

December 14, 2015

15-29

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015 in Council Chambers with following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Tiffany J. Stewart and Jody R. Smith.

Councilor-Elect: Timothy C. Guerrette.

Austin Bless, City Manager was present.

Department Managers: Penny G. Thompson, Tax Assessor; Michael Gahagan, Police Chief; Lisa Shaw, Library Director; Scott Susi, Fire Chief; Dave Ouellette, Public Works Director; Wanda Raymond, Finance Director; and Gary Marquis, Supt. of Parks and Recreation.

Chris Bouchard, representing the Aroostook Republican covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input

Gary Marquis, Supt. of Parks and Recreation, spoke on behalf of Vaughn Keaton and the local Boy Scout troop. Again this year, the local troop is seeking Council approval to utilize the snow dump off of Otter Street for the 2016 Winterama.

Gail Hagelstein spoke in support of adding to the Library budget the funds to hire a second full-time professional staff person. She compared the price of purchasing one book to the average homeowner's tax increase to add the second full-time professional staff person. Ms. Hagelstein read a petition in support of having the Library opened and fully staffed, which would require the addition of the second staff person. The petition has been circulated for approximately 1-1/2 weeks and has been signed by over three hundred individuals. Library Patrons are unhappy that the Library may have to be closed at times because of staffing issues.

Katie Wilcox-Bosse, Caribou Library Youth Services Director, introduced herself, spoke about her own childhood experiences at the Caribou Library, and listed the variety of responsibilities she has as Youth Services Director. Ms. Wilcox-Bosse spoke in support of the Library adding a second full-time staff person.

Lloyd Tibbs, 42 Bradley Street, has received a letter from the City concerning the many years of back taxes he owes. He stated that he is unable to pay within the time frame given and asked for an additional six to eight months beyond the May deadline.

Council Agenda Item #2: Declaration of Conflicts of Interest from the City Council regarding any agenda item.

Councilor Martin declared a conflict of interest with Council Agenda Item #9.

Council Agenda Item #3: Consider authorizing the minutes of the following meeting:

- a) November 23, 2015 Council Meeting
- b) October 19, 2015 Budget Forum
- c) October 20, 2015 Budget Forum
- d) November 30, 2015 Council Workshop

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by S. McDougall, to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2015 Council Meeting, October 19, 2015 Budget Forum, October 20, 2015 Budget Forum, and November 30, 2015 Council Workshop as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) November 2015 Financials
- b) November Library Report
- c) November Police Department Report
- d) November Fire Department Report
- e) License Approval
 - 1. Pizza Hut – Liquor License and Special Amusement
- f) Abatement of Property Tax
 - 1. Real Estate Account Number 5048 - \$51.25
 - 2. Personal Property Account Number 189 - \$102.54

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Smith, to approve Consent Agenda Items with business items A-F as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Tax Acquired Property

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by P. McDonough, to allow the former property owners to pay the three year arrears taxes by January 6, 2016 and if not then they will go to bid. The motion was amended to the last business day of January 2016 and to add to the City's Tax Acquired Policy the language 'last business day of January'. (6 yes) So voted.

Discuss about the City's Tax Acquired Policy. Both lists of tax acquired properties will go out to bid February 1, 2016.

Council Agenda Item #6: Day Care Ordinance

P. McDonough introduced Ordinance No. 1, 2016 Series, An Ordinance amending Chapter 13 Land Use Ordinances Section 760 Daycare Facilities, Short Title: An ordinance modifying the requirement for daycare facilities.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for the January 11, 2016 Council Meeting.

Council Agenda Item #7: Ambulance Contracts

2016 Contracts:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Woodland | \$13,950 |
| New Sweden | \$ 6,923 |
| Westmanland | \$ 713 |
| Stockholm | \$ 2,909 |
| Connor | \$ 5,244 |
| Perham | \$ 4,439 |
| Madawaska Lake | \$ 1,265 |

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Smith to approve the new ambulance contracts. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Fire Contracts

2016 Contracts:

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Woodland | \$60,593 |
| New Sweden | \$33,418 |
| Westmanland | \$10,722 |
| Connor | \$27,373 |

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by J. Theriault to approve the new fire contracts. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Municipal Building Remodeling

Discussion.

