

March 11, 2013

13-06

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 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, and David R. Genthner, Sr. Mary Kate Barbosa was absent and excused.

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

Department Managers: William Tasker, Director Chamber of Commerce and Kathleen A. Mazzuchelli, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation were present.

Natalie Bazinet, representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

Mark Shea, a resident of Caribou and a member of the Recreation Commission, commented that the Recreation Department budget has been reduced by \$15,000 without cutting programs or charging a fee. Mr. Shea feels a fee for recreation programs will result in less children being involved in meaningful activities. He stated charging a fee for recreation programs is a step in the wrong direction.

Hartley Damboise, a resident of Caribou and owner of Damboise Cleaning Service, stated that he had submitted a bid for the City's Janitorial Service contract. He offered that his references include owners of several area businesses.

Wilfred Martin, a resident of Caribou, questioned the need for an Assistant City Manager and wondered why Council meetings were lasting only thirty minutes. Mr. Martin feels it would be a good idea to clear the air and heal the differences by having the Council meet with a group of concerned citizens.

Mayor Aiken stated that this is a public forum and individuals are welcome to come and speak. Both the Mayor and City Manager agree that the Charter does not limit public input to 15 minutes. The Council will discuss Mr. Martin's idea about having a workshop between concerned citizens and the Council under Other Business,

Mark Reschke, a resident of Caribou, stated that it is difficult for residents to understand what will be discussed at Council Meetings with the brief wording on the agendas. Mr. Reschke asked if the Council Packet could be placed on the website.

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

Councilor Genthner questioned whether he would have a conflict with agenda item #9. Council consensus: he does not.

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

- a) February 25, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to accept the minutes of February 25, 2013 Council Meeting as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) January 2013 Police Department Report
- b) Approval of Quitclaim Deed

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by K. Murchison, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business items A & B as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: City Fees

Manager Bless and staff have reviewed the current fees structure and are recommending the charging of fees for some recreation programs and increasing Police and General Government fees. From approximately 12 communities, Mr. Bless has gathered information concerning recreation fees and has calculated that the average revenue to programming costs is 62%. Currently Caribou Recreation revenue to programming cost is 2.5% and with the approval of the new fees this percentage would be 5%. Mr. Bless noted that the Council may adopt the proposed fee schedule this evening with the exception of those that are written into city ordinances.

Taxpayers have expressed their concerns that recreation fees are double taxation. Councilor Martin supports recreation fees and wants a scholarship fund for needy individuals to be established, and stated that he would donate \$200 towards such a fund. Councilor Theriault would like to meet with the Recreation Commission prior to making a decision and stated that she would contribute to a scholarship fund. Councilor Murchison suggested offering sponsorships out to community businesses.

The Council has been invited to attend the Recreation Commission meeting to be held March 11th at 4:30 p.m. at the Wellness Center.

Motion made by D. Genthner, seconded by D. Martin, to table City Fees until the March 25, 2013 Council Meeting. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Janitorial Service Bids

Currently the City pays Busy Bee Cleaning \$1,523 per month for five days a week janitorial services for City Office. The new bid proposal reduces the service to two days a week.

Bids (per month):

Busy Bee Cleaning	\$1,500
Brian Morgan	\$1,416
Dirt Busters	\$1,195
B&P Cleaners	\$ 845
Damboise Cleaning Service	\$ 667

Staff Recommendation: B&P Cleaners at \$845 per month.

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Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by K. Murchison, to award the Janitorial Service contract to Damboise Cleaning Service at \$667 per month. (3 yes, D. Martin, K. Murchison, D. Genthner, 2 no, J. Theriault, P. McDonough) Motion Failed.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by J. Theriault, to award the Janitorial Service contract to B&P Cleaners at \$845 per month. (4 yes, K. Murchison, J. Theriault, P. McDonough, G. Aiken, 2 no, D. Martin, D. Genthner) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Sale of Tax Acquired Property

Recently the City had placed several tax acquired properties out to bid. No bids were received for two lots located at Map 12, Lot 24C and Map 32, Lot 24. Since then the City has been approached by individuals willing to pay the minimum bid amount.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to sell the lot located at Map 12, Lot 24C to Jerry Ouellette for \$2,000 and to sell the lot located at Map 32, Lot 24 to Rodney Smith for \$6,000. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Letter of Support for Route 161

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to approve, sign, and mail a letter of support to MDOT Commissioner Bernhardt regarding the needed upgrading of Route 161. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Road Weight Limits

Proposed Roads to be posted:

Albair Road	Maysville Road	Richards Road
Bowles Road	Ogren Road	Vance Road
Caribou Lake Road	Old Washburn Road	West Gate Road
George Watson Memorial	Plante Road	
Hardison Road	Railroad Street	

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the posting of road closure for all vehicles over 23,000 lbs. with the exception of fuel deliveries and emergency vehicles. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Expense Budget

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the list of budget reductions with the exceptions: Dept. 50 Recreation - leave the swimming pool in, Dept. 65 Cemeteries - do not reduce amounts for Evergreen and Grimes Cemeteries, Dept. 00 Employee Contingency - reduce by \$53,000 instead of \$83,040.50, and additionally reduce awards and recognition programs in Departments 30 Fire Department by \$1,000, 31 Ambulance by \$1,000, 39 Emergency Management by \$500, and 70 Insurance & Retirement by \$4,000. (2 yes, P. McDonough, J. Theriault, 3 no, K. Murchison, D. Genthner, D. Martin.) Motion failed.

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Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by K. Murchison, to approve the prepared list of budget reductions with the exceptions: Dept. 50 Recreation \$26,734 - leave the swimming pool in, Dept. 65 Cemeteries \$1,050 - do not reduce amounts for Evergreen and Grimes Cemeteries, and Dept. 00 \$83,040.50 - Employee Contingency. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #11: Other Business

- a. The City has received a letter of resignation from Councilor Mary Kate Barbosa. Mayor Aiken read her letter into the record. (Exhibit A)
Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to accept with regrets the resignation of Mary Kate Barbosa from the City Council. (5 yes) So voted.
Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to fill this position at the November Election, meanwhile the Council will appoint someone. (5 yes) So voted.
- b. State Revenue Sharing – Based on what the City has been receiving, the complete loss of Revenue Sharing represents approximately 10% of the City's budget. It has been proposed that the City's excise taxes received from some commercial vehicles will go to the State. This would be a loss of \$25,000. For every \$100,000 in valuation there would be an increase of \$676 in property taxes, if all the proposed reductions are approved by the Legislature and Governor,
- c. Council discussed Mr. Martin's request for a workshop with concerned citizens. In order to prepare, Mayor Aiken wants to know the issues beforehand. Mr. Martin proposed that the workshop be for private sector individuals and not include the public sector. Mr. Martin stated that he can guarantee the attendance of 25 to 30 citizens. When asked about workshop topics, Mr. Martin stated that he wants to talk about everything that is germane to the budget. Councilor McDonough commented that this evening the Council approved \$200,000 in reductions to the Expense Budget. Mayor Aiken stated that the budget process is not complete and the Council will continue review and work on the budget.
Council Consensus: Council will consider holding a workshop, when Mr. Martin has lined up his citizens and the issues to be discussed.
- d. Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough to have the Council packets posted on the City's website. (5 yes) So voted.
- e. The City is unable to post to Trio the Expense Budget without posting the Revenue Budget.

Council Agenda Item #12: Executive Session to discuss Labor Negotiations with NEW ENGLAND POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL 605 pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405(6)(D).

The City Manager stated that there is no need for an Executive Session this evening.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting, March 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary