

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Monday, February 14, 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), Lisa Plourde (Housing Director), Peter Baldwin (Library Director) 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 Troy Heald of the Woodland Baptist Church offered the 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

- a. October 04, 2021 – Regular City Council meeting
- b. October 18, 2021 – Regular City Council meeting
- c. January 10, 2022 – Regular City Council meeting
- d. January 24, 2022 – Regular City Council meeting

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to approve the minutes as presented for October 04, 2021, October 18, 2021, January 10, 2022, January 24, 2022.

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 #6: Bid Openings, Awards and Appointments

- a. American Red Cross Month: 2022 Proclamation

Mayor Smith read the American Red Cross Month: 2022 Proclamation

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

There were none scheduled for discussion.

Council Agenda Item #8: Reports by Staff and Committees

- a. December 2021 Financials (Finance Director)

Carl Grant, Finance Director, reviewed the December 2021 Financial Report.

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Willey to accept the December 2021 Financials 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)

b. Taxes paid on properties acquired through automatic lien process (Finance Director)

Carl Grant, Finance Director explained that the property on the Access Highway owned by Dwayne Blackwell has been paid in full on February 1, 2022, one day late per the City tax acquired policy.

Motion made by Councilor Goughan, seconded by Councilor Morrell to accept the payment by Dwayne Blackwell and issue a quitclaim for Map 11 Lot 42-B.

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

c. Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Manager's Report dated February 11, 2022.

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

a. Discussion and possible action on Caribou Professional Firefighters, IADD Local 5191 3-yr contract

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Theriault to accept the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with Caribou Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 5191 as was presented and agreed upon as of the ratification date.

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)

b. Ordinance Number 3, 2022 Series, Amending Chapter 13 Land Use Ordinance (Home Occupation)

Mayor Smith introduced Ordinance Number 3, 2022 Series, Amending Chapter 13 Land Use Ordinance (Home Occupation)

c. Resolution to allow employees to retain up to 40 hours of 2021 unused vacation time

Mayor Smith read Resolution 02-01-2022 regarding allowing employees to bank up to 40 hours of vacation time from the previous year.

Manager Thompson explained that at the meeting January 24th they had a first read of Resolution 02-01-2022, and that it was passed in 2021 as a one-time occurrence due to the pandemic. She explained that the community and workforce are still dealing with the same issues as last year and the pandemic has stretched on longer than anyone had predicted causing some members of staff not to be able to take time off and use their earned vacation time.

The agenda item is to ask if the Council would consider allowing those employees with unused 2021 vacation time to roll up to 40 hours into 2022. All time off would still need to be approved in accordance with the policies set forth by the City of Caribou personnel policies and the best interest of the departments as not to create overtime.

Council discussed the importance of employees using their vacation time and taking time for themselves. They also explained that this is a one-time occurrence and would not look to seeing it again in the future.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to approve Resolution 02-01-2022 allowing employees to retain up to 40 hours of vacation time from 2021.

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)

d. 2022 Priorities and Goals Discussion

Manager Thompson explained that she is trying to get a feeling of what the Council would like to be the focuses for 2022. She has explained that she has learned from researching different grants that the City needs to have formal priorities and community goals that line up with the grants, making this exercise very important. From a previous conversation, Manager Thompson asked to please give a “1” to an item you feel most strongly about moving forward with in 2022 up to a maximum of five goals.

e. Letter of Intent for Aroostook County ARPA Funds

Manager Thompson explained that the deadline for submitting the Letter of Intent for Aroostook County ARPA Funds is tomorrow, Tuesday, February 15th.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to allow City Staff to submit a letter of intent on behalf of the City.

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 #10: Old Business

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

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

Mayor Smith read a letter of support that is being submitted by Manager Thompson regarding the Aroostook Band of Micmac’s economic venture to expand their fish hatchery.

Councilor Goughan asked when the broadband meeting was going to be held.

Mayor Smith stated that the Broadband meeting will be held February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

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

Council did not enter Executive Session.

Council Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Willey to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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)

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Danielle Brissette, Secretary