

July 8, 2013

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A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2013 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, David R. Genthner, Sr., and Aaron P. Kouhought. Deputy Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr. was absent and excused.

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

Department Managers: Scott Susi, Fire Chief and Michael Gahagan, Police Chief were present.

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

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

- ✓ Paul R. Camping – 710 Grimes Road – spoke in favor of Council Agenda Item #8 joint meeting with Presque Isle City Council. Mr. Camping stated that the Tri-Community Landfill is a sterling example of municipal cooperation and may serve as a model for the City's discussions with the City of Presque Isle. Mr. Camping commented on the 2013 tax bill, labor costs, and employee health insurance costs. He recommends that the City hire a professional insurance broker to guide the City through the choices and legal obligations. Mr. Camping commented that Caribou must be an affordable place to live. He proposed closing the Nylander Museum and returning the collection to the Nylander family. Mr. Camping stated that the City deserves seven Councilors working together to overcome the monumental obstacles facing the City, agree to disagree, and move on.

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 meetings:

- a) June 24, 2013 Council Meeting
- b) June 27, 2013 Special Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2013 Council Meeting and June 27, 2013 Special Council Meeting as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) June 2013 Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department Report
- b) Semi-Annual Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department Report
- c) Approval of June Financials

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business items A, B, & C as presented. (5 yes)

Council Agenda Item #5: MPS Request for Pole Replacements

Maine Public Service is requesting to replace poles along Sweden Street from Spring Street to Hatch Drive plus along McKinley Street. In total 27 poles and anchors will be replaced.

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Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to approve MPS request for pole replacements. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Resolution for Grant Application

The City will be submitting to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) a grant application totaling \$135,000 which, if awarded, would provide for improvements to the downtown. The projects include:

- An updated downtown plan incorporating the sustainable development of the riverfront (\$35,000).
- New signage for the downtown pedestrian area and riverfront and ancillary pedestrian friendly facilities (\$21,000).
- Removal of blighted properties in the downtown/riverfront (0).
- Creation of downtown walking maps including a walking trails and historic walking tour of downtown Caribou and the riverfront (\$7,000).

Downtown TIF funds would be used for the City's 20% match requirement.

Motion Made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to support submitting a grant application to NBRC for \$135,000 to provide improvements to the downtown and to sign a resolution of support for said application. (5 yes) So voted. (Exhibit A)

Council Agenda Item #7: Sale of Tax Acquired Property

Trailer Only on Map 7 Lot 39-11, 312 Washburn Street Lot 11 did not sell during the last round of Tax Acquired Property bids. The City has received an offer of \$300.00 and, if accepted, the trailer will be removed and demolished. When questioned by the Mayor about selling property for less than the previously advertised amount, Manager Bleess stated that it is Council discretion as to how to dispose of tax acquired property.

Motion P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the sale of the trailer located on Map 7 Lot 39-11 to Mark Nadeau for \$300.00 and to abate the remaining \$390.39 in property taxes. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Joint meeting with Presque Isle City Council

Mayor Aiken questioned whether the meeting could be held at Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC). Councilor Martin is unable to attend a meeting on the 7th of August and suggested the sharing of big ticket items; such as, ladder trucks and street sweepers should be considered.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to propose the joint meeting to be held August 7th. (5 yes) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #9: Other Business

Mayor Aiken offered positive comments on two recently held events, the Nylander Museum anniversary celebration and the comprehensive plan meeting held at the Wellness Center.

P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. (5 yes) So voted.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting, August 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary