



Presque Isle City Council Meeting
September 28, 2022
6:00 PM
Sargent Family Community Center

Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Chairman K. Freeman, Deputy Chairman J. Shaw, Councilors C. Green, M. Chasse, G. Nelson and J. Willette

Absent: Councilor D. Cyr

City Manager Martin Puckett and Deputy City Clerk Deborah Ouellette were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman K. Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearings

1. Approval of an Automobile Graveyard Permit for Paul Jalbert d/b/a Jalbert Auto & Salvage, 204 Chapman Road (Single Hearing)

City Manager Martin Puckett gave background on application stating that compliance issues have been discussed over past year, and those concerns have been satisfactorily resolved; Presque Isle Code Enforcement recommends approval.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:17 PM; hearing no further comments, he closed the public hearing at 6:17 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor C. Green to approve a Special Permit for Automobile Graveyard Permit for Paul Jalbert d/b/a Jalbert Auto & Salvage, 204 Chapman Road.

Vote: 6 - 0

2. Approval of a Marijuana License to Chad Junkins d/b/a Northern Euphoria LLC, with a location of 11 Davis Street (Single Hearing)

City Manager Puckett stated that an inspection was completed yesterday. There have been complaints about odor control; based on inspection site meets all requirements.

Councilor C. Green requested PI Code Enforcement follow-up on situation to determine whether odor from the facility is transitory, such as from an equipment failure, or whether it will be an ongoing concern, and report findings back to Councilors.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:22 PM; hearing no further comments, he closed the public hearing at 6:22 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve a Marijuana License to Chad Junkins d/b/a Northern Euphoria LLC, with a location of 11 Davis Street.

Vote: 6 - 0

3. Approval to amend Chapter 48—General Assistance Ordinance Appendix A - H (Single Hearing)

City Manager Puckett gave a summary of the City's General Assistance program which is meant to provide aide in emergency situations. Guidelines are periodically adjusted by USDA and municipal officers must approve/adopt the new Appendices each year. It is a State mandated program with a 75% reimbursement rate. An annual report is required and the State monitors administration of the program, including a site inspection.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:28 PM; hearing no further comments, he closed the public hearing at 6:28 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve amendments to Chapter 48 - General Assistance Ordinance Appendix A - G.

Vote: 6 - 0

Citizens Comments

Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:32 PM; hearing no further comments, he closed the public hearing at 6:32 PM.

Presentation

4. 2023 Budget (First Hearing)

City Manager Puckett introduced the City's proposed budget for 2023 which has also been uploaded to the City's website. He walked thru various year over year comparisons. Insurances are still unknown. Payroll is an important driver in cost increases. The goal is to come as close as possible to last year's mil rate.

Consent Agenda

5. Approve minutes from September 7, 2022
6. Approve 2022 Warrant #33 totaling \$155,156.77
7. Approve Return to Work Policy and Slip and Fall Prevention Plan to City Hall's Safety Handbook

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Vote: 6 - 0

New Business

8. IRAP (Intermodal Rail Access Proposal) grant application

Tom Powers, Executive Director of Presque Isle Industrial Council, gave a presentation to Councilors on a grant proposal for expanding rail service which is pending submission to the State of Maine. The plan is to create an additional rail spur at the intermodal yard. The grant comes with a 50% matching provision and the City will be required to fund the balance of the project. Dead River Company has offered to fund the City's portion under the grant provisions. If this happens, the City's direct investment will be limited to planning and design for the project. This grant is similar to what has been successfully done with the State in the past.

Councilor M. Chasse is a representative to PI Industrial Council; he stated their board unanimously supports the project.

Galen Weibley, Director of Economic and Community Development, stated the new spur project goes along with the City's comprehensive plan.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to authorize the Presque Isle Industrial Council executive director to proceed with a State of Maine IRAP grant application.

Vote: 6 - 0

9. Approve Sale of Property by Presque Isle Industrial Council to Dasco, Inc.

Tom Powers, Executive Director of Presque Isle Industrial Council, explained they have been negotiating with Dave Adams of Dasco, Inc. to sell a 1.91 +/- acre lot adjacent to the company's existing property at 1455 Central Drive. The land is more particularly described in a BRSA survey prepared for the sale. The Industrial Council Board of Directors voted unanimously on September 15, 2022 to recommend to City Council the proposed land sale.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Dasco, Inc. for 1.91 +/- acres of land situated at 1555 Central Drive for the sum of \$62,050.

Vote: 6 - 0

Manager's Report

- City Manager Puckett announced an employee appreciation luncheon will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Forum on Thursday, September 29, 2022 and invited Councilors to attend.

Announcements

- The next regular scheduled City Council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Sargent Community Center.
- Councilor C. Green announced an Allagash fall foliage expedition is scheduled for next weekend including a potluck barbeque and members of public are welcome to join the festivities.

Executive Sessions

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to enter into Executive Session at 7:20 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss Negotiations.

Vote: 6-0

Councilor M. Chasse left meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Out of executive session at 8:54 PM with no action taken.

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman seconded by Councilor C. Green to adjourn at 8:54 PM.

Vote: 5 - 0

Attested by: 
Deborah Ouellette, Deputy City Clerk