

November 13, 2012

12-34

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Gary Aiken, and Joan L. Theriault. Mary Kate Barbosa and John R. Boone were absent and excused.

Austin Bless, City Manager; David Ouellette, Director of Public Works; Elizabeth O'Bar, Tax Assessor; Diane DuBois, Library Director; Kathleen A. Mazzuchelli, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; and Fire Chief Scott Susi.

Attending: Paul Theriault, Wilfred Martin, Milo Haney, Priscilla Haney, Dana Lowell, Freeman Cote, Paul R. Camping, David R. Genthner, Sr., Steve Trombley, Elaine Trombley, Doug King, Ann King, Mark Reschke, Shane McDougall, Candy Shrewsberry, Carolyn Reschke, John Swanberg, and Doug Morrell.

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

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Hearing on proposed Department Operational Expense and Capital Budgets.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing Opened.

- Paul R. Camping, 710 Grimes Road, read into the record his comments regarding the proposed 2013 Budget and his recommendations to reduce the budget. Mr. Camping believes the mission of the City Council is to provide basic essential services that citizens need and require. He would like to see the City spending 5% less in 2013 than it did in 2012. Mr. Camping proposed ten recommendations which include hiring and wage freeze, conduct a job audit to determine the right number of employees, and limit spending to only those departments or programs that are legitimate functions of city government. He challenged the Council to set the 2013 mil rate at 18.30. (Exhibit A)
- John Swanberg thanked the Department Heads and Council for their work on the 2013 Budget as outlined under the new City Charter. Mr. Swanberg noted that all possible expenses need to be in the budget prior to its adoption because after that the expense budget can only be reduced and not increased.
- Milo Haney asked questions about snowmobile trail grooming. He feels snowmobile trail grooming should be handled by the local snowmobile club. Mr. Haney commented that he did not see notice of this public hearing in the newspaper.
- Mark Reschke, 910 Grimes Road, supports a 5% reduction across the board as proposed by Mr. Camping, but if that is not possible, then he would like to see additional analysis done for those departments or accounts that based 2013 budget on historical data only.

- Ann King, Perham resident and a nurse at Cary Medical Center, expressed her concern about the possibility of the City contracting with Crown Ambulance Service. She complimented the Caribou Fire & Ambulance Service.
- Doug Morrell spoke briefly about ambulance service. He wants to know if the City can afford to provide the service. He is not questioning the quality of service provided by Chief Susi and his crew.
- Wilfred Martin spoke about being 77 years old, still able to work, and can afford to pay Caribou's taxes but there are other elderly citizens that are not able to afford Caribou's taxes. Mr. Martin requested that the Council look into whether property taxes can be frozen for anyone over the age of 65. Individuals in the public sector may pay taxes but they do not produce because it is the private sector individuals that have to produce so that the public sector individuals can be paid. Mr. Martin agreed with Mr. Camping's recommendation to reduce the mil rate to 18.30. Employees of the City need to make sacrifices and give up some of their benefits and wages. Mr. Martin feels that it is a lot better working in a government job versus the private sector otherwise why do the children of government workers often follow their parents into government jobs.

7:55 p.m. Public Hearing Closed

Council Agenda Item #2: Public Input.

None.

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

Mayor Murchison noted that he has a Conflict of Interest with the Agenda Item #11 Main Street Sidewalk Project. He will abstain from voting.

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

a) October 22, 2012 City Council Workshop

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2012 City Council Workshop minutes as presented. (4 yes, 1 abstention, D. Martin) So voted.

b) October 29, 2012 City Council Workshop

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2012 City Council Workshop minutes as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: CONSENT AGENDA

The Caribou City Council moves and seconds the suggested motion under the Consent Agenda presented below:

a) Accept Municipal Election Results

Motion made by G. Aiken, seconded by P. McDonough, to approve the Consent Agenda Business Item A, to accept Municipal Election Results (Exhibit B). (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Review a request for a Consent Agreement from Steve Trombley to move a mobile home in the Industrial Zone at 208 Limestone Street, Caribou.

City Manager Bless noted that this request is prohibited under the current ordinance and does not fit the criteria for a variance. Code Enforcement Officer Wentworth was unable to attend but provided a memo to the City Council.

Mr. Steve Trombley addressed the Council outlining his situation. He was unaware of the zoning issue when he purchased the property. Currently Mr. Trombley lives in Limestone and would like to move back to Caribou in the spring of 2013. The parcel cost him \$10,000.

The Code Enforcement Officer does not recommend the Consent Agreement. The Mayor requested that Manager Bless contact Maine Municipal Association Legal and ask about the City's liability if a Consent Agreement is approved. Councilor McDonough commented that the approval of a Consent Agreement would create a non-conforming use and cause spot zoning. He offered that the nearby residential zone could be extended to include this parcel. He suggested that this be referred to the Planning Board for review.

No action taken pending further investigation.

Council Agenda Item #7: Municipal Building Carpet Replacement

Mr. Bless reviewed the two quotes the City has received for the replacement of the carpeting on the second floor of the Municipal Building.

Sullivan's Floor Covering	\$18,900
Carpet Barn	\$18,000

The quotes are for high grade carpeting with installation taking place during the evenings and weekends to help minimize the impact on the work day for staff and customers. The quotes include moving the furniture in the offices. The City would receive a warranty from the carpet manufacturer, including a performance and stain resistance warranty.

There is sufficient monies in the reserve account to pay for this.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to accept the Carpet Barn quote of \$18,000 for high grade carpeting for the second floor of the Municipal Building with the monies coming out of Line 397. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Waivers of foreclosures on 2010 Tax Liens.

Tax Collector Wanda Raymond requested the ability to file a waiver of foreclosure on the following properties:

Map 18	Lot 31-70	Map 15	Lot 33-8
Map 15	Lot 33-5	Map 31	Lot 21
Map 18	Lot 31-14	Map 18	Lot 31-29
Map 15	Lot 33-9B	Map 28	Lot 120
Map 18	Lot 31-47	Map 7	Lot 39-32
Map 15	Lot 33A	Map 7	Lot 39-35
Map 7	Lot 39-24	Map 15	Lot 33-10A

Twelve of the fourteen properties are mobile homes.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to authorize the waivers of foreclosures on 2010 Tax Liens for the list provided by the Tax Collector (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Agreement with the Central Aroostook Humane Society.

City Manager Bless reviewed the proposed agreement. Mayor Murchison would like to see a local solution. The Councilors had several questions concerning the proposed contract.

Motion made by G. Aiken, seconded by P. McDonough, to table the contract with the Central Aroostook Humane Society until additional information has been received. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Airport Runway Project

City Manager Bless provided updated information and reminded the Council that the City has the opportunity to leverage approximately \$3.2 million in grant funding to reconstruct both runways. The cost to the City is \$175,000 which is 5% of the project's total cost. The runways are in need of repair and if the City does not take advantage of this opportunity then it could be several years before grant monies would be available again. Engineer Shane McDougall answered questions from the Council including that a decision does not need to be made this evening. The Airport Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, November 14th.

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by G. Aiken, to table Airport Runway Project until the Council has received answers to their questions. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #11: Main Street Sidewalk Project

City Manager Bless provided a brief history of the project. To move forward with the project the Council needs to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for services. The Mayor sees one of the biggest advantages of the project is that area drainage problems will be resolved.

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Councilor Aiken does not want the City to incur any expense. Public Works Director Ouellette provided additional information. He noted that if the project comes in at \$250,000 or less that the City should not see any expense as MDOT and Cary Medical Center will cover the costs.

Sewall Engineer Jan Murchison commented that if the bids for this project come in over budget then the Council can reject all bids. Councilor Aiken wondered whether Cary Medical Center monies could be used towards the expense of the engineering study.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by G. Aiken, to go ahead with the Main Street Sidewalk Project engineering if Cary Medical Center covers 25% of the cost. (4 yes, 1 abstention, K. Murchison) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #12: Reorganization of City Offices.

The recommendation from staff is to eliminate the Community Development and Human Resource positions and to create an Assistant City Manager and a Deputy Tax Collector positions. The Community Development position and department would need to be abolished through the ordinance process. This change is being introduced this evening and a public hearing will be held at the next regular meeting.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to allow the City Manager to move forward with the Reorganization of City Offices. (5 yes) So voted.

Councilor Martin introduced and read the proposed ordinance change into the record. (Exhibit C)

Council Agenda Item #13: Changing Date of November 26, 2012 Council Meeting

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to change the regular Council meeting date from November 26, 2012 to November 27, 2012. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #14: Other Business.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to authorize City Manager Austin Bless as the Council's representative for the purpose of reviewing and signing the municipal warrants for 2012, pursuant to Charter Section 5.02. (5 yes) So voted.

Councilor Martin asked what progress was being made on reducing the number of City street lights. Mr. Bless has spoken with Maine Public Service concerning costs and then he will work with the Police Chief and Director Ouellette in developing a list of street lights to be removed. Councilor Martin would like to use any savings used to upgrade the remaining street lights to LED lights.

Councilor Aiken extended his thanks to those who attended this evening and voiced their opinions.

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Upcoming Meeting Dates:

November 15, 2012 Ambulance Committee Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

November 27, 2012 Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

December 10, 2012 Council Meeting and budget Adoption Vote of Council at 7:00 p.m.

Council Agenda Item #15: Adjournment.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Theriault, to adjourn.

8:53 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary