

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor R. Mark Goughan, Deputy Thomas Ayer, Joan L. Theriault, Nicole L. Cote, Hugh A. Kirkpatrick, and Douglas C. Morrell. Jody R. Smith was absent and excused.

Dennis L. Marker, City Manager was present in Council Chambers.

Department Managers and Staff: David Ouellette (Public Works Director) and Penny Thompson (Tax Assessor) via Zoom.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was closed to the public and was broadcasted via Spectrum, Caribou's YouTube Channel, and Zoom.

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

Comments were to be submitted to the City Clerk prior to 6 p.m. on the day of the meeting to be read at the meeting. Comments must include the individuals name and address.

- John Cook – Caribou resident - email read by the City Clerk – Had a question for Councilor Morrell as to whether the complaint concerning the Councilor Morrell's behavior had been resolved by meeting with the individual that complained.

Councilor Morrell stated that he had extended an invitation on or about April 8th and hasn't gotten a response.

Council Agenda Item #5: Minutes

- a. City Council Regular Meeting – March 23, 2020

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the March 23, 2020 Council minutes as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

- b. City Council Regular Meeting – April 6, 2020

Motion made by D. Morrell, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the April 6, 2020 Council minutes as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda Item #6: Finances

- a. March Financial Report

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by J. Theriault, to accept the March Financial Report as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Mayor Goughan asked to have the 2020 Expense Budget added to the next Council agenda so it can be reviewed. Discussion.

Council Agenda Item #7: New Business & Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Resolution 04-03-2020 Regarding Local Bids Preference

First Read: Manager Marker reviewed and explained three preference options the Council may consider. Discussion.

Council Agenda Item #8: Bid Awards, Appointments & Recognitions

a. Spirit of America Award Nomination

Motion made by D. Morrell, seconded by T. Ayer, to nominate Dr. JP Michaud and Scott Walton for the Spirit of America Award for the work that they have done to cut, groom, and maintain the trails at Cary Medical Center. (5 yes, 1 abstention, H. Kirkpatrick) So voted.

Dr. JP Michaud and Scott Walton were nominated by Melissa Swanberg.

Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by J. Theriault, to nominate Cuppy Johndro for the Spirit of America Award for her volunteerism. (2 yes, N. Cote, J. Theriault, 2 no, D. Morrell, Mayor Goughan, 2 abstentions, T. Ayer, H. Kirkpatrick) Motion fails.

Cuppy Johndro was nominated by Christina Kane-Gibson.

b. Four Separate Public Works Bid Awards for Sand, Paint, Culverts, & Asphalt work

Bid Results – Culverts 2020

EJ Prescott	Gardiner, Maine	\$13,068.80
Paris Farmers	South Paris, Maine	\$10,006.00

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by N. Cote, to accept the culvert bid from Paris Farmers for \$10,006.00 (6 yes) So voted.

Bid Results – Street Paint 2020

Franklin Paint	Franklin, Massachusetts	\$11,280.50
Sherwin Williams	Cleveland, Ohio	No bid
PPG Paints	Portland, Maine	\$13,377.20

Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by N. Cote, to accept the street paint bid from Franklin Paint for \$11,280.50. (5 yes, 1 no, T. Ayer) So voted.

Bid Results – Sand 2020

Soderberg Construction	Caribou, Maine	No bid
K&M Sand & Gravel	Grand Falls, New Brunswick	\$10.60/yd.
O’Neal	Limestone, Maine	No bid

Motion made by J. Theriault, seconded by H. Kirkpatrick, to accept the sand bid from K&M Sand & Gravel for \$10.60 per yd. (6 yes) So voted.

The asphalt bids weren't awarded. Discussion about chipsealing, 2019 monies that were carried over, 2020 paving/chipsealing program, and the North Main Street project.

c. Local Economic Stimulus Package

First Read: Council is considering giving \$500 gift cards to full-time and \$250 gift cards to permanent part-time employees for those that were 2019 employees and are current employees in 2020. The gift cards are to show Council appreciation to city staff for their efforts in 2019 and to infuse the local economy with a financial stimulus. The gift card must be for a Caribou business.

The Mayor noted he was going to use the power of the Mayor to add an exception and give Kalen Hill an honorary status as a full-time employee for 2019. The cost is a little less than \$40,000. The Mayor noted that before this evening all discussions on this subject had been in executive session.

The Mayor wants this added to the next Council agenda.

Council Agenda Item #9: Old Business

a. Discussion Regarding Charter Amendments to the Budget Process

Manager Marker reviewed and compared the current Charter Budget process with the previous Charter Budget process. To change the Charter would require the adoption of an ordinance by Council and then it would be placed on a ballot and voted on by Caribou voters. Discussion.

The Mayor asked to have this added to the next Council agenda.

Manager Marker requested direction from the Council regarding Council Agenda Item #7.a Local Bids Preference.

Councilors agreed the language that allows the Council to accept or reject any and all bids should remain in future bid packages.

Are you in favor of adopting a local preference policy?

Straw vote or polling of Councilors:

Councilor Kirkpatrick: No

Mayor Goughan: No

Deputy Mayor Ayer: Agreed with Mayor's comments

Councilor Cote: The City risks losing potential bidders

Councilor Theriault: Believes language about accepting and rejecting any and all bids is enough, keep it simple.

Councilor Morrell: In favor of a preference policy

Councilor Kirkpatrick noted that there is Council consensus with five members.

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

Councilor Morrell gave a Council Building Committee report. The Committee recently toured the Fire and Ambulance building. The Councilor expressed his displeasure as to how the people's assets have been maintained. Councilor Morrell requested the addition of snow plowing RFP to the next agenda.

Councilor Theriault asked for a clarification as to whether the Lion's Building would or would not be functional or cost effective as a public safety building. Manager Marker

stated that Artifex Architects has determined that it would not be functional or cost effective as a public safety building.

Mayor Goughan reviewed the actions of current and previous council members resulting in additional revenues totaling \$477,000. There needs to be discussion as to how to give this back to the Caribou taxpayers.

Deputy Mayor Ayer wants to explore reducing the mil rate by one mil.

Mayor Goughan directed the City Manager to add the topic of dropping the mil rate by one mil to the next Council agenda. Also, the Mayor mentioned the \$5,000 increase in the Homestead Exemption and wanting to give the taxpayers 100% of the increase.

Council Agenda Item #11: City Manager's Report

Manager Marker briefly reviewed his report dated March 20, 2020.

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

a. Tax Notice Form Options – City Assessor

Tax Assessor Thompson reviewed her April 14, 2020 memo to the City Manager & Caribou City Council.

The Mayor asked if something could be printed on the back of the bills. Tax Assessor Thompson stated that she will find out and report back.

The tax bills are printed in Bangor.

b. The City Clerk report

The City Clerk noted that the Primary election has been moved from June 9th to July 14th. She stated that two bonds referendums have been added to the ballot.

April 20, 2020 was Kalen Hill's 10-year anniversary with the City. Congratulations Kalen!

The date for the RSU 39 election hasn't been set.

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

a. Economic Development and Real Estate under 6.C – Charter Communication Franchise

8:30 p.m. Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by T. Ayer, to move to executive session to discuss economic development and real estate under MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(C). (6 yes) So voted.

9:39 p.m. Council returned from executive session.

9:39 p.m. Motion made by H. Kirkpatrick, seconded by T. Ayer, to move to executive session to discuss personnel matters under MRSA Title 1, §405(6)(D). (6 yes) So voted.

10:03 p.m. Council returned from executive session.

No action was taken.

Council Agenda Item #14: Next Meeting(s): May 4 & 18

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Council Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

Motion made by T. Ayer, seconded by H. Kirkpatrick, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. (6 yes) So voted.

Jayne R. Farrin, Secretary, (in Council Chambers)