

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular meeting Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor R. Mark Goughan, Deputy Mayor Thomas Ayer, Joan L. Theriault, Nicole L. Cote, Jody R. Smith, and Douglas C. Morrell. Hugh A. Kirkpatrick was absent and excused.

Dennis L. Marker, City Manager was present.

Department Managers and Staff: Kenneth G. Murchison (Zoning Administrator), Scott Susi (Fire Chief), and Christina Kane-Gibson (Events & Marketing Director). **Michael Gahagan (Police Chief) *corrected per vote of the Council March 9, 2020.*

Christopher Bouchard of the Aroostook Republican, YouTube, and Spectrum covered the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation / Inspirational Thought

Mayor Goughan read an invocation.

Council Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Agenda Item #4: Public Forum

- Harold Schneider – 51 Collins Street – requested STOP signs to make the intersection of Collins and Prospect a four-way STOP intersection.

This item will be added to the next Council agenda.

Council Agenda Item #5: City Council Minutes

- a. February 17, 2020 Special Meeting

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2020 Special Council meeting as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Financials – January 2020

The City Manager reviewed the January 2020 Financials and pointed out the City's Rainy Day Account labeled on the General Ledger as Resource Reserve Account. The Aroostook Waste Solutions funds and the 2019 unexpended funds have been moved to this new account for a total of \$718,750.76. From a bookkeeping standpoint, the Finance Department is unable to move to the Resource Reserve Account the additional revenues of \$156,521.

Line 600 Fund Balance is at \$2,305,113.66.

Revenues through January total \$355,362.11.

The Mayor requested a 10 to 15-minute presentation on revenues and for it to be added to an upcoming agenda.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by D. Morrell, to accept the January Financials as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Bid Openings, Awards, and Appointments

a. AnaLee Marker, Library Board

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by D. Morrell, to appoint AnaLee Marker to the Caribou Library Board of Trustees for a three year term. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: New Business & Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Reclamation of Tax Acquired property located at 374 West Presque Isle Road

Two women in the audience spoke about the tax acquired property. One woman stated that the former owners were their grandparents, and both have passed away. Currently the eldest son is living there.

Motion made by J. Smith to accept \$1,712.21 as payment in full. Discussion that the amount doesn't include the cost. Councilor Theriault stated that she is willing to waive interest, but not the cost. Councilor Smith withdrew his motion. Motion made J. Theriault, seconded by D. Morrell, to accept \$1,776.61 as payment in full (taxes and costs) and to waive interest fees for 374 West Presque Isle Road. (6 yes) So voted.

b. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Liquor License for the Caribou Country Club at 723 New Sweden Road

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by J. Theriault, to approve the renewal of a liquor license for Caribou Country Club at 723 Sweden Street as presented. (6 yes)

c. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Liquor License for the Caribou Inn & Convention Center at 19 Main Street

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by D. Morrell, to approve the renewal of a liquor license for KBS Enterprises, Inc. dba Caribou Inn & Convention Center at 198 Main Street as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

d. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Municipal Partnership with DOT for North Main Street Road Repair Estimated at \$400,000

City Manager fielded several questions from the Council.

Motion made by D. Morrell, seconded by T. Ayer, to approve the State of Maine Department of Transportation Municipal Partnership Agreement, WIN 21932.21, Regarding North Main Street Paving as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

e. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Over Weight Limit Permit for Route 1 DOT Work between Fort Fairfield Road and Cary Medical Center.

City Manager outlined the over limit permit request.

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by N. Cote, to approve MDOT's over limit permit request for Project No. 2445900 as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

f. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fire and EMS Agreements with Other Towns

Towns of Limestone and Caswell have agreed to the \$100 per person for EMS Services. The fee from the two communities is approximately \$230,000, which is more than the City collected in 2019 from all EMS Services contracts.

Town of Washburn and Wade are going to use the City of Presque Isle for EMS Services.

The City Manager assured the Council that the Fire and Ambulance will not need additional staff or assets to cover the Towns of Limestone and Caswell.

Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by T. Ayer, to approve the Ambulance Coverage Interlocal Cooperation and Fire/Ambulance Coverage Interlocal Cooperation Templates as presented and to authorize the City Manager to execute the same upon final action by the towns as long as the signed Interlocal Agreements do not require additional staff or assets. (6 yes) So voted.

g. Discussion Regarding Houlton Ambulance Billing Reconsideration

The Town of Houlton is requiring a reconsideration of Caribou's decision of not continuing to provide Houlton ambulance billing services.

Councilor Morrell suggested the Council should hold a Workshop on this topic. He wants to be assured that the City isn't subsidizing ambulance billing for other communities.

In addition to Caribou, the City provides ambulance billing for Patten and Calais. Manager Marker noted how small the number of ambulance billings is generated by Island Falls, but as of now the City hasn't agreed to provide them the service. Providing ambulance billing services for Island Falls could be added to a Workshop agenda.

The Mayor agreed with Councilor Morrell that he would like to discuss this more in a Workshop setting. A date for the Workshop wasn't set.

No action was taken.

Council Agenda Item #9: Old Business

a. Discussion Regarding City Council Priorities for 2020

One Councilor hasn't turned in his 2020 Priorities form.

Manager Marker reviewed the incomplete 2020 Priorities.

b. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Sale of 60 Access Highway Building

The City building located at 60 Access Highway has been on the market for \$200,000. The recommendation is to reduce the price. Discussion.

The Mayor stated that the Council, later in the evening, will go into executive session to discuss the lowering of the asking price and what it should be for 60 Access Highway.

Council Agenda Item #10: Reports and Discussion by Mayor and Council Members

Councilor Ayer: no reports or discussion items

Councilor Cote: no reports or discussion items

Councilor Smith: no reports or discussion items

Councilor Morrell: company vehicles and the City having a policy that company vehicles are to stay on work site rather than going home with those employees. He requested a Workshop on this topic.

Councilor Theriault: no reports or discussion items

Mayor Goughan: asked the City Manager to see what it would take to place items on the November ballot concerning any changes to the current City Charter. In the near future,

the Mayor would like to discuss this as he has a few items he would like to see changed in the City Charter. He mentioned changing the date the expense budget must be adopted from December to March. Councilor Morrell wondered if such a change could be done by Council Resolution rather than a Referendum vote.

Mayor wants to know how much it would cost to join the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce.

Regarding the River Road, Mayor Goughan expressed his feelings about the quality of work done by the engineering firm hired by the City. He doesn't feel the City received what was paid for. He wonders if the City should pursue this or not. The Mayor wants the City ready if there is another disaster on the River Road and being ready could include owning another piece of land along the river.

On March 23rd, Councilor Kirkpatrick will present a PowerPoint that he previously presented November 18, 2019. The Mayor wants the citizens of Caribou to understand his vote. He wants the facts to be heard. The Mayor extended an invitation to John and Judy Smith to attend the March 23rd meeting so there can be an open dialogue between the Smiths and the Mayor.

Council Agenda Item #11: City Manager's Report

The City Manager noted that his February 21, 2020 report was included in the Council packet.

Manager Marker will contact Dana Cassidy about a ribbon cutting date for his new business Playtime Adventures on Bennett Drive.

Brief discussion about Birdseye and coming up with a more concrete plan for redevelopment.

Council Agenda Item #12: Reports by Staff and Appointed Officials

The Clerk reminded voters that absentee ballots for the March 3 Presidential Primary are available through the end of business on Thursday, February 27th. The Clerk's Office will be closed March 3rd as the three staff members will be at the polls.

Council Agenda Item #13: Executive Session(s) (May be called to discuss matters identified under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, §405.6)

a. Collective Bargaining Negotiations with Public Works Union

7:10 p.m. Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by N. Cote, to move to executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with Public Works Union under MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(D). (6 yes) So voted.

7:44 p.m. Council returned from executive session.

No action taken.

b. Personnel Matter

7:45 p.m. Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by J. Smith, to move to executive session to discuss a personnel matter under MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(A). (6 yes) So voted.

7:47 p.m. Council returned from executive session.

No action taken.

c. 60 Access Highway

7:47 p.m. Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by J. Smith, to move to executive session to discuss a real estate matter under MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(C). (6 yes) So voted.

8:00 p.m. Council returned executive session.

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by N. Cote, to reduce the asking price for 60 Access Highway from \$200,000 to \$170,000. (6 yes) So voted.

Mayor Goughan informed the Council that he invited the local scout troop to attend the March 23rd meeting. The troop leader will run the start of the Council meeting and the troop chaplain will offer the invocation. Honorary certificates will be provided.

Council Agenda Item #14: Next Meeting(s): March 9th and 23rd

Council Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by T. Ayer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary