

October 26, 2015

15-25

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2015 in Council Chambers with following members present: Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Tiffany J. Stewart and Jody R. Smith. Mayor Gary Aiken was absent and excused.

Austin Bleess, City Manager was present.

Department Managers: Penny G. Thompson, Tax Assessor and Scott Susi, Fire Chief.

Chris Bouchard, representing the Aroostook Republican covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

Mark Bouchard, 756 Main Street, lifelong resident of Caribou and former City employee and former Planning Board member. Mr. Bouchard stated that the City Council and City Manager are great stewards of his tax dollars even though he doesn't agree with all of their decisions. He offered that "Caribou is a great community with a lot to be proud of, with great schools, great hospital, the performing arts center, exceptional wellness facility with great programs for both the young and the old that are the envy of other communities. It is these things that make Caribou a great place to live." Mr. Bouchard praised City Manager Bleess and the changes that have occurred since he arrived here. As the Council is working on the budget, he hopes they look to identify and cut waste and inefficiencies before they cut programs. We must all recognize that costs go up and to accept that so we can maintain the exceptional services and programs. He asked the secession group to "give it up so the community can move along".

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 13, 2015 Special City Council Meeting
- b) October 13, 2015 City Council Meeting

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Smith, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Special City Council Meeting and October 13, 2015 Council Meeting as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) September 2015 Financials

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve Consent Agenda with business item A as presented. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Sale of Municipal Property

Vaughn Realty, Inc. and Pioneer Realty, Inc. have agreed to purchase the Albair Parking lot at the rate of \$375 per parking stall. Vaughn Realty, Inc. will purchase 21 spaces for a total cost of \$7,875 and Pioneer Realty, Inc. will purchase 42 spaces for a total cost of \$15,750. There will be a 12 foot easement for Vaughn Realty, Inc. to exit from their property to Hatch Drive.

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Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Smith, to sell the Albair Parking lot to Pioneer Realty, Inc. and Vaughan Realty, Inc. and to authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents to complete the sale. (5 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: General Assistance Ordinance Introduction

Councilor P. McDonough introduced Ordinance No. 12, 2015 Series, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17 General Assistance, Short Title: An Ordinance Amending General Assistance Guidelines.

Public Hearing scheduled for November 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Agenda Item #7: Transfer of Funds

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by P. McDonough, to authorize the move of \$220,575.50 from Fund Balance to the Compensated Absences line account number G-1-417-00. (4 yes, 1 no, T. Stewart) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Local Referendum on Downtown Mall Parking Lots

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, to authorize the addition of the advisory referendum question "Should the City of Caribou continue to own and maintain the downtown mall parking lots?" to the November 8, 2016 municipal ballot. (5 yes, 1 D. Martin) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Other Business

None.

Council changed the order of Council Agenda Items 10 and 11.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations with Teamsters Local Union 340

Time In: 6:20 p.m. Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Smith, to move to executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations with Teamsters Local Union 340. (5 yes) So voted.

In attendance: Council, Manager Bleess, and Fire Chief Susi.

Time Out: 6:32 p.m. Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by P. McDonough, to move out of executive session. (5 yes) So voted.

Motion made by S. McDougall, seconded by J. Smith, to approve the changes to the union contract. (4 yes, S. McDougall, J. Smith, J. Theriault, T. Stewart, 2 no, D. Martin, P. McDonough) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) to discuss personnel

Time In: 6:34 p.m. Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by J. Theriault, to move to executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) to discuss personnel. (5 yes) So voted.

In attendance: Council and Manager Bleess.

Time Out: 7:09 p.m. Motion made by S. McDougall, seconded by J. Smith, to move out of executive session. (5 yes) So voted.

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The Council completed the annual review of the City Manager. Deputy Mayor Martin stated the Council is very pleased with the performance of the manager and we are happy to have Mr. Bless as the manager.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting November 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting November 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary