

October 16, 2014

14-23-A wksp.

A Public Forum Workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2014 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Joan L. Theriault, Philip McDonough II, Shane McDougall, and Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr.

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

Department Managers: David Ouellette, Public Works Director; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; Michael W. Gahagan, Police Chief; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Gary Marquis, Supt. of Parks & Recreation; and Penny Thompson, Tax Assessor.

Time Warner covered the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM WORKSHOP

The Public Forum Workshops are a requirement of the 2012 City Charter. This change is to allow a better understanding of the budgets and to allow discussion between the Council, Department Managers, and the Public. Other Public Forum Workshops will be held October 20th and 22nd.

From the adopted City Charter:

Expense Budget. 5.06 [a] (3) (ii) On or before November 1st: The City Manager will have each City Department Head present a written detailed Expense Budget Report to both the City Council and the City's citizens in a public forum where both the City Council and Caribou's citizens can ask questions and provide input to the City Manager and each Department Head.

Capital Expense Budget. 5.06 [b] (3) (ii) On or before November 1st: The City Manager will have each City Department Head present their written detailed Capital Expense Budget Report to both the City Council and Caribou's citizens in a public forum where both the City Council and Caribou's citizens can ask questions and provide input to the City Manager and each Department Head.

No members of the public attended.

Mayor Aiken opened the Public Forum Workshop.

City Manager Bless read his prepared 2015 Budget Message. The 2015 Budget totals \$9,079,797 which is \$382,658 higher than the 2014 Budget. The Council's goal is to flat fund with the exception of health insurance, wages, and funding of compensated absences. The Budget Message included the proposed 2015 Revenue Budget. After revenues are taken into consideration, property taxes would have to increase \$276,078, which equals a mil increase of 0.71.

Questions from the Council were answered by the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and the Department Managers for the following departments:

- 35 Police
- 39 Emergency Management
- 30 Fire
- 31 Ambulance
- 10 General Government

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- 50 Recreation
- 51 Parks
- 52 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance
- 40 Public Works
- 85 Capital Expense
- 23 Code Enforcement

Questions to be answered:

- Does the City net more revenue from air ambulance fees than it takes to operate the Caribou Airport?
- Number of 2014 employees versus of projected number of 2015 employees.
- Is the City better off having hired three new paramedics?

Council Consensus: To reduce the donation to the Caribou Area Chamber of Commerce from \$20,000 to \$15,000.

Councilor McDonough asked if the Fire and Ambulance Department could be combined. Administration would prefer to see them combined. The Mayor stated that he needs more time to think about this.

Workshop adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary