

March 26, 2012

12-08

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 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 Gary Aiken. Bryan Thompson was absent.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager.

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

Also attending the meeting: Keith Brown, Wayne Little, Wayne Belanger, Paul & Joan Theriault, Doug Morrell, and Wilfred Martin.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input. None.

Council Agenda Item #2: Updates from City Administration

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

- General Assistance – Governor LePage’s second supplemental budget contains several elements that would affect the General Assistance (GA) program including the replacement of the existing GA program with a state block grant program. At the public hearing, MMA provided testimony strongly opposing the block grant program.
- U.S. Supreme Court – Update on the Affordable Care Act case that is being heard in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Mining Bill LD 1853 – LD 1853 is a mining bill that was introduced by Representative John Martin. The bill’s purpose is to streamline the permitting process for mining in Maine.
- North-South Highway – The preferred alignment for the Presque Isle section is Segment 7. The Army Corps of Engineers are close to issuing the LEDPA and the Federal Highway Authority plans to issue the environmental impact statement by July. If everything moves ahead a portion of Segment 7 from Conant Road to the Maysville Road could be under construction by the end of 2013. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$10 million to complete the first portion.

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

A. March 12, 2012 Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2012 Council Meeting as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

B. March 19, 2012 Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 Council Meeting as presented. (4 yes, 2 abstentions, MK Barbosa, J. Boone) So voted.

C. March 20, 2012 Council Workshop

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by G. Aiken, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2012 Council Workshop as presented. (5 yes, 1 abstention, MK Barbosa) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consider the approval of the placement of a storage building for the American Legion Post #15.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to authorize the placement of a 8’ x 12’ storage building adjacent to the north side of the Legion in the Legion Parking Lot, not to obscure any existing parking spaces. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Consider approval of Licenses for the following:

- a. Rubbish Hauler's License for Pine Tree Waste, Houlton
- b. Public Taxi License for Lori Hodsdon d/b/a Town Taxi, Caribou

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa, to approve the Rubbish Hauler's License for Pine Tree Waste of Houlton and the Taxi License for Lori Hodsdon d/b/a Town Taxi of Caribou. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Consider Posting certain municipal roads to vehicles over 23,000 lbs, pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2395.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to post a weight restriction of 23,000 lbs. pursuant to Title 29-A MRSA Section 2395 for the following roads: Albair Road, Bowles Road, Caribou Lake Road, George Watson Memorial Drive, Hardison Road, Maysville Road, Ogren Road, Old Washburn Road, Plante Road, Railroad Street, Richards, Vance Road, and West Gate Road. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Communications from Facilities Inc, Vickers Drive properties, and PILOT Agreement.

In 1994, after the Loring Air Force Base closed, Facilities, Inc acquired sixteen housing units located along Vickers Drive. The housing units are utilized as transitional housing for the mentally ill. Facilities, Inc. agreed to make an annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the City at the rate of \$625.00 per unit. This \$10,000 PILOT payment has not been paid since 2008.

Manager Buck reviewed a recent communication from Facilities, Inc. that provided a brief history of the property plus their financial information. Their four year profit & loss information shows a negative income of \$115,769.32. The Council has questions concerning Administration costs and the amount of Depreciation listed. It was noted that Facilities, Inc. receives all the services that Caribou taxpayers receive plus Vickers Drive is a public way so is maintained and plowed by the City. The Council wants Manager Buck to meet with Brian Ostlund, the Manager for Facilities, Inc. to discuss the Council's questions and to report back his findings.

Council Agenda Item #8: Consider authorizing a Construction Overlimit Permit for pending pavement projects in Caribou, pursuant to 29-A MRSA § 2382:

- A. Project HPP-6462(700)X Asphalt, guardrails and fencing, and landscaping for the Caribou Connector
- B. Project AC-IB-1922(700)X & AC-IB-1923(300)X Mill & Fill Hot Mix Asphalt on the Route 1 By-pass and Route 1 north of Bennett Drive to Connor

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Boone, to issue Construction Overlimit Permits for MDOT Project Pin No. HPP-6462(700)X Asphalt overlay, guardrails and fencing, and landscaping for the Caribou Connector Project and MDOT Project Pin No. AC-IB-1922(700)X & AC-IB-1923(300)X Mill & Fill Hot Mix Asphalt on the Route 1 By-pass and Route 1 north of Bennett Drive to Connor. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8A: Consider a Resolution to define Caribou's position on LD 1853, "An Act to Improve Environmental Oversight and Streamline Permitting for Mining in Maine."

Recently the City Manager attended an informational meeting on J.D. Irving Company's proposed Bald Mountain mining project. Mr. Buck provided details on the project and the development of the proposed resolution supporting LD 1853. This project could create 300 direct jobs and 400 indirect jobs resulting in \$600 million in employment income and more than \$120 million in state and local taxes. It has been estimated that this project could add \$93 million to the economy for each year of operation. Councilor Barbosa would have preferred to have received a copy of the resolution prior to this evening so that she could have studied the issue and developed an informed opinion.

Motion made D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to authorize a resolution supporting LD 1853 "An Act to Improve Environmental Oversight and Streamline Permitting for Mining in Maine". (4 yes, 1 no, MK Barbosa, 1 abstention, G. Aiken) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Other Business

a. Report of Investment Committee actions pertaining to Maine Pers Investments

The Investment Committee meet on March 20th to examine the resources currently held within the City's reserves for the Maine Pers (Maine Public Employees Retirement System). These funds are now available for the City to take back and manage. The estimated balance in this account is \$2.4 million. The Committee held a conference call with Tim Porter, Regional Vice President of New York Life Annuities and Investments. The Committee developed a series of questions they want Administration to ask Maine Pers and to report back.

b. Highway Protection Information – Street Priorities for MDOT submission

The City has received correspondence from Jay Kamm, Senior Planner for NMDC and David Bernhardt, MDOT Commissioner concerning the process of identifying transportation needs and the development of the 2014-2015 Capital Work Plan. The Highway Protection Committee will be meeting on the 27th to review this material and to develop the City's priority list for Transportation Projects. This will be submitted to NMDC and then on to MDOT for consideration.

c. Consider potential status change of High Street reconstruction, loss of Pin No.

Caribou Utilities District has a High Street water main project slated for construction in 2013. Typically this type of project is completed the year before a street is reconstructed. The reconstruction of High Street has been in development and a priority for the City for several years. The City Manager has recently been informed that this project no longer has an assigned Pin No.

d. Other-

- Submission of Nomination Information for the 2012 Maine Municipal Association Executive Committee

First Read: If any Councilor is interested in serving on the MMA Executive Committee, they would need to submit a Statement of Interest form and Letters of Recommendation before April 26th. In the past, former Councilor Joseph Bouchard has served on this committee

- RSU #39 Deed

Attorney Solman has reviewed the draft RSU #39 deed and everything appears to be in good order. The deed had been previously approved by the Councilor and is ready for their signature.

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Meeting Dates previously set:

- Highway Protection Committee – March 27, 2012 at 5:30PM Council Chambers
- Council Meeting – April 9, 2012 at 7:00PM Council Chambers
- Council Workshop – April 9, 2012 Council Chambers following the Meeting
- No Council Meeting will be held April 23, 2012

Council Agenda Item #10: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter for future contract negotiations, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(D).

8:25 p.m Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by MK Barbosa, to move to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter for future contract negotiations, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(D). (6 yes) So voted.

9:15 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

Council directed Manager to work on items discussed for implementation prior to June working with Union and Non-Union Units.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive Session : Consider moving to Executive Session for the discussion of personnel matters and conduct, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A).

9:15 p.m. Motion made by MK Barbosa, seconded by D. Martin, to move to Executive Session for the discussion of personnel matters and conduct, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A).

9:40 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

No actions moved or taken.

Council Agenda Item #12: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary