

November 24, 2014

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A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2014 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., and Tiffany J. Stewart. Mayor Gary Aiken was absent and excused.

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 Oueltette, Public Works Director; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Lisa Plourde, Executive Director Housing; Michael Gahagan, Police Chief; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; Lisa Shaw, Library Director.

Councilor-Elect Jody R. Smith attended.

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

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) November 10, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes
- b) November 10, 2014 Special Council Meeting Minutes
- c) October 16, 2014 Budget Forum
- d) October 20, 2014 Budget Forum

As presented, both the November 10, 2014 Council and Special Council Meeting minutes have Councilor McDonough attending and voting "Yes" on Special Council Meeting agenda items #2 and #3 and Council Meeting agenda items #3 and #4. For both meetings, Councilor McDonough was absent and excused.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014, Council Meeting and November 10, 2014 Special Council Meeting Minutes with the following amendments: Councilor McDonough was absent and excused and did not vote on Special Council Meeting agenda items #2 and #3 and Council Meeting agenda items #3 and #4. (5 yes, 1 abstention, P. McDonough) So voted.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by S. McDougall, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2014 Budget Forum and October 20, 2014 Budget Forum as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) October 2014 Parks and Recreation Department Report
- b) Christmas Eve Holiday

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the Consent Agenda with Business Items A & B as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Authorization for Tax Anticipation Note

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Municipal Officials to Utilize a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Pursuant to 30-A MRSA §5771. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Caribou Comprehensive Plan 2014-2024

Assistant City Manager Mazzucco stated that the Plan represents over 18 months of work and community involvement in developing a vision for Caribou and a guide to obtain that vision. The Plan has been approved by the Planning Board and is ready for Council adoption. (See Exhibit A)

Councilors Theriault and Martin commented favorably on the proposed plan.

7:06 p.m. Public Hearing Opened.

No members of the public spoke.

Councilor Murchison stated that he has attended some of the visioning sessions and that they were well attended and well done. Councilor McDonough praised Mazzucco for his work on the project.

7:08 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to adopt the Caribou Comprehensive Plan for 2014-2024 as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Clean up at old Bird's Eye Site

On August 11, 2014 the Council authorized, signed, implemented a Finding and Order – Pursuant to 17 M.R.S.A. § § 2851-2859 (Dangerous Buildings) to Nasiff Land LLC and Katahdin Trust Co. (interested party). Manager Bless stated that Mr. Nasiff has not done any of the items that were outlined on the order. The time for Mr. Nasiff to appeal the Council's order has passed. Currently it appears that Katahdin Trust Co. is not pursuing to foreclose on Nasiff Land LLC.

The City will not foreclose on the property for the 2012 property taxes as they were recently paid. To secure the property, the City had fencing installed. The City has not been reimbursed for this expense.

Councilors asked the City Manager several questions. Council discussion. It is estimated that it will cost \$500,000 to \$600,000 to clean up the area. Manager Bless noted that there is approximately \$1,000,000 in the Downtown TIF for slum and blight cleanup.

Motion made by S. McDougall, seconded by P. McDonough, to move forward with Items #1 and #2 from the Council's August 11, 2014 Order and to start the civil legal process. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by J. Theriault, to invite Katahdin Trust Co. to a meeting so a dialogue might be started concerning this property. (4 yes, 2 no, S. McDougall, P. McDonough) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: 2015 Budget

Following the 2015 Public Forums, the Council agreed that their goal is to adopt a Budget for 2015 that will not increase taxes. The Manager stated the proposed revised 2015 Budget achieves that goal. A few of the changes include not filling one full time Library position and one full time Police Department position, reducing the Compensated Absences line, reducing the Public Works equipment maintenance line, and adjust the Recreation Department part time hours.

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Chief Gahagan commented on the operation of Caribou Police Department and the City's jail. For the past 10 years, the Chief's goal has been prevention versus reactionary. He commented that prevention is always cheaper than reactionary.

Motion made by S. McDonough, to accept the budget as presented with the exception of adding the Police Department position and removal of the Public Works position. Motion died for lack of a second.

Council Discussion.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to schedule a workshop for next week. (3 yes, J. Theriault, K. Murchison, P. McDonough, 3 no, T. Stewart, S. McDougall, D. Martin) Motion failed.

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by P. McDonough, to table a vote on the 2015 Budget to December 8<sup>th</sup>. (5 yes, 1 no, S. McDougall). So voted.

Council Agenda item #9: Other Business

- a) Highway and Safety Committee scheduled for December 10, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.
- b) Everyone is invited to go to the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. for an early Thanksgiving meal.

Motion made by K. Murchison, seconded by P. McDonough, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting, December 8, 2014

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary