

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a City Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with the following members present D. Morrell, J. Smith, R. Mark Goughan, N. Cote, and J. Theriault. Absent and excused were H. Kirkpatrick and T. Ayer

Dennis L Marker, City Manager was present in Council Chambers along with Department Head K. Murchison.

The meeting was broadcasted via Spectrum, and Caribou's YouTube Channel.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation / Inspirational Thought

Mayor Goughan read an invocation.

Council Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Goughan led the Pledge of Allegiance

Council Agenda Item #4: Public Forum:

John Morrell- Caribou Resident & Custom Carwash Owner: He stated that his business has been broken in two times in the last six months. He stated that blight is affecting all neighborhoods and that we are plagued with theft/robbery. He stated that there are not enough streetlights and that the police department is understaffed.

Jim Bacon- Caribou Resident & Bacon Auto and Truck: He came in to talk about a problem with the city sewer. He stated that the main is roughly 14-foot deep because the sewer has backed up and into the basement of a rental property that he owns on Washburn Street. He would like to get a permit to install a new septic tank and leach field at the property and has been denied the permit.

Cuppy Jandreau- Caribou Resident: She came to make a few points

- Fire Hydrant cost is up 10% in the last 3 years. The City needs to look at consolidating services with the utilities district.
- An Ultralight crashed into the legion building. The pilot had no insurance. The city needs to require insurance of any aircraft taking off from its airport.
- Previous public forum a man insulted EMT services and was told by the mayor they could be on the Committee to review EMS services. Ms. Jandreau asked that she also be allowed to be on that committee.

Gary Aiken-Caribou Resident: Email was received by the clerk.

"I have 3 questions for Council tonight.

1. During my term on Council, for transparency sake, we put the complete monthly financials on the city website with line by line expenses and revenues for each dept. shown for everyone to see. I've noticed now the council only receives a summary by department and that is all that is published on the website. I would have thought that a Council who has mentioned so many times about the need to monitor the expenses in the city, would want to see the details every month to know what's going on, but apparently not. I personally want to see them, so please advise if the complete financials will be published online starting next month as they were in the past..

2. While we are looking at transparency, and we all should be, especially the city council members, would you please tell me what part of Maine Statutes {Title 1} Chapter 13 sub section 405 allows you to go into executive session to sell tax acquired property which is on tonight's agenda? This statute also states, "A motion to go into executive session must indicate the precise nature of the business of the executive session and include a citation of one or more sources of statutory or other authority that permits an executive session for that business. In addition Title One Chapter 13 405 6 C . Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein or disposition of publicly held property or economic development only if premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency. Which clearly is not an issue here? Please follow the rules.
3. Regarding Item #9 on tonight's agenda Community Improvement Program. It states "As drafted, the Community Improvement Program would be available to all businesses in the City without regard for location and would start next year" Does this mean anyone doing business out of their own home, such as accountants, would be able to get their house painted and be eligible for a grant to cover part of their cost from the city? It also states that "Applicants must be property owners or tenants with the property owner's written consent". Does this mean that if I own 10 different business locations in the city of Caribou I can have all my tenants apply for a grant for their location and reimburse them for their share, thereby improving my Real Estate holding at the taxpayer's expense? It also states in this program that "The City is authorized by the state to have a Community Improvement Grant Program using funds from Tax Increment Funds collected each year. If that is the case why is it stated at the beginning that "If the intent is to merely provide a funding opportunity for businesses outside of the TIF district that matches the façade improvement program, then the only question that needs to be addressed is the amount of funds to make available." There seems to be a contradiction there. If the TIF funds can be used for this, which I doubt, why are we implementing another program, which I think has a lot of loopholes in it? Lastly if this program is instituted, I think that it should include that sitting Council members and their immediate families are not eligible for any grants available.
4. In closing I would like to come to Council to bring up a number of issues, but I have noticed there are a number of Councilors who do not wear a mask. Do we have a policy for this or can everyone just do what they want? I realize if someone is going to speak, for clarity they might not want to wear the mask, but during public input they should be worn. You know the old saying, "If you're talking you can't be listening". If you're really interested in the opinions of the electorate during public input you should be listening.
5. Thank You for listening to my concerns."

Mayor Goughan stated that the city will look into the issues with the sewer permits.

Mayor Goughan read a letter he wrote to the EMT's

"I have a friend. I've known this friend for about 30 years. Over these 30 years I've known that my friend has strong political views and strong views on how life should be lived. My friend will usually back-up these views with educational facts on that particular issue. Oddly enough, my friend's predictions most often come true. My friend has a kind heart and if you were to become close to my friend I'm positive that you would sense this trait.

My friend has very little problem-solving technique within their demeanor. My friend enjoys the battle more than the goal trying to be achieved. My friend is odd that way. My friend's soul lost its best friend about a year ago and is in search of a reason and life. A soul that is lonely and most likely hurting. A feeling and hurting that I myself will feel if "farmer" Gloria were to leave me first.

I am going to give my friend grace and support while going thru this period of their life on earth.

On another subject, last night's meeting had three people speak during public forum. I want to say that there is a reason that professional people will say, "keep your comments short and to the point". After about 5 minutes I have developed the ability to listen to just the jest of the point or points being made. As Mayor, right or wrong, I have to admit this fact. At the end of last night's meeting, Dennis mentioned that he did not appreciate Wilfred's comment about the [EMS personnel] "groping" of his wife". I want to say that I must have heard it but it did not register in my brain. I had tuned him out 5 minutes prior. I am going to give myself an F- on this one.

I cannot be afraid "to back-up". The men of the Caribou-Fire Ambulance Department are due an apology. I have and will always admire their professional way in which they perform their jobs. Any other issues are not subject. The Mayor needs to apologies. I'm going for a walk in the woods to figure out how to do this necessary task.

Have a great evening

"farmer" Mark "

Council Agenda Item #5: City Council Minutes

a. July 15 Special Meeting Minutes Amendment

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by N. Cote to accept the July 15 Special Meeting Minutes Amendment as presented. (5 Yes) So voted.

b. July 27 Regular Council Meeting

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by D. Morrell to accept the July 27 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. (5 Yes) So voted.

c. August 10 Regular Council Meeting

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by J. Smith to accept the August 10 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented. (5 Yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Bid Award, Recognitions & Appointments

a. Tax Acquired Property Bid Award for 32 Fenderson Street

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by J. Theriault to sell the property located at 32 Fenderson street for \$4500.00 to William Gehring. (5 Yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #7: Financials _ July Financial Report

Manager Marker reviewed the July Financials report dated 08/28/2020. Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by J. Theriault to accept the July Financial Report as presented. (5 Yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #8: Public Hearing

a. Ordinance No. 4, 2020 Series – Amending Liquor License Review Procedures

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

No one from the public was present to speak to the issue.

Mayor closed the hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Manager Marker explained the changes to the ordinance allow Administration to approve routine renewals or expansion requests so businesses will not have to be delayed by agendas timeframes. New applications still would go to council and any denials would still need to go to council for discussing. Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by J. Theriault to accept Ordinance No. 4, 2020 – Amending Liquor License Review Procedures as presented. (5 Yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #9: New Business

a. Community Improvement Program

Manager Marker provided information on the new Community Improvement Program which is a program designed to mirror the façade improvement program. This is intended to provide a funding opportunity for businesses outside of the TIF district but still utilize TIF funds for the effort. Additional considerations need to be made about applicability and qualifications.

b. Sale of City owned property at 398 West Presque Isle Road

Motion made by J. Smith, seconded by N. Cote to authorize the manager to accept the minimum bid of \$4800 and convey the property with a consent agreement. (5 Yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #10: Old Business & Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Discussion and Possible Action Ordinance No. 4, 2020 Series, Amending Liquor License Review Procedures

This was completed under agenda item number 8 a.

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

J. Theriault asked if the school still will have a resource officer and is the Police Department fully staffed? Manager Marker reported that the RSU was still funding the SRO position for the school year. There remains a vacancy in the department.

D. Morrell asked the Manager to request where the 1.2 million in savings in the school budget is with the new school project. He also asked where the city was at with the 110 Washburn Street property. Manager Marker related that the previous owner had been given notice to remove personal belongings. Public Works has indicated they could tear down and haul off the building. Councilor Morrell asked what the status of the fire station was. Manager Marker responded that the process is being finalized for advertisement.

Councilor Morrell asked for an update of the Pop-Up Junk yard on Access Highway. The tenant has been served and a court date is set for 10/03/2020.

Mayor Goughan asked for a certified letter from the state agency to find out why they cannot get involved with the junk yard.

Council Agenda Item #12: City Manager's Report

Manager Marker reviewed the City Manager's Report dated September 4, 2020

Council Agenda Item #13: Reports by staff and Appointed Officials

K. Murchison: More interest in tax acquired properties from places all around the country such as Texas, Colorado and even Southern Maine. Existing properties on the list have been torn down that were on the blight list. There is also interest in marijuana businesses having retail locations.

D. Brissette: Absentee Ballots, we have well over 600 applications processed at this time. People are receiving multiple applications for absentee ballots in their homes and, you only need to fill out one

application or you can even call and we can do it for you. Wilfred Martin has withdrawn from the City Council Race.

Council Agenda Item #14: Executive Session(s)

a. Collective Bargaining §405.6.C

Motion made by D. Morrell, seconded by J. Theriault to enter executive session at 8:02 p.m. Under Collective Bargaining §405.6.C. (5 Yes) So voted.

N. Cote excused from the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Council exited executive session at 9:07 p.m.

No action taken.

Mayor Goughan related a conversation he had with another businessman from New Sweden recently. Mr. Gary Marquis's efforts to work with surrounding snow mobile clubs and his hard work were praised.

Manager Marker shared an employee suggestion for the Council to consider. Due to travel restrictions imposed with the pandemic, employees have had less freedom to take vacations. It was suggested that non-union employees be allowed to roll-over their vacation time into next year when they might better take advantage of it.

Council Agenda Item #15: Next Meeting(s)

September 15 & 21

Council Agenda Item #16: Adjournment

Motion made by D. Morrell, seconded by J. Theriault to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. (4Yes) So voted.

Danielle Brissette, Secretary