

February 23, 2009

09-05

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2009 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Christopher A.R. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, Karla M. Bell, and David Martin. Absent and excused from the meeting were Robert L. Albert and Mary Kate Barbosa.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager, Roy E. Woods, Fire Chief, and Stephen Wentworth, Code Enforcement Officer, were present.

John Swanberg also attended the meeting.

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input – There was no public input

Council Agenda item #2: Sesquicentennial Committee Update

John Swanberg reminded everyone of the events taking place Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> (Irish Supper at the high school followed by Celtic entertainment at the CPAC). Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> the downtown ski event will be held with middle and high school students as well as adults competing. There will be a concession stand to raise funds for the celebration and chicken stew, chili, hot dogs, drinks, etc. will be offered. Other information was provided as follows: the deadline for sponsorship has been extended. There is a need for marching bands for the parade. The tree project is still ongoing and it is possible for anyone to donate the purchase of a tree to be planted on City property by the City. A book containing historical facts on people, events and food is being compiled. The plan is to sell the book for \$20 and anyone wanting to provide information or have someone featured in the book can go on line at [www.celebratecaribou.com](http://www.celebratecaribou.com). For further information on this or anything else related to the celebration, including information for those who simply wish to make a general donation. Referring to the historical quilt being completed commemorating the celebration that consists of thirty patches of history, the City Manager suggested including in the book the research information that was done on the quilt.

Council Agenda item #3: Consider acceptance of the minutes of the following meetings:

- a. February 9, 2009 Council Meeting
- b. February 9, 2009 Council Workshop
- c. February 17, 2009 Council Workshop

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Council Meeting as printed. (5 yes) So voted.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2009 Council Workshop. Councilor Goughan referred to a conversation he and the public works director had during that workshop in reference two roads that were not currently being funded. He wanted his concerns that funding for these roads was being

cut to be included in the minutes. Motion amended, seconded amended to add those concerns to the minutes. (5 yes) So voted.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2009 Council Workshop as printed. (4 yes, 1 abstention, M. Goughan) So voted.

Council Agenda item #4: Consider authorizing the 2009 remount of Ambulance Unit # 23.

Chief Woods had reserved two chassis two years ago at a lower cost. He requested moving forward with ordering the remaining chassis so that the lower price won't be missed. Since the final approval of the 2009 Budget and CIP has not yet taken place, the Council was being asked to authorize the remount at this time.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to authorize the 2009 remount of Ambulance Unit 23. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #5: Status Report on the Agreements with the Caribou Lions Club.

The City Manager he had discussed the documents with Bob Crawford prior to the Club's approval. It was agreed to have Rick Solman modify the Maintenance Agreement to correctly reflect the reciprocating indemnification clauses, since the Club would no longer be booking the facilities, and rewrite the Quitclaim Deed to combine both the retained and the removed covenants into one document. With the Club in agreement, the documents are ready for the City Manager to sign on behalf the Council.

Chief Woods spoke on the future of the Emergency Management Operations area in the downstairs of the Lions Community Center. He said that a total of \$18,000 in grant funding has been secured for upgrading the facility.

Mayor Murchison asked the City Manager to compose a letter of commendation to the Lions Club in recognition for their cooperative efforts and the contribution they provide to the City.

Council Agenda item #6: Update on the latest actions required for the Regional School Unit Consolidation.

Councilor Karla Bell reported on the Regionalization Planning Committee meetings she has been attending. It has been established that the RSU Board will consist of seven members, four from Caribou, two from Limestone, and one from Stockholm. The three current boards will meet March 2 to establish a timeline and hire an interim secretary to organize the elections in each community. There will be only a 10-day period for the gathering of signatures on nomination papers for those prospective candidates for the board. A Referendum election is anticipated to take place sometime in late April. The new RSU will be called the Eastern Aroostook Regional School Unit. It was noted that school budgets for this year would be done the same as in the past. Councilor Bell would like to see that the public is kept as informed as possible throughout the process.

Council Agenda item #7: Update on the latest actions towards the North South Highway Project.

The City Manager commended the Aroostook Delegation for being 100% in attendance at the recent meetings in Augusta. He had given a presentation to the legislation delegation updating the progress of Caribou's Segment 4. Commissioner Cole and Ray Faucher, the N/S Highway project engineer, presented their views on the status of both Segment 4 and 7. The Environmental Impact Statement was discussed. MDOT was asked why Segment 4 could not be segregated and moved forward with an EIS for just Segment 4. MDOT considered it to be too costly. However, since the Presque Isle segment could be as much as a year behind in the process, Representative Martin made it very clear to MDOT that the Aroostook Delegation wanted a cost analysis done to determine the feasibility of segregating Segment 4 and establish a separate EIS. It was discussed that the Federal Delegation cannot move forward with any additional funding until actual construction starts.

Council Agenda item #8: Consider setting a Public Hearing Date for the 2009 Capital Improvements Program, pursuant to Charter Section 5.09.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to set March 9, 2009 as a Public Hearing Date to receive written and verbal comments on the 2009 Capital Improvements Program, pursuant to Charter Section 5.09. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #9: Consider setting a Public Hearing Date for the 2009 Municipal Budget, pursuant to Charter Section 5.08

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to set March 9, 2009 as a Public Hearing Date to receive written and verbal comments on the 2009 Municipal Budget, pursuant to Charter Section 5.08. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #10: Updates

The City Manager provided information on the following topics:

- Farmland Preservation – City Manager has been asked by Maine Farmland Trust in association with the Mainewatch Institute and American Farmland Trust to serve on an advisory committee to focus on a report on farmland preservation throughout in the State - Other committee members are John Piotti from the Maine Farmland Trust, Bill Bell from the Maine Farmland Trust and the Mainewatch Institute, Sherry Huber, President of Mainewatch Institute, and Chris Coffin from the American Farmland Trust - Brian Kent of Kent Associates will write the report – This invitation came out of Steve's continuing work with Rural Development on rule making of Title 7, Section 60, the Volunteer Municipal Farm Support Program through Me Dept of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources – A fourth and final meeting is set for early March to put forth recommended legislation.
- Ambulance Billing Proposals – Two proposals being worked on for Houlton and Calais ambulance billing to be done by Caribou – Possible \$60,000 in new revenues to offset current operations of the City

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- Dispatch Service – City exploring this service as an additional avenue for revenues – This is a result of recent fee increases by the PUC that has changed PSAP operations in the County

Council Agenda item #11: Other Business

d. Other

Meeting Dates:

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

February 24, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Joint Training for Planning Board & ZBA for subdivision review processes and amendment process and the rules governing requests for appeals

Council Agenda item #12: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session for continued discussions of contract development for economic development services, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Section 405 (6) (C).

7:43 p.m. Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to move to Executive Session for continued discussions of contract development for economic development services, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Section 405 (6) (C). (5 yes) So voted.

8:37 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to send the agreement to the Caribou Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with a cover letter. (5 yes) So voted.

8:38 p.m. Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to adjourn. (5 yes) So voted.

Judy-Ann Corrow, Secretary

**WORKSHOP** – Immediately following the adjourn of the City Council Meeting