

January 26, 2015

15-3

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday January 26, 2015 in Council Chambers with following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Tiffany J. Stewart, and Jody R. Smith.

Austin Bless, City Manager was present.

Department Managers: Penny G. Thompson, Tax Assessor and David Ouellette, Public Workers Director.

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

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

- a) Joseph McDougal – resident of 11 Lower Washington/Patten Street – Mr. McDougal denied receiving any notification regarding the discontinuance of Patten Street that occurred in 2005. He cannot understand how the City can vote not to plow a City road thus denying him access to his two properties. He cannot get to his two properties if the road is not plowed. Mr. McDougal requested copies of any signed return receipts for any certified mailings regarding the discontinuance and copies of Council minutes from February 2005. The City did retain an easement.

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

None.

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

- a) January 12, 2015 Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by S. McDougall, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Council Meeting with the following amendment to Council Agenda Item #1-f: change Nathan Rossignal to Nathan Haney. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) 2014 Annual Fire and Ambulance Department Report
- b) 2015 Financials and Department overages
- c) License Approval
 1. Liquor License: KBS Inc. d/b/a The Caribou Inn and Convention Center
 2. Special Amusement Permit: KBS Inc. d/b/a The Caribou Inn and Convention Center
- d) Abating Back Taxes
 1. 20 Collins Street \$5,035.24
 2. 34 Collins Street \$3,677.19
- e) Approval of Quit Claim Deeds
 1. Lori McCarthy – Map 32, Lot 35
 2. Nathan Haney – Map 21, Lot 3
- f) Approval of purchase of years of service for MSRS
 1. John Thorton

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Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business Items A, B, C, D, E, & F as presented. (6 yes, 1 no, G. Aiken) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Tree Harvesting

The City has received two tree harvesting proposals for the old landfill site.

Proposal #1: Martin Forest Products of Caribou. Estimate 79.4 acres can be harvested with a projected revenue of \$34,900.

Proposal #2: North Ridge Services d/b/a Lew Rioux Co. of Frenchville. Estimate 78 acres can be harvested with projected revenue of \$44,780.

Both proposals would cut all trees five inches in diameter and greater and everything under would be left.

City Manager Bless answered several questions from the Council. It is the opinion of the Public Works Director that the City doesn't need to hire a forester for the development of a forest management plan; additionally, he would not recommend the City placing the tree harvesting out to bid because two companies have already submitted prices.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by T. Stewart, to have Martin Forest Products of Caribou harvest the trees on the old landfill site and the land west of snowmobile trail in the North Caribou Park. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Patten Street/11 Lower Washington Street

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by P. McDonough, to allow Joseph McDougal to reclaim his former property at Map 27 Lot 8 contingent that all taxes, fees, and interest are paid in full by the close of business on January 30, 2015. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Parking Lot Ordinance

Councilor McDonough introduced Ordinance No 1, 2015 Series, An Ordinance amending Chapter 12 Traffic, Short Title: An ordinance amending downtown parking lot restrictions.

Council Agenda Item #8: 2015 Revenue Budget

City Manager Bless noted that the City collected \$71,829.39 above the budgeted Revenue amount for 2014. The 2015 Revenue Budget projects an increase of nearly \$100,000, with the largest increases being in excise tax collection and ambulance revenues. Council questions were answered by the City Manager. Council discussion. The Mayor commented on the City's 2014 year end projections and the need to get a handle on projections. In the future, the Mayor wants to receive complete financial reports. The Mayor stated that he voted no on the consent agenda because the acceptance of the financials was part of the consent agenda.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by D. Martin, to accept the 2015 Revenue Budget as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #9: Other Business

- A. The City's Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed by State agencies in Augusta.
- B. The Finance Committee meeting scheduled February 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- C. The Mayor inquired as to whether Caribou Housing had overpaid landlords. Manager Bleess stated that there have been a few issues and they are being addressed.
- D. Council Workshop was scheduled for February 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber. Topic: Dispatching

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting February 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting March 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary