

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday November 10, 2014 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, ~~Philip McDonough II~~,* Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., and Tiffany Stewart. *Philip McDonough II was absent and excused**

**amended per vote of the Council November 24, 2014*

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

Department Managers: Penny G. Thompson, Tax Assessor; Gary Marquis, Supt. of Parks & Recreation; David Ouellette, Public Works Director; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Lisa Plourde, Executive Director Housing; and Lisa Shaw, Library Director.

Theron Larkins, representing the Aroostook Republican; and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Mayor Aiken welcomed newly elected Councilor Tiffany Stewart to the City Council.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

None

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) October 14, 2014 Council Minutes
- b) October 27, 2014 Council Minutes

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by D. Martin, to accept the minutes of October 14, 2014 Council Meeting and October 27, 2014 Council Meeting as presented. (~~6~~ yes 5 yes)* So voted.

**amended per vote of the Council 24, 2014*

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) October 2014 Financials
- b) October 2014 Police Department Report
- c) October 2014 Fire Department Report
- d) October 2014 Library Director's Report

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business Items A, B, C, & D as presented. (~~6~~ yes 5 yes)* So voted. **amended per vote of the Council 24, 2014*

Councilor Martin stated that it was nice to see a Library Director's Report.

Council Agenda Item #5: Public Hearing on 2015 Budget

7:02 p.m. Public Hearing Opens.

- a) Art Cullins-had requested to speak but did not attend.
- b) William Tasker, 15 Superior Drive, Executive Director of the Caribou Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Tasker spoke in support of the City's continued financial support of the Caribou Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2014, the Chamber is coming in under budget and has increased revenues. The proposed 2015 budget is \$66,000. The Chamber is requesting \$15,000 from the City and continued use of the Nylander Museum.

- c) Laurie Colton, President of the Board of Directors for the Caribou Area Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Colton spoke in support of a \$15,000 contribution to the Caribou Area Chamber of Commerce.
To date, the Chamber has not developed a five year plan.
The City has approximately \$11,000 budgeted for the operation of the Nylander Museum.
- d) Gail Hagelstein, Library Board of Trustees, spoke in support of the Library and the recent changes that have occurred including the hiring of a new Library Director. Other changes include:
1. Genealogy group meetings
 2. Young adult section has been moved for more privacy
 3. Library procedures are being streamlined
 4. Use of guest readers for children programs
 5. License to show movies has been obtained
 6. Passport application service facility
 7. A food for fines program

Ms. Hagelstein spoke in opposition to eliminating a full-time position at the library.

Council Comments:

Councilor Murchison wonders if the Council's stance to flat fund will see us fail as a community if we do not have the services that are needed by the citizens; additionally he commented that going understaffed in the Police, Public Works and Library is a degradation of services. He wants the City to find the money for the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, so individuals that need those services receive services plus the health care jobs are good jobs within the community. He commented that a small raise in the mil rate to ensure services is warranted.

Councilor Martin supports funding for the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging and flat funding.

The Mayor questions reducing the amount budgeted for the City's Unfunded Liability from \$100,000 to \$25,000. He agrees cutting expenses but not cutting expenses only to put the expense out into the future. He stated that it comes down to cutting people. He requested a copy of the budget with the new numbers highlighted plus the original request. The Mayor stated that he cannot justify an Event Coordinator plus support the Chamber as they are overlapping.

Councilor McDougall doesn't see how the City can flat fund and keep the resources that we have when there are increases, such as the 7% in insurances. He stated that current management has been making great strides to slow the increases. The Councilor wonders if flat funding now would lead to a 3 to 4 mil increase in five years.

- e) James Cyr, Chamber of Commerce Board Member, spoke in favor of the amount budgeted for the Chamber. He questioned the need to have an Event Coordinator as this is essentially what the Chamber does already.

The Mayor is disappointed that the Chamber has not completed a 5 year plan.

Councilor Martin stated that at one time the Chamber received \$155,000 from the City, but now that amount is down to \$15,000 and use of the Nylander. The Chamber is aware that the City is trying to wean the Chamber off public financing.

7:32 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Council Agenda Item #6: Other Business

- a) RSU #39 has decided not to seek reaccreditation of Caribou High School. Councilor Martin wonders if this will affect the City's economic development efforts. Staff will review.
- b) Councilor Murchison praised Chief Susi and Caribou Fire Department for the control burn that occurred last Thursday.
- c) Councilor Martin welcomed Tiffany Stewart and Jody Smith.

Council Agenda Item #6: Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter.

Executive Session was not held.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting, December 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary