

October 20, 2014

14-23-B wksp.

A Public Forum Workshop meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 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. (6:07 p.m.).

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

Department Managers: Lisa Plourde, Housing Executive Director; Penny Thompson, Tax Assessor; and Lisa Shaw, Library Director.

Natalie De La Garza representing the Aroostook Republican and 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.

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.

Public Attending: Rep. Carol McElwee, Idella Thompson, Tiffany Stewart, Gail Hagelstein, and Stephen Farnham.

The Mayor opened the Public Forum Workshop. He noted that this is the second Workshop where Councilors and audience members can ask Department Managers questions about their proposed 2015 budgets.

The proposed 2015 Expense Budget was presented. All questions from the Council and members of the public were answered by the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and the Department Managers.

- 24 Enterprise Fund – Housing
- 96 Enterprise Fund – Section 8 FSS
- 22 Tax Assessment
- 18 Municipal Building
- 17 Health and Sanitation
- 20 General Assistance
- 25 Library

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- 60 Airport
- 61 Trailer Park
- 65 Cemeteries
- 70 Insurance & Retirement
- 75 Contributions
- 80 Unclassified
- Enterprise Fund – Economic Development

Council Consensus: To remove \$500 from Cemeteries after learning the City does not have to fund private cemeteries, such as, the Veterans Cemetery.

Stephen Farnham, Executive Director for the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, spoke in support of the Agency's request for \$7,253. If given, these monies are used towards the Agency's required local match. In 2014, the City of Caribou didn't contribute to the Agency. A local businessman stepped in and helped, thus allowing Caribou citizens to receive approximately \$650,000 in local services. Mr. Farnham answered several questions from the Council.

Rep. Carol McElwee spoke in support of funding a contribution to the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging.

Councilor Martin will not support a budget that has a mil rate increase unless it is a budget; such as, the RSU #39 Budget that is approved by the voters. In 2015, he doesn't want a mil rate increase even if the City's share of the County Budget is larger than it was in 2014.

Councilor McDonough doesn't want a mil rate increase.

Councilor McDougall doesn't want an increase but not sure that there is a way out of it.

Mayor Aiken doesn't want a mil rate increase on the City side.

Councilor Murchison doesn't want a mil rate increase, but doesn't want to see the City fall behind.

Councilor Theriault doesn't want a mil rate increase on the City side.

The scheduled October 22nd Public Forum will not be held as the review and discussion of the 2015 Budget is complete.

A Public Hearing on the 2015 Budget is scheduled for November 10, 2014.

Workshop adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary