

April 23, 2012

12-11

The Caribou City Council held a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2012, in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Deputy Mayor David Martin, Mary Kate Barbosa, John R. Boone, Philip McDonough II, Gary Aiken and Bryan Thompson.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager and David Ouellette, Public Works Director.

Also attending were Larry Pelletier, Linda Hartford, Renee Parente, Augustine Perreault and Wilfred Martin.

Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input. None

Council Agenda Item #2 :Public Hearing to receive verbal and written comment on establishing a mandatory permit fee for the pick up brush and leaves during the City's annual one-week program.

7:01 p.m. Public Hearing Opened

- Larry Pelletier stated he already pays a healthy real estate tax and a fee should not be applied. If the city does stop the free service, he questioned what would the city look like. He stated that town people might pile up branches behind their property and that would become a fire hazard.
- Renee Parente read the ad in Aroostook Republic and commented that the \$25.00 fee was not mentioned. Service should be continued at no charge. She questioned where you draw the line, this year a fee for picking up branches and leaves, next year a fee to go to Library and a fee to walk at Wellness Center.
- Mayor K. Murchison mentioned that this is a money saving measure. The program in the past has picked up appliances and tires. The individuals he has spoken to can't afford the fee.
- Deputy Mayor D. Martin noted that individuals are already piling brush and leaves.
- Council J. Boone asked if any other communities offered this service and none were mentioned.
- Councilor G. Aiken expressed that he went through trying times with the budget trying to avoid a tax increase. He has spoken to half a dozen people who have participated in the past and they would be willing to pay the fee as you would not find anyone else to haul the stuff away for \$25.00.
- Councilor MK Barbosa noted that residents have already started spring cleaning and she is concerned they wouldn't get notice in time to pay the fee prior to the pickup date.
- Wilfred Martin inquired as to the cost for this program. Mr. Buck stated total cost for previous years has been \$19,285.00 for vehicle equipment and personnel. Fuel cost was \$5585 and the department could be doing other projects. Tax dollars are paying for this if a fee is applied, he will estimate the revenue for the budget.

April 23, 2012

12-11 ph Pg. 2

- Councilor B. Thompson commented that he appreciates the public input and he is concerned that residents will not get the message that pickup starts May 7th.
- Mr. Buck read letter from Donna Murchison. (See Exhibit A)

7:32 p.m. Public Hearing closed

Council Agenda Item #3: Consider acting upon establishing a fee for brush and leaves up the Public Works.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa to forgo fee on brush and leaves removal this year and to re-evaluate budget for next year. All in favor. (7 yes) So voted.

7:35 pm Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa move to Executive Session to receive attorney client privileged information pertaining to furlough days and the impacts to AFSCME Unit, pursuant to Title 1 MRS §405 (6) (D). (7 yes) So voted.

8:24 p.m. Returned from Executive Session

Council reviewed information from Legal Counsel pertaining to the AFSCME Contract and the implementation of Shut Down Days. Council will take under advisement for a future response to AFSCME.

Adjourned at 8:24 pm

Kalen Hill, Secretary Pro-Tem