

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL

March 9, 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, Niles, Sherrard, Rogers, Beale, Carr, and Macdonald.

On a motion by Councilor Rogers and a second by Councilor Macdonald, 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 February & March \$400*
- D. *Treasurer's Warrants City through March 8, 2023*  
\$ 721,329.92
- E. *Treasurer's Warrants School through March 8, 2023*  
\$ 1,488,062.47
- F. *Treasurer's Warrants Water through March 8, 2023*  
\$ 49,783.97
- G. *Voluntary Road Toll-Little League*
- H. *Liquor License Renewal-Karen's Main St. Diner*

The City Manager then gave his report. He congratulated Public Works Director Robert Seelye on his receipt of the Maine "Roads Scholar" Award from the Maine Department of Transportation. He also extended his congratulations to the Calais High School Boys Basketball team on winning the Northern Maine Championship. After this, City Manager Ellis asked the council to suspend the rules and add General Assistance Ordinance and Disposition of Tax Acquired property to new Business. A motion was made to so by Councilor Carr and seconded by Councilor Rogers. The motion carried with all in favor.

No updates were given on follow up items.

The Property Committee met at 5:00pm prior to this meeting and discussed recommendations for the disposition of tax acquired properties and also the potential usage of upstairs office space in the City Building by Downeast Community Partners. They also scheduled their next Committee meeting for 5:30pm on 3/23/23.

Attendance

Consent Agenda

City Manager's Report

Follow Ups

Committee Updates

The School Liaison Committee is scheduled to meet on 3/9/23 at 5:00pm at the Calais Middle/High School library.

The welfare committee met on 3/8/23 and discussed the updating of the city's current General Assistance Ordinance.

### **Old Business**

The first item of old business was the discussion of the potential use of upstairs office space in the City Building by Downeast Community Partners. On the recommendation of the Property Committee, a motion was made by Councilor Niles to allow Downeast Community Partners to utilize space for a period of one year at a cost of \$1. The motion was seconded by Councilor Macdonald. The motion carried with all in favor and Councilor Rogers abstaining.

The last item of old business was a presentation by Julie Daigle of Healthy Acadia on the effects of smoking and the use of tobacco products including vapes etc.

### **New Business**

The council then moved on to new business. The first item was a presentation from Chris Beaulier, Retail Operations Director for Cigarette Shopper on their efforts to follow all existing laws and regulations surrounding the sale of tobacco products. They also discussed potential legislation and ordinances enacted by other communities regarding flavored tobacco products. No motions were made and no action was taken.

Next the council scheduled a public hearing to consider the renewal of a Special Amusement Permit for Karen's Main St. Diner. A motion was made by Councilor Niles to schedule the hearing on 3/23/2023. Councilor Carr seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

The council then scheduled a public hearing to consider an application for an extension of liquor license for Mama Lola's Mexican Food. A motion was made by Councilor Niles to schedule the hearing on 3/23/2023. Councilor Carr seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Usage of Upstairs Office Space

Dangers of Tobacco Presentation

Small Business Tobacco Advocate

Scheduling of Public Hearing- Special Amusement Permit

Scheduling of Public Hearing- Liquor License

The council then approved the filling of a full-time Basic EMT position. The motion was made by Councilor Sherrard and seconded by Councilor Niles. The motion carried with all in favor.

Filling of EMT Position

The council then considered the purchase of an annual advertisement in Downeast Magazine. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilor Carr to purchase the ad at a cost of \$1,200 to be taken from Economic Development. Councilor Beale seconded. The motion carried with Councilors Rogers, Sherrard and Niles voting against.

Purchase of Advertisement

Discussion was then held on making a funds transfer from the City's General Fund to eliminate Sewer and Ambulance deficits. After discussion, this item was tabled to be discussed during budget workshops for the upcoming fiscal year.

Fund Balances

The council then listened to the Property Committee's recommendations on several foreclosed properties.

Disposition of Tax Acquired Properties

Regarding the property located at map & lot 003-009-009, a motion was made by Councilor Niles and Seconded by Councilor Macdonald to continue with the payment plan that the owner had agreed to. The motion carried with all in favor.

Map & Lot 003-009-009

Regarding the property located at map & lot 002-003-003, a motion was made by Councilor Niles and Seconded by Councilor Carr to put this property out to bid with a minimum amount of what's currently owed on the property: \$1682.43. The motion carried with all in favor.

Map & Lot 002-003-003

Regarding the property located at map & lot 032-144, a motion was made by Councilor Rogers and Seconded by Councilor Beale to put this property out to bid with a minimum amount of what's currently owed on the property: \$1504.20. The motion carried with all in favor.

Map & Lot 032-144

Regarding the properties located at map & lot 024-008 & 024-008-001, a motion was made by Councilor Niles and Seconded by Councilor Macdonald to put these properties out to bid together with a minimum amount of what's currently owed on the properties: \$2417.55. The motion carried with all in favor.

Map & Lots 024-008 & 024-008-001

The last item of new business was the scheduling of a public hearing on the adoption of an updated General Assistance Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilor Carr to schedule the hearing on 3/23/2023. Councilor Rogers seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Other Items Discussed**

Other topics discussed with no action taken included:

- Concern on the potential ban of menthol cigarettes
- More thoughts on tobacco use among the youth
- Other thoughts on legislation regarding flavored tobacco bans

**Executive Session**

At this time, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, §405 (6)(f), a motion was made to enter executive session for the consideration of a poverty abatement request also to discuss purchase/sale of city property pursuant to MRSA Title 1, §405 (6) (c) and for a personnel matter pursuant to MRSA Title 1, §405 (6) (d). The motion was made by Councilor Carr and seconded by Councilor Niles. The motion carried with all in favor. The council entered executive session at 7:18 pm.

The council returned from executive session at 7:50pm. A motion was made to approve the poverty abatement as requested. The motion was made by Councilor Rogers and Seconded by Councilor Carr. The motion carried with all in favor.

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, it was moved by Councilor Sherrard, seconded by Councilor Carr, and unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST: 

Brad D. Phillips, Deputy Clerk  
Scheduling of Public Hearing-GA Ordinance

Roundtable

Executive Session

Poverty Abatement

Adjournment