

January 25, 2010

10-03

The Caribou City Council held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2010 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Karla M. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, David Martin, Christopher A.R. Bell, Mary Kate Barbosa, and John R. Boone.

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

Also attending the meeting were Bryan Harper, Milo Haney, Priscilla Haney, Freeman Cote, Doug Morrell, Jim Cerrato, Paul Theriault, Joan Theriault, Wilfred Martin, Wendy Landes, Joe Sleeper, Shawn Anderson, Norma Milton, Craig Staples, Colleen Murphy, Nancy Beloungie, Maury Landry, C B Smith, and several others.

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

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input

Bryan S. Harper – Downtown Ski Event

Milo Haney – Downtown Ski Event

Bryan Harper and Milo Haney both addressed the Council on behalf of the CFRCM group to voice their objection to the previously proposed use of the downtown area for a ski event in February. Although not opposed to the events taking place, they were opposed to having the taxpayers pay for hauling the snow that would be required. Mr. Harper thanked those involved for having moved the events to Teague Park in order to save taxpayer dollars. Mr. Haney pointed out several drawbacks with the downtown location, especially with safety concerns, and asked that other alternatives be considered first, if and when similar proposals are presented in the future.

Council Agenda item #2: Consider approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Council Meeting.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by C. Bell, to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2010 Council Meeting as printed. (6 yes, 1 abstention, M K Barbosa) So voted.

Council Agenda item #3: Consider a request by the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Grove Street, to donate their building to the City.

Nancy Beloungie, President of the Executive Committee of the church, spoke on behalf of other church members who were in attendance. She explained that decreased church membership and dwindling reserves have brought the members to the conclusion that they will not be able to maintain the building for more than three or four years at the most. The church group has been looking into finding other uses for the building or possibly a buyer for it. Nothing viable has been found. The church members want to see the building and its historic value preserved and not abandoned. To avoid this happening, she asked the Councilors to consider taking ownership of the oldest remaining meeting hall in Caribou.

Councilor C. Bell, upon learning that the church members had not communicated with the Historical Society, suggested that might be a good place to start. Mayor Murchison agreed, adding that non-profit organizations would have the best chance to obtain grant funding, for instance. After more discussion the consensus was to assist the church members in researching some alternatives and to keep the lines of communication open throughout the process.

Council Agenda item #4: Consider a presentation from VMSUS, Inc. for a pending bid expansion and a letter of support for the Project.

C B Smith, owner of VMSUS, made the request for a letter of support of the construction of a Transportation Security Administration Contact Center to be located in Caribou with a potential for creating an estimated 50 to 100 jobs. The letter is a requirement of the bidding process.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize the City Manager to sign and disburse a letter of support for VMSUS' bid for a contract to establish a TSA Contract Center in Caribou. (7 yes) So voted. See Exhibit "A"

Council Agenda item #5: Presentation of communication from the organizers of the Downtown Ski Event to withdraw the request for the North Mall Parking lot in lieu of using Teague Park for the event.

The City Manager related recent information that the organizing committee has decided to hold the ski event in Teague Park rather than in the downtown area. Snow already in the vicinity would be used to create the required surfaces. If there has not been sufficient snowfall in time for the events, local business owners are prepared to haul any needed snow themselves.

Council Agenda item #6: Consider authorizing a letter of recognition for Cary Medical Center for its numerous achievements in 2009.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to table this item until the February 8, 2010 meeting. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #7: Consider authorizing a Letter of Support for Integrated Systems Solutions, Inc. and their application for funding a Hybrid Heavy Lift Transport project at Loring.

Mike Shrewsbury explained a proposed research and development project that would have the potential for approximately 150 employees to work on the design and testing of a prototype aircraft at Loring. The request was for a letter of support to be sent to Senator Susan Collins, a necessary step in efforts to seek congressional funding.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by K. Bell, authorize a letter of support for Integrated Systems Solutions, Inc. and their application for funding a Hybrid Heavy Lift Transport project at Loring. (7 yes) So voted. See Exhibit "B"

Council Agenda item #8: Presentation of Downtown Parking communication and survey as prepared by the Highway Protection Committee.

Councilor K. Bell, Chair of the Highway Protection Committee, reported the development of a simple one page survey that would be used to pinpoint specific issues relating to parking in the downtown area. The proactive plan is to improve customer, employee and tenant parking and eliminate any other problems that might be uncovered by the survey, which would be distributed to area property and business owners. The City Manager explained that there are 485 parking spaces in the downtown area and 192 are observed as actually being used. Those receiving the surveys were urged to complete and return them to accurately define the difference between spaces used by customers, business owners and tenants, and to find solutions to any problems that need to be addressed.

Council Agenda item #9: Consider authorizing the issuance of Per Capita Bills for the 2010 Ambulance services to participating communities.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by C. Bell, to accept the \$10.00 per capita amount and authorize the issuance of the 2010 Ambulance Inter Local Agreements with the per capita bills to participating communities for Ambulance services as follows:

Woodland	\$14,030	New Sweden	\$6,210	Westmanland	\$710
Stockholm	\$2,710	Connor	\$4,134	Perham	\$4,340
T16 R4	\$1,082.25	LDA	\$13,135		

(6 yes, 1 no, M. Goughan) So voted.

