

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Boma, Councilors Goughan, Morrell, Morrill, Theriault and Willey.

Penny Thompson, City Manager was present at the meeting.

The meeting was broadcasted via Spectrum and YouTube.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation / Inspirational Thought

Mayor Smith read 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 by the public.

Council Agenda Item #5: Public Hearings and Possible Action Items

- a. Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant application that will be submitted on behalf of C&J Service Center for equipment upgrades and the hiring of one full-time and one part-time employee at the business

Open Public Hearing: 6:02 p.m.

Manager Thompson explained that City staff did a considerable amount of outreach to find projects for the latest round of CDBG funding. Interested individuals were directed to NMDC to get help in seeing if the project fit the program criteria. Several businesses sought help, and only one had a suitable project to bring forward – C&J Service Center. Graham Warne from NMDC is working on the application. There is no cost for the City to proceed. If the grant is approved, the City would act as the administrator.

Tonight, we are conducting a public hearing.

C&J Service Center is applying for \$50,000 to match \$50,000 of their own funds. These funds will be used to replace outdated equipment including: two shop lifts, tire machine, wheel balancer, diagnostic computer and software, ice cream cooler and cash register.

The upgrades would increase the tax revenue for the City of Caribou through the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program and will replace older low-value equipment.

Councilor Morrell congratulated C&J for growing and investing in their business.

Paul R Camping of the Grimes Road in Caribou-

Mr. Camping explained that he has been a customer of C&J's for about fourteen years. He explained he has had his automobiles repaired there and purchased gas there along with other supplies. He explained that they are a great asset to the community, and that when you find a good mechanic that can repair your vehicle for a good price you don't want to lose them. He stated that he is speaking in favor of the Community Development Block Grant, and that they are worthy of getting the additional help. He looks forward to having his next car repaired in a modern facility.

John Cook of Caribou-

Mr. Cook came to provide support to the Haney's and the grant process. He told a story about one time when they left the movies, they hit a pothole in Presque Isle blowing two tires on their car. They were able to call Haney's and get towed all the way back and were only charged \$50 for the tow. The next day they were called and had two new tires on their vehicle and could go get it. They are dependable and their prices are more than fair.

Richard Learnard of the Country Road in Caribou -

Mr. Learnard came to go on the public record that he is happy that C&J's is able to receive the grant, and to participate in the grant process.

Freeman Cote of the Grimes Mill Road in Caribou Maine –

Mr. Cote came to offer his support to C&J's Service Center. He explained that he goes there for his gas and work on his vehicles and that they always do a good job.

Milo Haney Applicant for the CDBG Block Grant

Mr. Haney explained that he has been in the business for forty-eight years, and for several years they were opened seven days a week until just recently. In the time that he has been opened he has applied for a grant one time before which made it possible for them to purchase the tanks for the gas, and without that grant they would not have been able to continue to sell gas. He extended his gratitude to Penny Thompson for the outreach and giving him the proper resources and connections to help with the grant process. He thanked everyone for supporting C&J's and the opportunity to apply for the grant.

Councilor Morrill congratulated C&J's, and stated that he had a fine-looking building, that they do an excellent job keeping up on the property, and that the store is nice. He reminded them that they should never feel afraid to come in to apply for something.

Mayor Smith explained that when he was reached by the City Manager that they planned a Special meeting to hold the public hearing as part of the process, and that if the grant is awarded the City would be the administrator.

Closed Public Hearing: 6:13 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to grant permission to the Caribou City Manager to sign the application and other necessary documents to have submitted by the deadline of June 28, 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)

Mayor Smith asked what the time frame would be to hear back regarding the application

Manager Thompson explained that she is unsure what the timeframe is but that she does not believe that it will be too long. She explained that thanks to the help from Graham Warne from Northern Maine Development Committee for following up and checking on the process, because without his assistance the timelines would not have been met for having the public hearing and preparing the proper notations for the application process because the notification that the first part of the process was complete was mailed to the wrong address.

Council Agenda Item #6: Reports and Discussion by Mayor and Council Members

Councilor Goughan asked when they will be voting on the mill rate.

Manager Thompson explained that they are planning on having a discussion regarding it on Monday at the meeting. Maine Revenue Service is currently working with TRIO which is the computer software that is used by many offices throughout the state. The assessment is not currently complete for the season due to being hired late in the season, and the contracted assessor will be present at the meeting on Monday night and doing field work on both Monday and Tuesday. TRIO is expecting to have the software fixed in mid to late July before the mil rate could be set.

Council Agenda Item #7: Next Regular Meetings:

June 27, July 25, August 22

Council Agenda Item #8: 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 #9: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Vote was unanimous.

Danielle Brissette, secretary