

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular meeting Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor R. Mark Goughan, David Martin, Joan Theriault, Nicole Cote, Hugh Kirkpatrick, and Thomas Ayer. Jody R. Smith was absent.

Dennis L. Marker, City Manager was present.

Department Managers and Staff: Kenneth G. Murchison (Zoning Administrator), 6:26 p.m. Christina Kane-Gibson (Events and Marketing), Michael Gahagan (Police Chief), 6:31 p.m. Scott Susi (Fire Chief), and Hope Shafer (Library Director).

Christopher Bouchard of the Aroostook Republican covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Agenda Item #3: Public Forum

- Sarah McLean, Dawn Peterson, and two others – Recovery Aroostook – spoke in support of the Council writing a letter of support establishing a recovery house on Hammond Street. Ms. McLean reported they have canvassed the Hammond Street neighborhood and informed them that a recovery house will be moving into the neighborhood.
- Bruce Hagelstein – Caribou resident – asked a question: Has a decision been made about the River Road? He spoke in support of the Police Department moving into new quarters and suggested a conversion of a building rather than building new.
- Milo Haney – Caribou resident – spoke in opposition to a new public safety building on the Birdseye's property. He requested that a public safety building project not go out to a local referendum.
- John Cook – Caribou resident – Mr. Cook stated that Councilors voted at the last public safety committee meeting. He spoke in opposition to Councilors voting. He doesn't want the vote to stand.
- Gary Nadeau, Sr. – Caribou resident – provided a letter for the Council – Mr. Nadeau was critical of the City's enforcement concerning his neighbor located at 565 Van Buren Road.
- Rep. John Deveau – Caribou resident and former law enforcement officer – commented that current conditions at the police station are disgusting.
- Wilfred Martin – 74 York Street – After attending the last public safety building meeting, he recommends putting on hold any action until there has been further study. Mr. Martin stated that the current location of the Police and Fire Departments are the best locations. He wants the project stopped now. He spoke about blight in Caribou.

Council Agenda Item #4: Minutes

a. Council Meeting Held July 22, 2019

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by T. Ayer, to approve July 22, 2019 Council Meeting minutes as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #5: Financials

a. 2019 Expense Update Report.

Caribou's City Charter requires the City Manager to provide an annual historical financial expense update on or before the 15th September. Overall expenses are projected to be \$58,000 over the budgeted amounts. The City Manager briefly reviewed his prepared report.

Council Agenda Item #6: Bid Openings, Awards, and Appointments

There weren't any bid openings, awards, and appointment.

Council Agenda Item #7: Public Hearings and Possible Action Items

There weren't any public hearings and possible action items

Council Agenda Item #8: New Business

a. Extension of Liquor License for Access 89 Bar & Grill

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the extension of liquor license for Access 89 Bar & Grill as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

b. Tax Acquired Properties Bid list for 2019

There are 15 properties on the proposed bid list and 6 properties on the condemn list.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the Bid List as of August 22, 2019 as presented and to place them out to bid. (6 yes) So voted.

c. Personnel Policy Updates Regarding Whistleblower Protections

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by N. Cote, to accept the proposed language regarding Whistleblower's Protection and to forward it to the Maine Human Rights Commission for their approval. (6 yes) So voted.

d. Support for Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry and Bread of Life Kitchen Efforts to Obtain Funding

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by J. Theriault, to authorize the City Manager to sign the proposed letter of support for the Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Bread of Life Addition as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

e. Letter of Appreciation to Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee Participants

Mayor Goughan stated that this Letter of Appreciation is only a First Read and to be added to the next Council agenda for a vote.

Council Agenda Item #9: Old Business & Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Letter of Support for Aroostook Recovery Home

Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by D. Martin, to authorize the City Manager to sign the proposed letter of support for the Recovery Home at 22 Hammond Street as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: City Manager's Report

a. Public Safety Advisory Committee Recommendation

The City Manager reviewed the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee 2018-2019 report dated September 6, 2019.

Highlights:

- A combined facility (police and fire) isn't the best option to pursue at this time
- Recommend – building a new police station that can be expanded to accommodate the Fire/EMS department on the Birdseye site.
- There was a minority opinion that wants additional consideration be given to renovating an existing building to lower project costs.

Discussion. Not as Mayor but rather as a Councilor, Mayor Goughan dreams of using a local architect and building on a slab a 6000 square foot Police Station adjacent to the Wellness Center.

At the next Council Meeting: what would it take to hire a local architect? A vote on the Committee's recommendation.

The Mayor offered four options:

1. Birdseye – Police
2. Renovating
3. A 6000 square foot building
4. Do nothing

The Mayor permitted audience members to comment on this topic.

- Wilfred Martin spoke in opposition to the Public Safety Committee and the work they have done. He questioned whether the Committee's meetings were "official meetings".

The City Manager provided and reviewed a written report (Exhibit A).

The Council was encouraged to attend the Maine Municipal Convention to be held in Bangor.

Senator Troy Jackson will be attending the next City Council meeting.

Council Agenda Item #11: Reports and Discussion by Mayor and Council Members

a. Definition of Economic Development

The Mayor tabled this topic until the next Council Meeting.

Council Agenda Item #12: Reports of Officers, Staff, Boards and Committees

The Clerk's Office will be closed Tuesday, September 10th.

The RSU #39 will have a referendum question on the November 2019 ballot.

Christina Kane-Gibson reported that there are 431 marathon signups.

Council Agenda Item #13: Executive Session (May be called to discuss matters identified under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, §405(6))

a. Economic Development and Real Estate under §405(6)(C)

i. 60 Access Highway

7:46 p.m. Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by N. Cote, to move into executive session under MRSA Title 1 §405(6)(C) to discuss economic development and real estate. (6 yes) So voted.

8:02 p.m. Returned from executive session

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by T. Ayer, to table further discussion on the 60 Access Highway building. (6 yes) So voted.

8:03 p.m. Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by D. Martin, to move into executive session under MRSA Title 1 §405(6)(D) to discuss contracts with the fire and sergeants unions. (6 yes) So voted.

8:44 p.m. Returned from executive session.

No action was taken.

8:44 p.m. Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by J. Theriault, to move into executive session under MRSA Title 1 §405(6)(E) to discuss pending litigation. (6 yes) So voted.

8:51 p.m. Returned from executive session.

No action taken.

Council Agenda Item #14: Next Meetings(s): September 23 and October 15

Council Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by D. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary

**City Manager's Report
August 15, 2019**

High Street	Site is prepped for asphalt. Waiting for State's contractor to return and place 1" overlay then the city's contractor will finish the road.
Union Negotiations.	Information will be provided to the Council during executive session at the August 19 meeting.
2020 Budget	2020 Budget worksheets have been sent to department heads. Will let the Council know when departments are ready for presentations in October.
Wage and Classification Policy.	Need to schedule a personnel committee meeting to review available information on non-union employees.
LED Conversion	There are only a few fixtures remaining to install which RL Todd will complete this week. An installation review meeting will happen with the contractor to go over the installation and identify punch items, if any. Following that, Realterm will work with Emera to complete the billing changes.
MMA Annual Convention	Highly recommend councilors attend the Thursday sessions. Need a count of who can attend so we can get you registered.
Fire/EMS Structural Study	After open request for qualifications from area firms, Sewell was selected to perform the Fire/EMS structural inspections and analysis. This will begin in a couple weeks.
60 Access Highway	This will be discussed during an executive session on the agenda.
Events and Marketing	Making final preparations for the marathon which takes place this Sunday.
Cable Franchise Renewal	Need a special work session to review the status of this with the Council.
Public Safety Building	Awaiting additional direction from the Council.
Birdseye Cleanup	Sludge removal is ongoing.
River Road	Now that the homes are down, Dubois & King is conducting additional survey work as they prepare their alignment recommendation for the city. No additional work is planned until after High Street is completed.
Title 13 ReWrite	Planning board focusing on General Plan, while staff continues Title 13 work.
Dunkin Donuts	All approvals have been received. Dunkin is hoping to be open in 3 mos.
Hilltop Senior Living	Project moving forward. Will coordinate a ribbon cutting ceremony.
Blight Cleanup	Contractors were told to move forward with asbestos removal at York Street and Liberty Ave.
Collins Pond Dam	No progress since last report. Parks department working to finalize Sincock and Teague Parks.
Sincock Park	Park is now open to the public. Many users on Sunday.
Teague Park	Will not meet the September 15 deadline. Contractor is seeking an extension from NPA
Airport	Airport Committee met on Thursday, 5 to review 2020 budget and additional fall foliage flying event. Likely the 1st or 2nd week of October.
Pellet Furnace Systems	Additional follow up calls have been made, but no action being done at this time.
Flora Dale Park	Project closed. Staff will continue to work with the business owner to coordinate use of the park.
Senior Homestead Tax Exemption Policy.	Project closed