Business

The first item under old business was the review of EMS billing proposals to replace our current billing partner. Based on the recommendation of Fire Chief Lee, it was moved by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Macdonald to contract with Ambulance Medical Billing (AMB) based out of Kentucky. The motion carried with all in favor.

The second old business agenda item was the filling of the vacant fire officer position. At the request of City Manager Ellis, this item was tabled.

New Business

The council then moved on to new business. The first item discussed was an amendment to the city's Park Use Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilor Sherrard to hold a public hearing on the matter on 1/12/23. The motion was seconded by Councilor Macdonald. The motion carried with all in favor.

City Manager's Report

Suspension of the Rules

Follow Ups

Committee Updates

EMS Billing

Fire Officer Vacancy

Park Use Ordinance
Amendment

Next the council discussed a public safety communication upgrade. During a recent windstorm, the tower that held our emergency communications equipment was knocked down. As a temporary measure, it was recommended by City Manager Ellis that we enter into a one-year lease at \$200/month with PCT Communications to place our equipment on one of their towers while a more permanent solution is found. A motion to enter into the lease was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Macdonald. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Safety
Communications

The next item of discussion was the proposed 2023 Water Budget. Annaleis Hafford of Olver Associates presented the proposed budget which was slightly higher than the prior year. A motion was made to approve the budget as presented and to use \$12,000 of remaining ARPA funds to cover the projected increase in the budget. The motion was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Rogers. The motion carried with all in favor.

2023 Water Budget

After that, Bill Greenlaw of Calais, along with members of the family of the late David Sivret, presented to the council a request to dedicate and rename the Calais Tennis/Pickleball Courts in memory of David Sivret. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to rename the courts The David Sivret Tennis & Pickleball Courts in his memory. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rogers and carried with all in favor.

Tennis Court Renaming

A presentation was then given by Chris Johnson of the Sipayik Environmental Department regarding St. Croix River fish passage restoration efforts. The discussion included interest by his department to see fish passage for Alewife expanded into Nashs and Howard Lakes. No motions were made.

St. Croix River Fish Passage
Restoration

The next item of new business was the donation of a 2013 Ford Taurus (formerly the Fire Chief's car) to the St. Croix Regional Technical Center. The vehicle needs a great deal of work to be roadworthy. It was deemed that this work was not in the best interest of the city to have done. A motion was made by Councilor Sherrard to donate the vehicle. The motion was seconded by Councilor Niles. It carried with all in favor.

Donation of 2013 Ford
Taurus

The final item of new business was a discussion of the traditional holiday season Free Dump Day. A motion was made to close the transfer station on Christmas Eve, 12/24/22 and to hold free Public Safety Communications

Free Dump Days

household garbage days on both Wednesday, 12/28/22 and Saturday, 12/31/22. The motion was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Rogers. The motion carried with all in favor.

Other Items Discussed

--Finance Director Gallina asked for clarification regarding the motion to accept the 2023 water budget. A motion was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Niles to amend the prior motion for better clarity. All were in favor.

--Update on improvement of livestream audio system in the council chambers

--Addition of uncollected property tax amounts to monthly financial reports and the potential listing of taxpayers who are delinquent.

At this time, pursuant to *MRSA Title 1, §405 (6)(d)*, a motion was made to enter executive session for a discussion on union negotiations and a personnel matter. The motion was made by Councilor Rogers and seconded by Councilor Macdonald. The motion carried with all in favor. The council entered executive session at 7:44 pm.

The council returned from executive session at 8:25pm. There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, it was moved by Councilor Sherrard, seconded by Councilor Rogers, and unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Brad D. Phillips, Deputy Clerk

Clarification of Water Budget Motion

Roundtable-Other Items

Executive Session

Adjournment