

August 16, 2010

10-16 wksp

A workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 10:20 p.m. on Monday, August 16, 2010, in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Deputy Mayor Karla M. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, David Martin, Mary Kate Barbosa, Christopher A. R. Bell, and John R. Boone.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager.

10:20 p.m. Workshop Session.

Item 1: Review and discussion of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce and Industry's vote to discontinue economic development services under contract with the City.

The City Manager requested direction from the City Council resulting from the Caribou Chamber of Commerce and Industry's vote to discontinue economic development services provided under contract with the City.

- CCC&I audit states that there are four material weaknesses. There have been issues with gift cards and General Ledger entries.
- The City Manager recommends that the City take back the City's four loans and handle them in house. The City has the capacity to do the work within the Finance Office.
- Mayor Murchison wants to see the Chamber get back on its feet but the City needs to protect what is the City's (four loans). He wants to see a strong working Chamber of Commerce.
- The City Manager has run some numbers and it would take \$100,000 subsidy to operate the Chamber as it is now.
- There was discussion concerning the 501(C)(3) and 501(C)(6).
- There was discussion as to what will happen starting January 1, 2011. Will the City be doing Economic Development?
- If there was an Economic Development Specialist who would that person work for?
- There was discussion how Recreation, Library, and Nylander Departments Heads all have separate boards and whether this could work for Economic Development. Councilor M. Goughan suggested that this would not work with Economic Development.
- Currently CCC&I books \$46,000.00 in fees for handling the loan portfolio.
- Councilor C. Bell stated that we need to deal with the separation, find an administrative connection that everyone can live with, and then move forward.
- There was discussion as to how other area Chambers work.
- Councilor D. Martin requested information on same size Chambers – obtaining information on their budget and how they raise money.

Council consensus was to take back the City's four loans and to invite CCC&I's Board of Directors for a Workshop to be held at 6:30 p.m. on August 30, 2010.

Workshop adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary