

February 11, 2013

13-04

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2013 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, and David R. Genthner, Sr. Mary Kate Barbosa was absent and excused.

Austin Bless, City Manager and Scott Susi, Fire Chief were present.

Caribou High School FAA Members: Dylan Greenier, Maurice Tardie, Cindy Ketch, Tyler Raymond, and Sara Huston.

Also attending were Larry Pelletier, Mark Reschke, Richard Fortier, and three other Caribou citizens.

Natalie Bazinet, representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Presentation of Plaque to Former Planning Board Members Richard Fortier and David Genthner.

Mayor Aiken presented former Planning Board Members Richard Fortier and David Genthner each a plaque and thanked them for their service to Caribou.

Council Agenda Item #2: Public Input

Larry Pelletier had several comments concerning closing Sincock School and the number of lights at the High School. Mayor Aiken explained that the City Council no longer has direct control over the school budget.

Mark Reschke reminded the Council of his proposal to reduce the fee for an electronic copy of the commitment book from \$160.00 to \$5.00 for Caribou residents. In December, he did purchase a copy for \$160.00. He wants the Council to make a change in the fee retroactive so he could be reimbursed.

Mayor Aiken expressed his thanks to Bob White for his help with the City sound system. He has received notification that the sound is better for the television viewers.

Council Agenda Item #3: Declaration of Conflicts of Interest from the City Council regarding any agenda item.

Councilor Theriault declared a conflict of interest with agenda item 8.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consider authorizing the minutes of the following meetings.

a) January 28, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by K. Murchison, to accept the minutes of January 28, 2013 as presented. (4 yes, 1 abstention, P. McDonough) So voted.

At the last meeting, Mayor Aiken requested that the City Clerk review the recording of the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. During the discussion regarding street lights, the Mayor wanted to know who he stated was involved in the selection of street lights to be removed. The City Clerk reported that the Mayor mentioned only Chief Gahagan.

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At the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Councilor Martin spoke about a newspaper article in the Maine Sunday Telegram concerning the number of fire fighters per thousand the City of Portland has. Chief Susi has reported that Caribou Fire & Ambulance is at .88 firefighters per thousand.

Council Agenda Item #5: Consent Agenda

- a) Caribou Country Club Liquor License & Special Amusement Permit
- b) January 2013 FD Report
- c) January 2013 PD Report

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business items A, B, & C as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Public Hearing for Fireworks Ordinance

The proposed change would allow the Police Department versus the Fire Department to issue the permits and collect fees.

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing Opened

Milo Haney asked if the City has a fee for a fireworks permit. Currently the City does not have a fee for a permit. Chief Susi noted that the State does charge a fee for commercial use permits.

7:16 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to adopt the amendment to the Fireworks Ordinance as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Appointment of Registration Appeals Board

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to appoint Jacqueline Beaupre and James Moore to the Registration Appeals Board for a three year term. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Special Election to fill Council Seat held by Councilor Theriault

City Manager Bleess reviewed Caribou Charter Section 2.06 (d) Filling of Vacancies. The Council may hold a special election in June in conjunction with RSU #39 Budget Validation Referendum or wait until the regular election in November.

Motion made by D. Genthner, seconded by D. Martin, to table until City Manager Bleess has spoken with former Charter Commission members as to the intent of Section 2.06 (d) and it has been reviewed by legal counsel. (4 yes, 1 abstention, J. Theriault) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Proclamation for National FFA Week

Caribou FFA President Sara Huston introduced the other FFA members. Ms. Huston spoke briefly about FFA activities and invited the Council to a FFA banquet being held March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize a Proclamation declaring February 16 to 23, 2013 National FFA Week in Caribou. (5 yes) So voted.

Mayor Aiken read the Proclamation into the record. (Exhibit A)

Council Agenda Item #10: Peddler/Hawker's License

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, not to authorize the issuance of a Peddler/Hawker's License for MRP Management d/b/a as Greater Maine Gourmet. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #11: Snow removal on sidewalks

Motion made P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the presented recommendation for the reduction of snow removal on the sidewalks excluding Bridge Street and to review the current ordinance. (4 yes, 1 no, D. Genthner) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #12: Ambulance Contract with LDA

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by K. Murchison, to approve the Ambulance Contract with LDA from January 1, 2013 to April 9, 2013 at \$2,965.71. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #13: Appointment to CEGC

Mayor Aiken appointed Kenneth Murchison to serve as Council Representative on the Caribou Economic Growth Council.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to confirm Mayor Aiken's appointment of Kenneth Murchison to the Caribou Economic Growth Council as Council Representative. (4 yes, 1 abstention, K. Murchison) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #14: Other Business

Discussion regarding Mr. Reschke's request for reimbursement:

Mayor Aiken stated that it is a bit much to pay \$160.00 for something that is being done electronically and that a \$5.00 fee would be more reasonable. He does agree that \$160.00 is appropriate for a hard copy of the commitment book.

Councilor Murchison stated that some thought should go into what the fee should be. In the future, this information may go online and he noted that there would be costs for placing and maintaining the information online.

Mr. Reschke was able to select the fields he wanted included in the electronic report prepared for him. City staff does not do tax comparison research, but assist individuals when needed.

Councilor McDonough mentioned MSRA Title 1, Chapter 13, subsection 408-A Public Records available for Inspection and Copying. He suggested that Manager Bless review this new section in the law and work on developing a new policy.

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**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Council Workshop, February 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Highway and Protection Committee, February 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, February 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, March 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Theriault, to adjourn. (5yes) So voted.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary