

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a City Council Meeting on Monday, November 28, 2022, in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Boma, Councilors Morrell, Morrill, Goughan, Theriault and Willey.

Manager Thompson was present for the meeting.

Department managers Carl Grant (Finance Director) and Gary Marquis (Superintendent of parks & Recreation) were present for the meeting.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation

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: Minutes

a. Minutes for the Regular City Council meeting on November 14, 2022

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to accept the minutes from November 14, 2022 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 #6: Bid Openings, Awards and Appointments

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

Council Agenda Item #7: Public Hearings

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

Council Agenda Item #8: Reports by Staff and Committees

a. Presentation of October Financials – Finance Director

Carl Grant (Finance Director) reviewed the October 2022 Financial report.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to accept the October 2022 Minutes 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. Caribou Community Garden – Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks & Recreation) came in to speak about the Caribou Community Garden and the benefits to the residents. Mr. Marquis explained that he has been working with Laura

Bagley. Community gardens are places where people can come together and grow. The spaces provide opportunity for people with no area for a garden to be able to have a spot to grow their own fresh produce. They are proposing a community garden at the location that was the known as the Caribou Trailer Park. They would like to set this up because there is already water and roads in the area. Ms. Bagley has a nonprofit that she uses to help projects such as this and it is called Nurtured by Nature.

Council had a brief discussion regarding the project and their optimism and the fact that school age kids can even get community service helping with the project.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Willey to allow Caribou Parks & Rec to go forward with the project of the Caribou Community Garden.

c. Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Manager's Report dated November 28, 2022.

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

a. Maine DOT Village Partnership Initiative- Jarod Farn-Guillette, Maine DOT

Jarod Farn-Guillette of Maine DOT came to explain the Village Partnership Initiative (VPI). He explained that DOT would like to assist federal funds to help people go from point A to B, and then to have them spend money when they get there. He explained the PPI which is the planning phase, the municipality has to request the process and they take a public, democratic and diplomatic approach to come up with a matrix of solutions. He explained that there are both Spot and large transformative plans, the spot improvement plan is typically in the area of \$500,000 and the Large Transformative ranges from \$5,000,000 to \$35,000,000.

Mr. Farn-Guillette explained that for every \$1 the municipality invests in the project, the state will match and will leverage \$8 federal dollars. He stated that this is a once in a generation opportunity to make the investment in transportation infrastructure.

Councilor Morrill asked how we get started and get the ball rolling.

Mr. Farn-Guillette answered to have the city manager email him to start the process and to come back to go over a scope of services. He explained that when the meeting takes place, he likes to have the City Manager, someone from Public Works, a Public Safety Official, and an elected official to be involved.

Councilor Willey asked if this is limited to something directly related to transportation?

Mr. Farn-Guillette explained that this pertains to multimodal transportation, such accessing ATV, sled, bike trails.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to allow City Manager to begin negotiations with Maine DOT regarding the VPI type concept.

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. Approval of 3-yr agreement with Teamsters Local 340 Police Sergeants

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to accept the 3-year agreement with Teamsters Local 340 Police Sergeants as presented.

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)

c. Resolution updating the Caribou Police department union retirement plan

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to approve the resolution.

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)

d. Hospital District Board

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Theriault that the three current members be suspended, and all actions taken in the last 30 days be put in abeyance until the Caribou City Council has had the opportunity to review those actions.

Councilor Theriault explained that two members on the Hospital District Board voted to give \$250,000 in donations to the CUD Broadband project. Some of the voting members will profit from the job making it a possible conflict of interest.

Councilor Morrell expressed his concern that in the bylaws they should not be able to sit on both boards, he is concerned that the signers for the loan were not as they should have been. The signatures required are the chair and the treasurer of the board.

Councilor Willey stated that to her understanding the charter was changed after Mr. Plourde was appointed.

Councilor Morrill stated that this is a controversial issue, and he believes that until there is a legal definition that no actions should be taken. He said that he supports the motion and believes that it should all be put aside for now.

Deputy Mayor Boma explained that the bylaws should not have been changed after someone is reappointed, the individual should have been removed then reappoint another member.

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 #10: Old Business

There were no items scheduled for discussion

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

Councilor Willey stated that the library has received \$1,300 for the Small Business Saturday raffle sales. The next event they will be hosting is for children to shop for their families.

Councilor Morrill stated that he is disheartened by the recent movement of money from the sewer account to the broadband account in the amount of \$200,000. He stated that if the money is in the account, he believes that it should be given back to the ratepayers and that they should have been out front about the moving of the funds. He believes that everyone should play above board and that the people should be informed.

Councilor Theriault agrees that the money from the wastewater account should not be moved to the broadband account.

Kris Doody added that Cary Medical Center stated that she wanted to make a statement before leaving the subject of the hospital. She said that she thinks we should be very proud of the largest employer in town and that they have done an excellent job over almost 100 years of existence and if there's questions, let's talk about it. She said she does not want to say that the hospital nor the district is a mess and the current situation that just happened is extremely unfortunate but that we need to be mindful of the fine work that the district and the operating board have done for many decades and the improvements, additions, to the Chan center and Veteran's Facility. She said that we need to give credit to people that have served on the boards in the past such as Ted Turnquist, Keith Drew, Dave Wakem, Norm Collins, and Doug Plourde just to name a few. They have served the Hospital community very well and she does not want that to be left unsaid.

Councilor Morrell said he agrees and is not going to say that they are not doing a good job, but when it comes to business that everyone has to follow the rules. This starts with loans and who signs for them according to the law. He continued explaining that he did not see anything in the Charter that states that anybody else can change who borrows the money.

Council Agenda Item #12: Next Regular Meetings: December 12

Council Agenda Item #13: Special joint meeting with the Planning Board on November 30, 2022, 2:00p.m.

Council Agenda Item #14: Executive Session(s) (May be called to discuss matters identified under MRSA, Title 1, §405.6)

a. 1 MRSA §405.6.C Economic Development, encouraging retention of local business

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Willey to enter executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss Economic Development

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 exited executive session at 7:56 p.m.

No action taken.

B. 1 MRSA, §405.6.A Personnel matters – City Manager Annual Review

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Mayor Smith to enter executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters under 1 MRSA, §405.6.A.

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 exited executive session at 8:02 p.m.

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to accept the manager's annual review 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 #15: Adjourn

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Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Vote was unanimous.

Danielle Brissette, Secretary