

July 11, 2016

16-20

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2016 in Council Chambers with following members present: Mayor Gary Aiken, Deputy Mayor David Martin, Philip McDonough II, Joan L. Theriault, Shane McDougall, Jody R. Smith, and Timothy C. Guerrette.

Austin Bleess, City Manager and Jim Chandler, Assistant City Manager.

Department Manager: Penny Thompson, Tax Assessor; Gary Marquis, Supt. of Parks & Recreation; and Scott Susi, Fire Chief.

Chris Bouchard representing the Aroostook Republican and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #1: Public Input.

Tony Disy, 9 Water Street, his property became tax acquired last year. He stated he could pay \$600.00 now and that he would have it paid off by this time next year. Including 2016 taxes, Mr. Disy owes just over \$7,000 in taxes.

The City Manager stated 9 Water Street is one of the properties going out to bid in the next cycle of bids.

The Mayor suggested that Mr. Disy should put a more detailed plan together.

Councilor Theriault suggested that Mr. Disy should go get a loan. Mr. Disy stated that he doesn't want to get a loan.

Discussion.

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) June 27, 2016

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016 City Council Meeting as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

- a) June 2016 Library Report
- b) Appointment to Nylander Board
 - 1. Deborah Nichols – term ending 12/31/2018
- c) June 2016 Fire Department Report
- d) June 2016 Financials

The Mayor likes the new Fire and Ambulance report much better, but suggested that vehicle mileage and training hours be added to the report. Also he wants to have a dollar value tied to the calls that are "turned over". The Mayor asked additional questions about the June Financials, including Health & Sanitation, General Assistance, and Municipal Building Accounts and stated that "overall on the expense

report, we are looking pretty healthy". He noted that the Library report only has the current month without a comparison to previous months.

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

Council Agenda Item #5: Ordinance to sell City owned Land

6:13 p.m. Public Hearing opened.

No public input.

6:14 p.m. Public Hearing closed.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by D. Martin, to adopt Ordinance No. 9, 2016, An Ordinance regarding the Sale of Municipal Property. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Abatement of Property Taxes

Staff is recommending the abatement of taxes for five mobile homes that were located in mobile home parks that have been dismantled and removed plus the balance remaining from the sale of Map 30 Lot 162B.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by J. Theriault, abate the following property taxes:

| Account | Name | 2015 | 2014 | Total |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2060 | Dwayne Blackwell | \$98.82 | \$98.12 | \$196.94 |
| 2070 | Maggie Ventures LLC | \$168.42 | \$185.09 | \$371.51 |
| 4922 | Larry Philips | \$159.47 | \$158.33 | \$317.80 |
| 4971 | Larry Philips | \$94.33 | \$93.66 | \$187.99 |
| 540 | Lena Giggy | \$119.04 | - | \$119.04 |
| Map 30 Lot 162B | Balance after sale | | | \$100.00 |

(6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Acceptance of FEMA Grant

The grant is for \$253,334 to replace 38 SCBA units, 76 air bottles and 38 face pieces. The grant covers 95% of the costs of the equipment with the City's match being \$12,666. The City's share will come from the Fire Equipment Reserve Line which is G 1-038-01.

Discussion centered on the air bottles and whether the City should consider purchasing steel bottles as they will last longer. The Chief will do some research and will report his findings to the Council before any purchase is made.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by P. McDonough, to accept the FEMA Grant and to sign Resolution 2016-2, A Resolution accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Timber Harvesting at North Caribou Park

Supt. Marquis has met and discussed timber harvesting with a company out of Mapleton. If approved by the Council, Supt. Marquis suggested that the estimated \$10,000 revenue be used to replace the Rec Department's 1985 1-ton pickup plus have some of the tamarack trees cut, hauled to the mill, and then used as bridge decking for the ATV/Snowmobile trails. The wood would last for approximately 10 years and would save the City around \$6,500.

Discussion.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by T. Guerrette, to approve the proposal to harvest the timber, for the City to continue looking for a replacement truck through GSA, place any revenue from the timber into the Reserve Account, and to have some of the tamarack tree cut, hauled to the mill, and then used for bridge decking for the ATV/Snowmobile trails. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: Other Business

- A. Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded J. Smith, to have one non-binding referendum question as to whether to sell both the North and South Mall parking lots. (4 yes, P. McDonough, J. Theriault, T. Guerrette, J. Smith, 2 no, S. McDougall, D. Martin). So voted.
- B. Buxton Company – meet with the Council at 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2016.
- C. Councilor Martin expressed his appreciation for a lower tax bill.
- D. So far approximately 5% of the broadband surveys have been returned. The goal is 10%.
- E. Property clean up – several Councilors have received several complaints from residents regarding grass, debris, and junk autos. Assistant City Manager Chandler explained that letters have been sent to offenders and that he is in the process of preparing a report that be presented to the Council on this topic. Also Mr. Chandler has been researching to see what authority the City has regarding this. In MMA Legal's opinion, the City doesn't have the authority to clean up properties and to attach the costs to landowners' property taxes. The City does have the option to take civil action and take the landowners to court. Discussion.
- F. 9 Water Street – Tony Disy wasn't in attendance – Councilor McDonough stated that the City has a policy and if "we keep varying from the policy, what good is the policy?".
Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by D. Martin, to allow Tony Disy to pay his taxes in full by the next Council Meeting which August 8, 2016 and not to put it out to bid. (4 yes, T. Guerrette, J. Smith, D. Martin, G. Aiken, 3 no, P. McDonough, J. Theriault, S. McDougall) So voted.

Motion made by P. McDonough, seconded by T. Guerrette, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Regular City Council Meeting August 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Regular City Council Meeting September 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary