

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a City Council Meeting on February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present Councilors Ayer, Boma, Morrell, Theriault, Willey and Mayor Smith. Councilor Goughan was present via Zoom.

Dennis L Marker, City Manager and Danielle Brissette, City Clerk were present.

Staff members and parties with interest in agenda items connected through electronic Zoom Meeting.

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

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation/Inspirational Thought

Reverend Tim Wilcox from Gray Memorial United Methodist Church led the invocation via Zoom.

Council Agenda Item#3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Agenda Item#4: Public Forum

John DeVeau was present via Zoom and wanted to express his concern regarding the VA Clinic bid being awarded for a location in Presque Isle and what that would mean for our community and to the Veterans in the area.

Council Agenda Item #5: Minutes

a. February 8, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Motion made by Councilor Morrell, Seconded by Councilor Boma to accept the February 8, 2021 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: T. Ayer - Yes, C. Boma - Yes, D. Morrell - Yes, R.M. Goughan - Yes J. Theriault - Yes, L. Willey - Yes, J. Smith - Yes (So voted)

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

a. Appointment of the Council Charter Review Committee Members

Mayor Smith appointed Councilor Willey, Councilor Theriault and Deputy Mayor Ayer to be on the Council Charter Review Committee. Deputy Mayor Ayer would be the Chair. Legal would be Rick Solman and Bernstein Shur.

b. Review of Bids for 142 Lower Lyndon Street

Manager Marker stated that no bids were received for 142 Lower Lyndon Street.

Council had a discussion regarding a 60-day forfeit notice to Merlin One for the removal of any items that are still on the property and what it would mean to the City once this process is complete. If a 60-day forfeit notice is sent to the previous owner of the property, then the items inside can be liquidated or used after the notice expires.

Council Agenda Item #7: Reports by Officials and Staff

a. January 2021 Financial Report

Manager Marker explained where we were in the budget process and what was needed to proceed, and the timeline as outlined by the Charter.

Carl Grant explained the January 2021 financial report.

B. Manager's Report

If any businesses are interested in looking at CBDG funds they need to get with Ken Murchison, and he can help them with the process on that. In general, a letter of intent has to be submitted to the state and they are due about the first of March depending on the funding.

Manager Marker reviewed the City Manager's Report dated February 19, 2021.

Council Agenda Item#8: Old Business

a. Discussion Regarding 2021 Budget Review

Manager Marker explained that there will be a Capital Plan Committee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. He asked for more direction from the Council about revenues and expenses compared to 2020.

Council will be holding a special Budget Workshop Meeting on Friday February 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Council Agenda Item #9: New business & Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Resolution 02-22-2021 Designating Caribou as a Second Amendment Sanctuary City

Councilor Theriault asked why the Council is considering this resolution.

Deputy Mayor Ayer explained his concern and why he believes that Caribou should be designated as a Second Amendment Sanctuary City. He acknowledged that there are places guns should not be allowed like elementary schools and metal detectors could be employed to help that, but too many laws are being proposed that are not common sense. It is to show that we follow the constitution. He stated that the resolution has been sent to a legal team and that they had overwhelming support for it. This just reaffirms the City of Caribou's ability to say we are pro Second Amendment.

Councilor Theriault expressed concern that if the legislature tightens up the laws the Sanctuary City designation won't follow the rules. Caribou would become a City that wouldn't follow the rules if we don't like them.

Councilor Morrell stated that he is in favor and he has a Second Amendment Right and he is going to keep it. He stated that he commends Fort Fairfield for doing it first.

Councilor Willey stated she agrees that we should have more protection at our schools, but she would like the opportunity to research a little more on the topic.

Councilor Boma stated that she has made some calls and would also like the opportunity to research the topic further.

Councilor Goughan stated that he is in favor of the resolution.

Resolution 02/22/2021 is being treated as a first read and will be on a future regular meeting agenda for further discussion.

b. Caribou Trailer Park Closure Assistance Package

Manager Marker explained that there are currently 13 trailers remaining in the park, 2 of which are abandoned (1 being uninhabitable), 1 is in bad condition and might be moveable, and 11 others. The Trailer Park Closure Committee is recommending that the last six months of the lease be waived so that tenants can save up some money for their relocation expenses. Additionally, \$1,000 from the city's trailer park reserve fund be offered to each trailer owner to:

- a. reimburse their trailer relocation costs or
- b. as payment for a bill of sale for their trailers, and
- c. the funds would first be applied to back rent owed if any.

Part of this is to speed up a process to keep out of the Abandonment process to keep everything moving along once the park is closed. This is being considered as a first read and will be on a future agenda.

c. First Read of Lease Agreement with SynerGen Solar for Solar Project on Ogren Dump Site

Manager Marker explained the Lease and intent of SynerGen Solar to create a 4-megawatt solar power generation facility on the City's old dump property. One of the points is the potential of if 20-40 years down the road what happens if the company is not in existence what would happen and how would it be decommissioned. They are looking at \$250,000 that would need to be put up as a cash bond or surety in favor of the City so if the plant is no longer functional the funds are available to clean up the site.

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

Councilor Theriault stated that she attended a Nylander Board meeting and that they had received a thank you letter from Felicity Dixon and she thanked the museum for everything they do in our community and how much of an impact they had on her as a child and are now being utilized for her children. There is also concern that there maybe should be a part time employee provided by the City to work along with the VISTA employee. There is also a thought that they would benefit from installing heat pumps for the building.

Councilor Morrell will have the Building Committee take a look and discuss options for the building that currently houses the Nylander museum.

Council Agenda Item #11: Executive Session(s) (May be called to discuss matters identified under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, §405.6)

- a. Real Estate Matters and Economic Development under §405.6.C.

Motion made by Councilor Willey to enter executive session to discuss Real Estate Matters and Economic Development under §405.6.C. at 7:39 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: T. Ayer - Yes, C. Boma - Yes, R.M. Goughan - No, D. Morrell - No, J. Theriault - Yes, L. Willey - Yes, J. Smith - Yes (So voted)

Councilor Morrell did not stay for executive session.

Council exited executive session at 8:04 p.m.

No action was taken.

b. Labor Negotiations with the City's Four Unions under §405.6.E

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Ayer, seconded by Councilor Willey to enter executive session to discuss Labor Negotiations with the City's Four Unions under §405.6.E at 8:05 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: T. Ayer - Yes, C. Boma - Yes, R.M. Goughan - No, D. Morrell - Absent, J. Theriault - Yes, L. Willey - Yes, J. Smith - Yes (So voted)

Council exited executive session at 8:32 p.m.

No action was taken.

c. Currently Pending Litigation Matters §405.6.E

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Ayer, seconded by Councilor Willey to enter executive session at 8:33 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: T. Ayer - Yes, C. Boma - Yes, R.M. Goughan - No, D. Morrell - Absent, J. Theriault - Yes, L. Willey - Yes, J. Smith - Yes (So voted)

Council exited executive session at 8:45 p.m.

No action was taken.

Council Agenda Item #12: Next Meeting

Budget Workshop February 26, March 8, 15, 22

Council Agenda Item #13: Adjournment

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Ayer, seconded by Councilor Willey to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: T. Ayer - Yes, C. Boma - Yes, R.M. Goughan - Yes, D. Morrell - Absent, J. Theriault - Yes, L. Willey - Yes, J. Smith - Yes (So voted)

Danielle Brissette, Secretary