

December 9, 2013

13-30

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2013 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, David R. Genthner, Sr., and Shane McDougall.

Austin Bleess, City Manager and Tony Mazzucco, Assistant City Manager were present.

Department Manager: William Tasker, Chamber of Commerce Director, Diane DuBois, Library Director, and Kathleen Mazzuchelli, Supt. of Parks & Recreation.

Natalie De La Garza, representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Executive session pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(D) to discuss Union Negotiations with Teamsters.

6:00 p.m. Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by P. McDonough, to move to executive session with City Manager and Assistant City Manager pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(D) to discuss Labor Negotiations with Teamsters. (6 yes) So voted.

6:52 p.m. time out. No action taken.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

William Tasker, Chamber of Commerce Director, listed the Chamber's 2013 accomplishments which include a 33% increase in membership, updated website, and increased use of social media. He extended his thanks to the Council, City Manager Bleess, and Assistant City Manager Mazzucco.

Jan Murchison, Chair of the Library Board, read her December 6, 2013 letter into the record in which she requests the Council adds \$4,000 to the proposed 2014 Library Budget for the hiring of one or more substitutes.

Laurie Colton, Caribou Chamber of Commerce President, stated that the Chamber will have a budget shortfall in 2013 and requested Council assistance to cover it.

Debbie Sutherland, owner of Brambleberry Market, spoke favorable about William Tasker and the Caribou Chamber of Commerce.

James Cyr, Caribou Chamber of Commerce Board member, spoke in favor of the City continuing to provide financial support for the Chamber.

Norma Milton, Caribou Chamber of Commerce Board member, spoke in favor of the Chamber, the new Chamber Board, and the preservation of the Chamber's Reserve Account. She requested that the City provide the Chamber an annual stipend of \$30,000 for a period of five years.

Council Agenda Item #2: Declaration of Conflicts of Interest from the City Council regarding any agenda item.

None

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

- a) November 25, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the minutes of the November 25, 2013 as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of November Financials
- b) November Fire Department Report
- c) Liquor and Special Amusement Licenses

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded D. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business Items A, B, and C as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Junk Yard Permits

Code Enforcement Officer recommends the renewal of licenses for John Gilbert, Mark Nadeau, and One Steel. One Steel is planning to sell the business to AIM LLC. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Board held the necessary public hearing on the Site Design Review as it relates to the proposed purchase of One Steel by AIM LLC. The Planning Board recommends the Council approve a license for AIM LLC contingent on a successful sale of One Steel to AIM.

7:30 p.m. Public Hearing opens.

No public input.

7:31p.m. Public Hearing closed.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve Junk Yard permits for John Gilbert, Mark Nadeau, One Steel, and AIM LLC. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: GA Ordinance

7:33 p.m. Public Hearing opens.

No public input.

7:34 p.m. Public Hearing closed.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to adopt the ordinance establishing Chapter 17 – General Assistance. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Chamber of Commerce Financial Request

The Chamber of Commerce is requesting that the City Council reconsider the decision to utilize the Chamber Reserve account for 2013 operation expenses not covered by revenue generated by the Chamber. It is estimated that the expenses exceed revenues by approximately \$18,000. Currently there is approximately \$51,000 in the Chamber of Commerce Reserve.

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In 2014, money budgeted for the Chamber of Commerce will be paid out of the Downtown TIF Account and is not part of the proposed 2014 Budget.

There was discussion among the Councilors.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded K. Murchison, to increase the 2014 TIF contribution to the Chamber of Commerce from \$20,000 to \$38,000 and to transfer to the Chamber of Commerce the balance remaining in the Chamber of Commerce Reserve Account. (5 yes, 1 no, D. Martin) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: 2014 Budget

The proposed 2014 Budget totals \$9,143,301, which is 5% above the 2013 budget and 1.2% above the 2011 actual expenditures. The original October 15<sup>th</sup> budget proposal has been reduced by \$605,908 which exceeds the Council's reduction goal of \$568,753.

Library Director DuBois answered several questions regarding allowable uses of Library Reserve Accounts and number of Library users. The Council requested any available historical data as it relates to Library usage. Ms. DuBois commented that the cost of the Library is 2.3% of the City's total budget.

The Mayor asked questions about Ambulance Department's revenues and expenses with the hiring of three new employees. Manager Bless stated that the additional expenses are mostly offset by the new revenues with the difference being approximately \$26,000 more in expenses. The Mayor would like the Finance Director to review and identify any dead accounts on the General Ledger.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by S. McDougall, to approve the 2014 Expense Budget at \$9,143,301. (5 yes, 1 no, P. McDonough) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Presentation of Name Plate and Plaque to Councilor Murchison

Councilor Murchison was presented a plaque and his name plate and thanked for his twelve years of service.

Council Agenda Item #10: Other Business

None.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive session pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(C) to discuss Economic Development

8:04 p.m. Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Genthner, to move to executive session with City Manager and Assistant City Manager pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(C) to discuss Economic Development. (6 yes) So voted.

8:27 p.m. time out. Motion by D. Martin, seconded by D. Genthner, to come out of executive session. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Buxton (6 yes) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #12: Executive session pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(E) to discuss pending or contemplated litigation.

8:28 p.m. Motion made K. Murchison, seconded by S. McDougall, to move to executive session with City Manager and Assistant City Manager pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(E) to discuss pending or contemplated litigation. (6 yes) So voted.

8:39 p.m. time out Motion by D. Martin seconded by K. Murchison, to come out of executive session. (6 yes) So voted.

No action taken.

Motion made by D. Genthner, seconded by J. Theriault, to adjourn. (6 yes) So voted.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Organizational City Council Meeting, January 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary