

October 29, 2012

12-32 wksp.

A Public Forum Workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 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, Gary Aiken, and Joan L. Theriault.

Austin Bless, City Manager; Margaret N. Daigle, Former Interim City Manager; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; David Ouellette, Director of Public Works; Michael Shrewsbury, Community Development Director; Kathleen A. Mazzuchelli, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation; Stephen Wentworth, Code Enforcement Officer; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Elizabeth A. O'Bar, Tax Assessor; and Diane C. DuBois, Library Director were present.

Attending: Paul Theriault, John Swanberg, Milo Haney, Paul R. Camping, and Wilfred Martin. Natalie Bazinet, representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM WORKSHOP

The Public Forum Workshops are a new requirement of the 2012 City Charter. This change is to allow a better understanding of the budgets and to allow discussion between the Council, Department Managers, and the Public. This is the last Public Forum Workshop.

From the adopted City Charter:

Expense Budget. 5.06 [a] (3) (ii) On or before November 1st: The City Manager will have each City Department Head present a written detailed Expense Budget Report to both the City Council and the City's citizens in a public forum where both the City Council and Caribou's citizens can ask questions and provide input to the City Manager and each Department Head.

Capital Expense Budget. 5.06 [b] (3) (ii) On or before November 1st: The City Manager will have each City Department Head present their written detailed Capital Expense Budget Report to both the City Council and Caribou's citizens in a public forum where both the City Council and Caribou's citizens can ask questions and provide input to the City Manager and each Department Head.

Mayor Murchison opened the Public Forum Workshop and noted that this new procedure for the City under the new City Charter. The Mayor reviewed the new budget process, noted that this was the third and last Public Forum Workshop, a Public Hearing will be held November 13th at 7:00 p.m., and the adoption of the Expense Budget will be in December.

Mayor Murchison welcomed new City Manager Austin Bless.

The following Department Budgets and Capital Expense Budgets were reviewed. All questions from the Council and members of the public were answered by the Former Interim City Manager or the Department Managers.

- Recreation Department (Capital Expense only)
- Parks Department (Capital Expense only)
- Snowmobile Trail Maintenance (Capital Expense only)
- Code Enforcement
- Housing Authority
- Airport
- Trailer Park

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- Cemetery
- Insurance & Retirement
- Contributions
- Employee Contingency

Ms. Daigle has made changes to the budget reflecting input from the Council and the changes will be posted on the City's website including the change from net to gross budget for some departments.

The proposed 2013 Budget totals \$9,852,357.00 and the 2012 Budget totaled \$9,098,783.00.

There was discussion among the Councilors and Ms. Daigle regarding the 2013 Budget Expense and Capital Expense.

Ms. Daigle suggested that the Council direct the Manager and Department Managers to review their budgets for additional savings. Furthermore, Ms. Daigle noted that the Expense Budget that is required by Charter to be adopted in December is the maximum the Budget can be. The Council can further reduce and or adjust downward the Expense Budget once Revenue estimates have been completed. The Charter required the Income Budget to be submitted in February. The Council needs to determine if this budget fit with the City work plan and what the Council wants to accomplish. A Council Budget Workshop will be held November 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Workshop adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary