

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL
January 12, 2023

The first 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, Sherrard, Rogers, Beale, Carr, and Macdonald.

On a motion by Councilor Sherrard and a second by Councilor Carr 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 January \$200*
- D. *Treasurer's Warrants City through January 11, 2023*
\$ 781,579.22
- E. *Treasurer's Warrants School through January 11, 2023*
\$ 1,010,642.68
- F. *Treasurer's Warrants Water through January 11, 2023*
\$ 164,852.02
- G. *Voluntary Road Tolls 2023*
- H. *Liquor License Renewal-St. Croix Bowling Club*

The mayor then called for a public hearing regarding an amendment to the city's Park Use Ordinance. After there was no comment from the public, a motion was made by Councilor Rogers to approve the amendment. Councilor Macdonald seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

The City Manager then gave his report. The only matter discussed was his request for the scheduling of an Economic Development Committee meeting. A meeting was scheduled for 1/26/2023 at 5:30 pm.

No updates were given on follow up items.

No committee updates were given.

Old Business

The first item considered under old business was a request by the City Clerk to be granted permission to send a 30-day redemption

Attendance

Consent Agenda

Public Hearing-Park Use
Ordinance Amendment

City Manager's Report

Follow Ups

Committee Updates

30-Day Property Redemption
Letter

letter to property owners who had a sewer or tax lien foreclose on December 30, 2022. A motion was made by Councilor Rogers to grant such permission. The motion was seconded by Councilor Beale. The motion carried with all in favor.

The next item of discussion was Nashs Lake Fish Passage. This item was tabled and moved to the next scheduled meeting on 1/26/2023.

Fire Chief Lee then put forth the name of Jessica Slaughter to fill the vacant fire officer position. A motion was made by Councilor Carr to hire her for the position. Councilor Beale seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion was then held regarding upgrading the audio/video conferencing system in the council chambers. No motion was made.

The next item of business was discussion of phase two of the city's IT infrastructure upgrades. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilor Carr and seconded by Councilor Sherrard to go out to bids for these upgrades.

New Business

The council then moved on to new business. The first item discussed was a request for a sewer abatement by Fundy Contractors in the amount of 321.78. The abatement was requested due to a water heater leak that did not enter the sewer system. A motion was made to grant the abatement by Councilor Carr. The motion was seconded by Councilor Macdonald. All were in favor.

Discussion was then held on the topic of flavored tobacco products. Brief introductions were given by Georgie Kendall from Healthy Acadia. Local parent Kristy Surles then shared her family's experience with use of these products by teens. No motions were made.

An update was given by Economic Development Director Laurel Perkins on her efforts in the Calais and Baileyville areas.

Nashs Lake Fish Passage

Fire Officer Position

Council Chambers
Audio/Video Upgrade

Phase Two City IT
Infrastructure

Sewer Abatement

Flavored Tobacco Products

Economic Development
Update

The next item of discussion was the rental of upstairs office space in the Calais City Building. City Manager Ellis shared that there was interest by organizations in utilizing unused office space formerly used by the Washington County Council of Governments. No motion was made but the council expressed their support for renting out the space giving City Manager Ellis permission to discuss the matter further with interested parties.

Rental of City Building Office Space

Fire Chief Lee then put forth the name of Sarah Morad to fill the position of EMT/Paramedic. Councilor Carr made a motion to approve the hiring. Councilor Sherrard seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

EMT/Paramedic Position

Next, Public Works Director Seelye put forth the name of Jonathan Erb to fill the position of driver/operator. Councilor Carr made a motion to approve the hiring. Councilor Sherrard seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Works Driver/Operator Position

The next item of business was discussion of an update to the City of Calais Emergency Action Plan. City Manager Ellis explained that the updating was needed to reflect changes in personnel and phone numbers. A motion was made by Councilor Sherrard to approve the update. The motion was seconded by Councilor Macdonald. All were in favor.

Emergency Action Plan Update

The last item of new business was the acceptance of the annual Forestry Grant. The amount of grant funds was \$2356.50. A motion to accept was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Carr. All were in favor.

Annual Forestry Grant

Other Items Discussed

Other topics discussed with no action taken included:

- Concern over menthol cigarettes being included in any potential flavored tobacco ban
- Update on renovations at the former St. Croix Apartments on Main St.
- Mechanic position split between school and the city.
- Lighting on Main St in the area of the movie theater
- Progress on pier replacement

Roundtable

At this time, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, §405 (6)(c), a motion was made to enter executive session for a discussion on the purchase/sale of city property. The motion was made by Councilor


Executive Session

Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Macdonald. The motion carried with all in favor. The council entered executive session at 7:13 pm.

The council returned from executive session at 7:30pm. There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, it was moved by Councilor Macdonald, seconded by Councilor Carr, and unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

ATTEST:


Brad D. Phillips, Deputy Clerk