

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL  
September 28, 2023

The second 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 Carr.

On a motion by Councilor Carr and a second by Councilor Sherrard, it was unanimously voted to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. *Previous Minutes*
- B. *Treasurer's Warrants City through September 27, 2023*  
\$ 446,378.33
- C. *Treasurer's Warrants School through September 27, 2023*  
\$ 566,398.23
- D. *Treasurer's Warrants Water through September 27, 2023*  
\$ 655,576.03

Mayor Mingo then called for a public hearing to consider the adoption of updated General Assistance Ordinance Appendices. After the time of public comment and questions the public hearing was closed. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to adopt the new appendices. Councilor Beale seconded. All were in favor.

Next, the Mayor then called for a public hearing on an amendment to the city's Land Use Codes. After discussion the public hearing was closed. Councilor Rogers made a motion to adopt the amendment as presented. Councilor Beale seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The City Manager then gave his report. He wanted to let the public know about a program available through the Red Cross that provides free smoke alarm installation and home safety checks.

For follow up items, the council asked to add the downtown streetlights to the list of follow up items.

For committees, the school liaison committee met prior to this meeting and discussed updates on a few things including the school expansion and balancing of funds. They will meet again on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the school. The economic development committee

Attendance

Consent Agenda

Public Hearing-General  
Assistance Ordinance-  
Updated Appendices

Public Hearing-Amendment  
to Land Use codes

City Manager's Report

Follow Ups

Committee Updates

also met prior to this meeting for a general discussion of economic development in the area.

Continuing under old business the council then discussed Winter Sand Bid results. No bids were received so the council gave Public Works Director Seelye permission to solicit pricing.

The next item of business was the proposal for the 43 North Street Property. This item was tabled.

Lastly under old business was discussion of the proposed Domestic Livestock Ordinance. After discussion it was determined that this ordinance was not yet ready to be presented at a public hearing and was tabled. No public hearing will be scheduled as was originally intended for the 10/12/23 meeting.

### **New Business**

The first item of new business was a request from the Fire Department for permission to apply for a Forest Service Grant. Councilor Carr made a motion to allow them to do so. Councilor Sherrard seconded. All were in favor.

Next the council considered a second request from the Fire Department for permission to apply for a Maine EMS grant. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to allow them to do so. Councilor Carr seconded. All were in favor.

The council then considered a third request from the Fire Department for permission to apply for a Steven and Tabitha King Foundation grant. Councilor Carr made a motion to allow them to do so. Councilor Sherrard seconded. All were in favor.

The next agenda item was the purchase of a new police cruiser at a cost of \$48,488. Councilor Carr made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilor Niles seconded. All were in favor.

The council then discussed the filling of a full-time officer position in the police department. A prospective candidate has accepted the City's offer. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to approve the hiring. Councilor Carr seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Winter Sand Bids

43 North St Proposal

Domestic Livestock  
Ordinance

Fire Department-Forest  
Service Grant

Fire Department-Maine EMS  
Grant

Fire Department-Steven &  
Tabitha King Foundation  
Grant

Purchase of Police Cruiser

Filling Full-Time Police  
Position

The next item of new business was participation in this year's Shop Local Ad Campaign. After discussion, Councilor Niles made a motion to approve spending up to \$3000 from Economic Development for advertising during the campaign. Councilor Beale Seconded. The motion passed with only Councilor Sherrard opposed.

Shop Local Ad Campaign

The council then considered the filling of the vacant School Board Trustee appointment. Theresa Porter's name was put forth for the vacancy. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to appoint Theresa Porter to the position. Councilor Niles seconded. All were in favor.

School Board Trustee Appointment

At this point the council moved on to a discussion of the FY 23/24 City Property Tax Commitment. Concerns had been raised regarding the increase seen in many tax bills. No motions were made as a result of the discussion.

FY 23/24 Tax Commitment

Finally, the council reviewed the city's Planning and Curfew Ordinances. After some discussion and questions, it was determined that no changes needed to be made.

Review of Planning & Curfew Ordinances

**Other topics discussed with no action taken included:**


- County budget update. Public hearing to be held on 10/16 @6:30pm at Machias Superior Court. A Zoom option will be available as will a public comment period.
- Vandalism and disturbances stemming from several youth
- Status of Forest Service tank truck at the Fire Dept.
- Status of Police Department Hummer
- The need for a more locally based city attorney
- FEMA money for recent storm damage
- Thank you to Fire Chief
- Thank you to Police Chief, Mgr. Ellis on new K9 program
- Thank you to consultant Hank Farrah for his input and service to the City.

Roundtable

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 7:03 p.m.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

  
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Brad D. Phillips, Clerk