Council Agenda item #10: Consider a review of the 2010 Interlocal Fire Agreements and issuing bills for the 2010 calendar year to participating communities.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by M K Barbosa, to authorize the issuance of the 2010 Inter local Fire Agreements for Connor (\$18,790.07), New Sweden (\$21,975.67), Westmanland (\$3,532.01), Woodland (\$46,552.97), and T16 R4 (\$1,050) Fees to increase by 3% in June. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #11: Consider authorizing Municipal Quitclaim Deeds to complete the vacation of the paper street portion of Truman Avenue.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize Municipal Quitclaim Deeds to complete the vacation of the paper street portion of Truman Avenue. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #12: Consider authorizing a Contract for Services with the Central Aroostook Humane Society for animal shelter services for 2010.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize the City Manager to sign the 2010 contract for services with the Central Aroostook Humane Society in the amount of \$13,299.20, \$1.60 per capita. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #13: Consider authorizing a Municipal Quitclaim Deed to Lew & Arlene Kidney Tax Map 30 Lot 35 for taxes paid in full.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by C. Bell, to authorize a Municipal Quitclaim Deed to Lew & Arlene Kidney Tax Map 30 Lot 35 for taxes paid in full. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #14: Consider the renewal of Game of Chance Licenses for the American Legion Post 15, 67 Sweden Street for the following:

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the renewal of a Bingo Game of Chance and a Sealed Tickets Game of Chance Licenses for the American Legion Post 15, 67 Sweden Street for the following. (7 yes) So voted

Council Agenda item #14A: Consider authorizing a Letter of Support for LD 1678 to study the impacts of a potential rail closure by the Montreal Maine & Atlantic Railroad of 240 miles of track throughout Aroostook County.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by C. Bell, to authorize a Letter of Support for LD 1678 to study the impacts of a potential rail closure by the Montreal Maine & Atlantic Railroad of 240 miles of track throughout Aroostook County. (7 yes) So voted See Exhibit "C"

Council Agenda item #15: Updates

The City Manager provided information on several topics including:

- Rail line – Consultant contracted by the State is working on the MMA Rail Road business proposal – Report to be presented for MMA consideration has uncovered opportunities to assist in business operations – MMA CEO reports the bigger problem for the rail line has been a sharp decline in the demand for forest products – Decline steady since 2006 and worse since 2009 Recession – TIGER grant applications total \$58 billion with only a \$1.5 billion pool fund – Co-Chair of the Legislative Transportation Committee says its unlikely that the State will buy MMA rail line – Priorities for funding are for southern, western, and Downeast Maine only
- 4 River Road – Administration met on the dangerous and hazardous situation of property – Per court order owners to pay for clean-up – City will implement clean up and pay for legal fees associated with ruling – Owners have 30 days to claim belongings before property is considered abandoned
- Segment 4 – MDOT continues with test borings along alignment – Property data gathering agreement was signed to allow crews to access city owned property to do test borings – Other landowners have given permission for the same – MDOT must respond to 3 comments from EPA for more detailed information before the FEIS is signed – MDOT needs another week to respond
- P I Segment – MDOT is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to process steps to decide the final option – Least environmentally impacted alignment may not be decided until 2011
- Coast Guard – Site tour set for Friday – Potential uses and other options are being looked at – Disposition is inevitable at some point
- Sen. Snowe – Submission of legislation in support of Northern Border Regional Commission – Funding should be at \$30 million level – Maine would receive significant share – Disparities are recognized to exist in northern border communities of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York

Council Agenda item #16: Other Business

a. First Read: First Draft of a Policy for Processing and Reviewing Hardship Abatements

Councilors were given copies to review for future workshop discussion of the proposed policy that would outline the entire process of completing Poverty Abatements without having to refer to State law as is currently done.

b. Other Business

Councilor Goughan asked for some clarifications on the ownership status of 4 River Road once the ongoing process is completed. Steve related that if the family members comply with the court order they would remain owners; otherwise the City would go through the normal lien process before the property would be city owned. Once cleanup is done, the building is burned and the hole filled in, only the land, with a modified deed, would remain. Councilor Goughan also asked for clarification that all City cash, designated and undesignated, is insured. Steve confirmed that as of December 31, 2008, it was all insured. Councilor Goughan then asked for clarification that the City is not liable for any pension or retirement funds beyond the year of input into the program. This was also confirmed.

Meeting Dates previously set:

- January 26, 2010 5:30PM Council Chambers, Personnel Committee for Teamsters Local 340 Contract Negotiations Police, Fire & Ambulance Units
- February 1, 2010 5:30 PM Council Chambers, Budget Workshop
- February 8, 2010 7:00PM Council Chambers, Regular Council Meeting
- February 16, 2010 5:30 PM, Personnel Committee for AFSCME Local 220 final negotiations/ratification meeting for Public Works
- February 22, 2010 7:00PM Council Chambers, Regular Council Meeting, Council Workshop to follow conclusion of Regular meeting

8:38 p.m. Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to adjourn. (7 yes) So voted.

Judy-Ann Corrow, Secretary

January 25, 2010