Motion made by S. McDougall, seconded by J. Smith, to accept the low bid with Alternate 1 of \$138,650 from JP Martin & Sons and to authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documents to execute and complete the project. (4 yes, J. Theriault, S. McDougall, J. Smith, P. McDonough, 2 no, T. Stewart, G. Aiken, 1 abstention, D. Martin) So voted.

The project will start mid-January and expected to take 90 days to complete.

Council Agenda Item #10: 2016 Budget

Councilor Martin asked about the \$3 million received back during 2015 and whether this money is available to ease the City's cash flow. Finance Director Raymond stated that those funds are invested in CDs so are unavailable for that purpose. Manager Bleess responded to Councilor Martin's question about the change to homestead exemptions. He stated that change was part of the discussion during the Assessing Department's budget powerpoint and presentation. Councilor Martin stated that this change should have been part of the budget. Homestead exemption amount comes into play when the Council is setting the mil rate. The Manager stated that there is no real way to know what the number is until it is known what qualifies for the exemption.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by D. Martin, to pay for the new furnace at the Fire Station from the TIF Fund rather than the Fire Equipment Reserve, transferring \$100,000 from Fund Balance G-1-369-03 Ambulance Reserve to be done in January 2016, and to approve the Expense Budget for the General Fund and Enterprise Funds. (4 yes, J. Smith, D. Martin, J. Theriault, G. Aiken, 3 no, S. McDougall, T. Stewart, P. McDonough) So voted.

Motion made by S. McDougall to add the Librarian into the budget.

Discussion as to whether the Council can add something to the budget now that it has been approved. At this point, the Manager would not advise adding something to the budget because under the Charter once the budget has been adopted it is not to be increased. Councilor Martin's suggestion to McDougall is if he wants to add the Librarian then he could find corresponding cuts.

Council Agenda Item #11: Other Business

- a. Vaughn Keaton addressed the Council concerning Winterama. The Katahdin Area Council likes the area and is requesting on-going approval to use the area rather than having to come back annually for Council approval. The KAC will provide the City and Cary Medical proof of liability insurance, the Recreation Department would groom the trails so they can run the dog sleds, and the Public Works Department would clear the area for camping.
Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Smith, to approve Scouts' use of the area on an on-going basis. (6 yes) So voted.
Councilor Martin stated that 61 Scouts have earned their Eagle rank under Mr. Keaton's guidance.
- b. Councilor McDonough requested the test fits for Hilltop and High School be brought to the next meeting with the architects. Manager Bleess stated that he has them and will mail them out. The new school will be on the January 11th Council agenda.
- c. Mayor Aiken thanked Councilor Tiffany Stewart for her service to the City and her name plate was presented to her.
- d. Discussion with Mr. Tibbs concerning the money that is due to the City for back taxes. Mr. Tibbs suggested he could increase his monthly payment to \$300 with interest being waived. According to the Finance Director, Mr. Tibbs would have total taxes paid in about 14-1/2 months. \$100 a month is Mr. Tibbs current payment arrangement and there have been times that he has been unable to pay even that amount. His income is around \$1,800 a month. Councilor McDonough expressed his concern that if the Council agrees to this then all the others that are behind will be in asking for the same thing.
Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by S. McDougall, to extend the time from six months to fifteen months for complete payment of taxes for Barbara Tompkins, Dwayne Theriault, Ernie Currie, Calvin Lund, Lloyd Tibbs, and Theresa Ewing, and to waive the interest and missing one payment will break the agreement. (6 yes) So voted.
Manager Bleess will see that the other five individuals are notified of this change.
- e. Some employees have expressed an interest in receiving sick and vacation bank buyouts before retirement. Paying them now would save the City money and would allow the employees to invest the money in their retirement. To do this would require an ordinance change. The Mayor stated that it should be discussed and will be added to a Council agenda.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by T. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Organizational City Council Meeting January 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting January 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Joint meeting with Caribou Economic Growth Council January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular City Council Meeting January 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary