

CALAIS CITY COUNCIL
December 14, 2023

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

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

On a motion by Councilor Quinn 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 December*
- D. Treasurer's Warrants City through December 13, 2023*
\$ 376,165.81
- E. Treasurer's Warrants School through December 13, 2023*
\$ 686,157.30
- F. Treasurer's Warrants Water through December 13, 2023*
\$ 341,413.32

The City Manager then gave his report. He began by wishing the community a happy and healthy holiday season. He also urged motorists to use caution while driving during our longer hours of darkness this time of year. He then offered congratulations and thanks to the Calais Lioness Club and City employees for a safe and successful Christmas parade. He then asked the Council to suspend the rules to add property foreclosure waiver to executive session. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to do. Councilor Quinn seconded. All were in favor.

For follow up items, Councilor Macdonald asked for an update on the potential sale/purchase of the armory building. City Manager Ellis relayed the information given to him by the state. The state has not yet ordered an appraisal of the building nor officially made the decision to sell it.

For committees, the public works committee met prior to this meeting and went over five ordinances. They will share their recommendations during new business. For school liaison, the building committee met on 12/13 and were given an update on

Attendance

Consent Agenda

City Manager's Report

Follow Ups

Committee Updates

the financing of a potential expansion as well as the contract with the current architects. The Economic Development Committee will meet on 1/25/24 @5pm.

Continuing under old business, the council heard a presentation by Holophane Light representative Mark Fowler regarding options for downtown lighting. No motions were made.

New Business

The council then moved on to new business. The first item they considered was a request by the Red Knights motorcycle club to use the upstairs of St. Croix #1 Firehouse. Fire Chief William Lee shared the club's vision for its use. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to approve the request. Councilor Quinn seconded. All were in favor.

Next, the council considered the proposed 2024 water budget. Finance Director Gallina explained that in order to avoid raising water rates, the council would need to put \$24K from the general fund into the budget. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to move \$24k from the General Fund and approve the 2024 water budget as presented. Councilor Quinn seconded. All were in favor.

The next item was discussion of the traditional holiday season Free Dump Day. A motion was made to have free household garbage days on both Wednesday, 12/27 and Saturday, 12/30. The motion was made by Councilor Macdonald and seconded by Councilor Niles. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Council then discussed the filling of a full-time Police Department/Public Safety position. Councilor Niles made a motion to hire Charlie Ball for this position. Councilor Beale seconded. All were in favor.

The last item of new business was a review of the Refuse Collection, Public Solid Waste Disposal Areas, Snow Removal, Garbage Dumpster-Grease Bin, and Trash and Garbage Container Ordinances. The Public Works committee made a recommendation to repeal the Refuse Collection Ordinance and amend the wording of the Solid Waste Disposal Areas and Snow Removal Ordinances. Councilor Sherrard made a motion to schedule a public hearing on 1/11/24 to consider these changes. Councilor Quinn seconded. All were in favor.

Downtown Lighting
Presentation

Request to use St. Croix #1
Firehouse

2024 Water Budget

Free Dump Days

Filling of Full-Time PD/Public
Safety Position

Review of Public Works
Ordinances

Other topics discussed with no action taken included:

- Wishes of a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- Well done to the Public Works Dept. in storm cleanup
- Thank you to EMEC workers for efforts during the storm
- Thank you to Skeet for a ride-along in the plow truck for council member-It gave a greater appreciation for work involved
- Update on usage of old visitor center and Bridges building

Executive Session

At this time, pursuant to MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(f) a motion was made to enter executive session for discussion of a poverty abatement request and request for waiver of foreclosure. The motion was made by Councilor Quinn and seconded by Councilor Macdonald. All were in favor. The Council entered executive session at 6:46 pm.

The council returned from executive session at 7:01 PM.

Councilor Sherrard made a motion to approve the requested poverty abatement in the amount of \$1763.38. Councilor Macdonald seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilor Sherrard then made a motion to approve the request to waive foreclosure on the foreclosing tax lien and sewer lien for the property in question. Councilor Quinn seconded. All were 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 Quinn, and unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting at 7:09 p.m.

ATTEST:



Brad D. Phillips, Clerk

Roundtable

Executive Session

Poverty Abatement

Waiver of Foreclosure

Adjournment