

January 26, 2009

09-03

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009, in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Christopher A.R. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, Robert L. Albert, Karla M. Bell, David Martin, and Mary Kate Barbosa.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager, was present.

Also attending the meeting were Katherine Esty, Clarence Belanger, Jim Cyr, Bethany Courchene, Joseph Sleeper II, Troy Heald, Galen Rockwell, Craig Staples, Shawn Anderson, Wendy Landes, Jim and Karla Cavender, and several others.

Barbara Scott, representing the Aroostook Republican; and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input

(Katherine Esty – Economic Development and Caribou)

Katherine Esty addressed the Council to voice her disappointment in the lack of support she has witnessed since she opened her business establishment on the Van Buren Road less than two years ago. She said she had “invested in Caribou’s vision” when she decided to open her business here. Noting that she had patronized other businesses, she thought it was only fair to expect the same in return. The public was invited to visit her establishment, the Van Buren Road Lodge, and see what she has to offer, which includes a deli market, restaurant, bar and banquet room.

Council Agenda item #2: Sesquicentennial Committee Update

Jim Cyr provided invited anyone interested to go to the website www.celebratecaribou.com to learn all about the activities planned and the many commemorative items to purchase, including four types of trees that can be purchased and planted around Caribou. Some activities in February include an Irish Celebration on Friday, February 27th at the CPAC, which includes an Irish stew followed by Celtic entertainment. On Saturday the 28th there will be a skiing event, “Dash for Cash” in the downtown area that will draw high school and jr. high students from other communities. Food will be available as well as other activities. Those interested in joining the meetings are invited to attend, the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at the Library at 4:00 p.m. Also, a talk show type of program (Community Corner) is being planned for broadcast on Channel 8. It will consist of various residents being interviewed as they share some of Caribou’s history. It was also noted that anyone interested in purchasing any of the 75 trees available for planting should contact Kathy Mazzuchelli at the Wellness Center or the Chamber of Commerce & Industry office. Forms for ordering trees are also available on line.

Council Agenda item #3: Notice to Public: School Consolidation Referendum – January 27, 2009 Voting at the Recreation and Wellness Center on Bennett Drive from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Murchison reiterated the Council’s support of the school consolidation plan, and he urged Caribou residents, whatever their opinion, to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday.

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Council Agenda item #4: Consider acceptance of the minutes of the January 12, 2009 Council meeting.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2009 Council meeting as printed. (6 yes, 1 abstention, R. Albert) So voted.

Council Agenda item #5: Notice of close out of the 2005 CDBG Business Assistance Grant Program utilized for the Maine Military Authority project.

The City Manager reported that the City has met all requirements of the grant program, including the creation of 18 full time jobs, and has concluded any further responsibilities.

Council Agenda item #6: Consider the appointment of a Reserve Patrol Officer to the Caribou Police Department, pursuant to MRSA Title 30-A §2671.

Motion made by R. Albert, seconded by MK Barbosa, to appoint Erik Jandreau as a Reserve Patrol Officer to the Caribou Police Department, pursuant to MRSA Title 30-A §2671. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #7: Other Business

a. Notification from Zoning Board of Appeals of a vacancy

The City Manager reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals is seeking to fill a vacancy on its board in order to have full membership. The board meets on an as needed basis and fills an important need of the City. Anyone interested in serving may pick up an application in the City Clerk's office.

b. Second advertisement of Community Development Director Position

The City Manager reported that the position of Community Development Director has been advertised for a second time. Applications are to be submitted by February 13th followed by the interview process.

c. Other

Meeting Dates:

Council Meeting February 9, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

7:22 p.m. Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to adjourn. (7 yes) So voted.

Judy-Ann Corrow, Secretary