

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Boma, Councilors Morrell, Morrill, Theriault and Willey. Councilor Goughan was present via Zoom.

Penny Thompson, City Manager was present at the meeting.

Department Managers Kenneth Murchison (CEO/Zoning Administrator), Carl Grant (Finance Director), Gary Marquis (Supt. Of Parks and Recreation), Chief Michael Gahagan (Police Chief), and Chief Scott Susi (Fire Chief) were present at the meeting.

Melissa Lizotte of the Aroostook Republican covered the meeting, and it was broadcasted via Spectrum and YouTube.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation / Inspirational Thought

Reverend Ron Rosser offered an invocation.

Council Agenda Item#3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Agenda Item #4: Public Forum

There were no comments made.

Council Agenda Item #5: Minutes

There were no minutes submitted for approval.

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

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

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

a. Ordinance Number 1, 2022 Series, Amend City Ordinance Chapter 2 – Administration

Open Public Hearing: 6:05 p.m.

There were no comments made by the public.

Closed Public Hearing: 6:06p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Willey to accept Ordinance Number 1, 2022 Series, Amend City Ordinance Chapter 2 – Administration and have regular part time employees be eligible to accumulate vacation based on the average number of hours worked, holiday hours, and vacation hours per week in the past year. The average of the hours is calculated at the number of years of service, effective for the 2022 calendar year, based on hours from the 2021 calendar year.

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

b. Ordinance Number 2, 2022 Series, Amend the Downtown TIF District

Open Public Hearing: 6:07 p.m.

There were no comments made by the public.

Close Public Hearing: 6:08 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Morrell, seconded by Councilor Boma to accept Ordinance Number 2, 2022 Series, Amend the Downtown TIF District as presented.

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

Council Agenda Item #8: Manager’s Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Manager’s Report dated January 21, 2022

Council Agenda Item #9: New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Broadband presentation by Pioneer Wireless

Dave Corriveau introduced Tim McAfee of Pioneer Wireless who gave a presentation of the plan for full coverage broadband for Caribou. He explained the plan to have an open network that all broadband providers would be able to light up and use. He explained that there are an estimated 5,150 access points, 2,250 which are in the Compact Zone which leaves out roughly 2,900 places. He explained that when installing the fiber most companies start in the Urban Compact Zone and never make it out to the far reaches of the towns. With the build plan they are proposing they would start at the outside and work their way in to offer the households that have not had any access to be able to receive services such as broadband and cable television.

Troy Haney, Caribou Resident, and member of The Business Investment Group (BIG) explained that with the current pandemic and remote learning many families do not have internet at their homes, and many new families are moving to the area and are not able to receive service either. He also explained that the new fiber would allow for competition to help keep the bills in check for the consumers as well.

Dave Corriveau stated that he would like to see the Council make a decision ASAP on whether BIG has their blessing or not.

b. Consider request by Lister-Knowlton VFW Auxiliary to hold an additional night of Bingo

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Theriault to approve the request for an additional night of Bingo for the Lister-Knowlton VFW Auxiliary.

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

c. First read: Allowing employees to retain 2021 unused vacation time

Manager Thompson explained there is a new Federal Holiday “Juneteenth”. She explained that this is just a first read to see if the Council would be interested in amending the City Code and Ordinance Chapter 2- Administration to add “Juneteenth” to the list of observed holidays. She explained that if it is the Council wishes she could draft the ordinance for introduction at an upcoming meeting.

e. 2022 Municipal Budget Presentations

i. Department 31: Fire & Ambulance – Fire Chief

Chief Scott Susi reviewed the proposed budget for Department 31: Fire & Ambulance

- ii. Department 35 & 39: Police & Emergency Management – Police Chief

Chief Michael Gahagan reviewed the proposed budget for Departments 35 & 39 Police & Emergency Management.

- iii. Department 40: Public Works – Public Works Director

Dave Ouellette, Public Works Director reviewed the proposed budget for Department 40: Public Works.

- iv. Departments 50, 51 & 52: Recreation, Parks, Snow Trail – Superintendent of Parks & Rec

Gary Marquis, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation reviewed the proposed budgets for Departments 50, 51 & 52: Recreation, Parks and Snowmobile Trail Maintenance

Council Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- a. Consider formal action regarding the 2021 Commitment Overlay Funds

Motion by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Mayor Smith to put the 2021 Commitment Overlay Funds \$194,790.77 into an account named Tax Relief Fund.

Mayor Smith explained this is not identifying what we are doing with the money it is just helps to make sure that we know where it is.

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

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

Councilor Morrell stated that he would like to schedule a Building Committee meeting for Thursday morning.

Councilor Morrill stated that this is not as easy as it looks, there are lots of meetings and education.

Councilor Willey stated that the Caribou Riverfront Renaissance Committee have sent letters to neighboring towns to see if they would like to join in on the endeavor.

Mayor Smith stated that he was able to attend the Public Hearing held at the CUD, and he also stated that he has heard great things about the trail conditions from several people.

Council Agenda Item #12: Next Regular Meetings: February 14 & 28

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

- a. Personnel items under §405.6.A (Union Negotiations – Caribou Professional Firefighters, IADD Local 5191

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Boma to enter Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss Personnel items under §405.6.A.

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

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Council exited Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

No action was taken.

Council Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

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

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

Danielle Brissette, Secretary