

June 10, 2013

13-15

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2013 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, David R. Genthner, Sr., and Aaron P. Kouhought.

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

Department Managers: William Tasker, Director Chamber of Commerce, Kathleen A. Mazzuchelli, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation, Scott Susi, Fire Chief, and David Ouellette, Director of Public Works were present.

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

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

- ❖ Jonathan Trappe – This summer, Mr. Trappe plans to take off from Caribou for a Trans-Atlantic flight. He will be flying in a Maine made lifeboat held up by 370 balloons.
- ❖ Mark Reschke – Had questions about the location of exhibits listed in Council minutes, commented on paving roads, snowmobile groomers, and budget shortfalls. In his opinion the functions of city governments are schools, police and fire departments, and snowplowing and paving roads.

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) May 13, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2013 as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) May 2013 Caribou Fire and Ambulance Report
- b) Approval of Tax Abatement
- c) Approval of April Financials
- d) Approval of Quit Claim Deeds
- e) Lunch Wagon Application

Councilor Martin requested that Bill Daniels d/b/a Daniel's Ice Cream refrain from selling on Marshall Avenue during Little League games. Currently food is being sold there and is a fund raiser for Little League programs.

Motion made by P McDonough, seconded by K. Murchison, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business items A, B, C, D, & E as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #5: Sign Ordinance

Councilor McDonough's suggestion regarding flags has been incorporated into the presented ordinance. There was discussion among the Councilor as to what the permitted sign size should be. Currently it is 80 square feet.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to change the permitted sign size to 8 feet by 12 feet or 96 square feet. (6 yes) So voted.

7:31 p.m. Public Hearing Opened.

Mark Reschke suggested that *Section I-4 Penalty* should not be located where it is in proposed ordinance and recommended that it should be located at the beginning of the ordinance. He commented on the size of the proposed fines and the language used in Section I Changeable Signs.

Owner of Sweet Dreams Candy & Bake Shoppe, Sharon Bickford spoke about her concerns with the sign ordinance and signage. She stated that she would like to add a sign that hangs away from the building but has been prohibited from doing so. She commented that it is difficult for potential customers to locate her Water Street business. She has secured funding for new signage if she receives approval from the City.

Assistant City Manager Mazzucco commented that if the sign ordinance passes as it is that there isn't anything prohibiting her from adding this type of signage.

7:42 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to accept the sign ordinance as amended. (6 yes) So voted

Council Agenda Item #6: Chipseal, Shim and Patch Bids

On May 13<sup>th</sup> due to the uncertainty of Revenue Sharing, the Council did not make a decision concerning the acceptance or rejection of the Chipseal and Shim & Patch Bids. Since then the City has learned that Caribou's 2013 Revenue Sharing will be \$709,999, which is \$381,762 less than had been estimated.

Councilor Theriault asked about the City's URIP funding and stated that she had heard from several citizens that the City needs to maintain the roads.

Councilor Martin asked Manager Bless if he had a "Plan B" to cover the loss of \$381,762. Manager Bless stated that there are a few things that the City can look at, but questioned whether citizens are satisfied with the status quo of flat budgets as 83% of the voters that attended the RSU#39 May29th meeting voted in favor of an increased school budget. He suggested that TIF monies, Streets and Roads, and staffing levels could be looked at. \$381,762 represents about 1.5 mils.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Genthner, to accept the low bid for Shim & Patch from Lane Construction at \$74.30 per ton and the low bid for Chipseal from Aroostook Asphalt Applicators at \$3.35 per gallon. (5 yes, 1 no, D. Martin) So voted.

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Council Agenda Item #7: Health Insurance for PT Employees (Councilor Kouhoupt Request)

January 2014, the Affordable Care Act will go into effect and this will force the City to deal with a variety of issues. Currently, health insurance is not offered to part-time City employees. Councilor Kouhoupt stated that the City pays a substantial amount towards health insurance for full-time employees. Before making dramatic changes to staff levels, Councilor Kouhoupt wants the City to look at health insurance options for both full and part time employees.

Mayor Aiken stated that the City has a working group made up of employees that looks at health insurance options.

Councilor Kouhoupt wants the City to explore health insurance options for part-time employees besides those offered to full-time employees. At this time, he is only requesting information and not a change to the City's current policy of health insurance coverage. Councilor Kouhoupt wants plan options and actual costs.

Motion made by A. Kouhoupt, seconded by P. McDonough, to have the City Manager complete an analysis of health insurance options and costs for part-time employees. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Other Business

- a) Councilor Genthner encouraged everyone to vote June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- b) *Thursdays on Sweden Street* will start on June 27<sup>th</sup> and will continue every other Thursday throughout the summer.
- c) Employees from the Cities of Presque Isle and Caribou participated in the "Biggest Loser" Competition. Caribou's team lost a total of 388 pounds and won the competition.
- d) When asked, Manager Bleess stated that it would be difficult to come up with \$381,762 in reductions. Councilor Murchison wants the Manager to work with the Department Managers to bring forward any last minute cuts to reduce the budget by \$381,762.

Council Agenda Item #9: Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)(A).

8:24 p.m. Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by P. McDonough, to move to executive session to discuss a Personnel Issue pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405.

9:19 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

No Action taken.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Caribou Housing Agency Board of Directors, June 12, at 6 p.m. at the EOC

Community Revitalization Committee, June 12, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

Highway Protection Committee, June 17, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

Budget Workshop, June 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, June 24, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting July 8, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary