

May 29, 2012

12-15

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 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, and Bryan Thompson. Gary Aiken was absent and excused.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager and Michael Shrewsbury, Community Development Director were present.

Attending: Doug Morrell, Wilfred Martin, and Lisa Leduc.

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

#### Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

- ❖ Doug Morrell, Citizens for Responsible City Management, questioned whether agenda item #11 is executive session material. He commented that we have a municipal government out trying to compete with the private sector. On another subject, Mr. Morrell asked several questions about the mailing that has been sent to taxpayers regarding the revaluation.
- ❖ Wilfred Martin commented on the revaluation mailing and ambulance service competing with the private sector.

#### Council Agenda Item #2: Updates from City Administration

The City Manager provided updated information on a variety of topics including:

- Revaluation – Notices for the new real property valuations have been mailed. The notice includes the new valuation and an estimated tax amount and mil rated based on 2011 expenses. With these considerations the estimated mil rate is \$19.00 per thousand versus the actual 2011 mil rate of \$26.10 per thousand. Real property valuations have increased by 44.8% since the last revaluation that occurred 15 years ago. The City Manager encouraged taxpayers with questions to contact the Tax Assessor Beth O'Bar or Assessor's Assistant Penny Thompson. Individuals can make appointments to meet with RJD Appraisals.
- State Revenue Sharing – May receipts were \$103,384.00. In June, the City needs to receive only \$78,523.00 to reach the 50% received mark for the first half of the City fiscal year.
- RC-2 TIF – DECD has given approval for the TIF District pending approval on receiving the Council minutes and the signed Credit Enhancement Agreement. Three phase power has been extended and the refrigeration unit is up and running.
- Letter – The Manager read a letter from a grateful individual whose family member was ill and received services from Caribou Ambulance, Cary Medical, and the air ambulance transport service.
- Caribou Connector – The binder course is being laid. The opening of the Connector will be the end of August or the first of September.

#### Council Agenda Item #3: Consider authorizing the minutes of the following meetings:

A. May 14, 2012 Council Meeting

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Boone, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2012 Council meeting as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #4: Public Hearing to receive written and verbal input on amending the 2012-2013 General Assistance Maximums pursuant to MRSA Title 22 §4305.

7:25 p.m. Public Hearing Opened.

General Assistance Administrator Jayne R. Farrin updated the Council on the proposed changes to the City's General Assistance Ordinance. The changes are seen as a temporary measure for the State's 2013 budget. The three changes include a reduction in the level of reimbursement from 90% to 85%, reducing by 10% the Overall Maximums, and limiting rental assistance to no more than nine months. Ms. Farrin answered several questions from the Council.

7:40 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Council Agenda Item #5: Consider acting upon amendments to the 2012-2013 General Assistance Maximums pursuant to MRSA Title 22 §4305.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa, to authorize the 2012-2013 General Assistance maximums and amend Article VI, Section 6.8 (B) of the General Assistance Ordinance as presented, to be effective on and after July 1, 2012 and to submit the same to the Department of Health and Human Services. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Consider authorizing a Proclamation for the Relay for Life Cancer Walk to be held June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at the Caribou High School.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the annual Relay for Life Cancer Walk will be held at the Caribou High School. Planning Committee Member Lisa Leduc requested that the Council issue a Proclamation declaring Caribou a Relay for Life Community and proclaim June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> as Relay for Life Weekend. Caribou has hosted this event since 2010. The goal is to raise \$130,000 and so far over \$65,000 has been raised.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to issue a Proclamation declaring the City of Caribou a Relay for Life Community and proclaim June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> as Relay for Life Weekend. (6 yes) So voted.

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

Council Agenda Item #7: Consider the 2013 proposed slate for Vice President and Executive Committee Members as nominated or by Petition Process.

The Council reviewed the proposed slate for MMA Vice President and Executive Committee members. The Council may support another candidate by using the Petition process. No action was taken.

Council Agenda Item #8: Authorization and signing of Warrant and Notice of Election calling RSU #39 Budget Validation Referendum, pursuant to Title 20-A MRSA § 1486.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to sign the Warrant and Notice of Election calling RSU#39 Budget Validation Referendum pursuant to Title 20-A MRSA § 1486. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Reconsideration of the North Main Sidewalk Project pursuant to new funding.

At the April 9, 2012 meeting, the Council voted to discontinue the north Main Sidewalk Project. The primary reason for this action was budgetary concerns as the City's share would be 20% of the total project cost. Since then the Cary Board of Directors have made a commitment to provide the 20%

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match which is estimated to be \$49,636.00. Then the project would be engineered and placed out to bid for completion. The Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of extending the sidewalk to Cary Medical campus, the issue of adding an additional 4,150 feet of sidewalk to maintain, and other drainage problems in the area.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa, to rescind the original motion to release Federal Project No. STP-1748(300)X, State PIN 17483.00 and to take it back under our jurisdiction and complete it. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Other Business

a. Review of the 2012-2013 RSU #39 Budget Request

The RSU #39 district budget meeting will be held May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Caribou Middle School cafeteria. The proposed budget for 2012-2013 is \$18,718,271.00 which is an increase of 0.9% over last year's budget. The Manager briefly reviewed the budget and its effects on the City.

b. Review of Trane Energy Audit results for Wood Pellet Boiler conversions

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Administration met with Dan Vaillancourt the COO of Daigle Oil Company (DOC) regarding wood pellets and their delivery. This is in anticipation of the City moving ahead with the wood pellet boiler conversions for several of the municipal buildings.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Manager and Michael Shrewsbury met with a Trane representative and received a verbal update on the progress being made towards fully engineered energy upgrades for several municipal buildings. Trane will have a formal presentation ready for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Council asked the Manager several questions.

c. Review of Actions for 6 Carroll Street

An inspection of the building has taken place and it is a mixed use of an industrial woodworking shop and the residence of the owner. The CEO has prepared a list of recommendations designed to increase the safety of the occupant. Greg Day, of the State Fire Marshall's Office, assisted with the inspection. Councilor McDonough requested a letter of commitment from the owner/occupant.

d. Other

Mayor Murchison offered praise and kind words about the recently held CADET event and for the Memorial Day Parade.

Meeting Dates previously set:

- RSU #39 District Board Meeting May 30, 2012 7:00 PM Caribou Middle School
- Personnel Committee Meeting May 31, 2012 5:30 PM Council Chambers
- Last Day to Request Absentee Ballots June 7, 2012
- Council Meeting June 11, 2012 7:00PM Council Chambers
- Primary and RSU #39 Budget Election June 12, 2012 Wellness Center
- Investment Committee Meeting June 18, 2012 6:00 PM Council Chambers
- Council Meeting June 27, 2012 7:00PM Council Chambers

Council Agenda Item #10B: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to discuss the disposition of city owned property, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 §405 (6)(C).

8:35 p.m. Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by MK Barbosa, to move to Executive Session to discuss the disposition of city owned property, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 §405 (6)(C).

9:23 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

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Council directed Manager to continue to work with perspective businesses for the disposition of property for the purpose of economic development.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to review pending developments for proposed Ambulance Services to the Town of Limestone, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 (6)(C).

9:24 p.m. Motion made by MK Barbosa, seconded by D. Martin, to move to Executive Session to review pending developments for proposed Ambulance Services to the Town of Limestone, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 (6)(C).

9:53 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

Council provided a consensus for Administration to continue to work with the Town of Limestone towards the development of a cooperative partnership towards ambulance services as well as improving fire protection services using the resources of all participating parties.

Council Agenda Item #12: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to discuss further actions with the Caribou Police Unit Teamsters Local 340, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 (6)(D).

9:55 p.m. Motion made by MK Barbosa, seconded by P. McDonough, to move to Executive Session to discuss further actions with the Caribou Police Unit Teamsters Local 340, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405 (6)(D).

10:00 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

Council consensus is to retain the current basis of comparison used for Police Department wages and to take this position to the Personnel Committee meeting with the Union scheduled for May 31, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Council Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary