

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a City Council meeting, Monday, May 22, 2023, in the Council Chambers with the following members present; Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Boma, Councilors Bagley, Morrill, Theriault, and Willey. Councilor Goughan was absent and excused.

Manager Thompson was present for the meeting.

Department Managers Brian Lajoie (Fire Chief) Ken Murchison (CEO/Zoning Administrator), Carl Grant (Finance Director), Michael Gahagan (Police Chief) and Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks and Recreation) were present for the meeting.

Melissa Lizotte of the Aroostook Republican covered the meeting, and it was broadcasted via 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 #3: Public Forum

Mayor Smith explained that pursuant to Caribou Charter section 2.10 there shall be a timeslot of at least 15 minutes available at the beginning of each regularly scheduled meeting, for input from residents or taxpayers of Caribou. The Council will maintain a Rule of Procedure to allow the public to comment on agenda and non-agenda items at the start of each council meeting. All requests will be honored.

Procedure:

1. Individuals addressing the Council shall give their name and address and shall do so during the time period established and, in a manner, as described:

a.) Individuals addressing the Council shall give their name and address and shall limit their statements to not more than five minutes. The Council Chair, at his/her discretion, may allow more time to a speaker.

b.) Individuals wishing to appear on the Council agenda to address the council shall contact the City Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the Council meeting if they wish to appear on the agenda. This is not a requirement to address the Council during public input.

Nature of Address:

All comments need to be addressed to the Council at large and not to specific members.

Questions shall be asked of individual Council members only through the presiding officer.

Discussion will be limited to Council members and the person recognized as having the floor.

Any person making personal, inappropriate behavior while addressing the Council may be instructed to leave the meeting by presiding officer.

The Rules of procedure for addressing the Council were adopted by the City Council April 8, 2013.

Tammie Crouch, Caribou taxpayer/ business owner

“Good evening City Council Members

Forgive me in advance if I get emotional. It has been an emotional 15 weeks.

My name is Tammie Crouch, I am the matriarch of the family. I have owned a business in the City of Caribou and have been a taxpayer for the past 27 years. I reside in Woodland.

On May 6th my son and his family became the history of an EMT/First Responder alleged questionable actions. The victim of an irrational decision that placed my granddaughter and her friend in the same harm as the dog he shot.

Firing a .223-caliber weapon, capable of accuracy up to 250 yards. Firing a bullet that wobbles and corkscrews, designed to ricochet upon impact. Capable of entering an ankle and exiting a shoulder, mutilating my granddaughter’s beloved pet. Creating a traumatic experience that haunts her and will for the rest of her life. The trauma of begging, pleading and crying while her dog lays bleeding out and no one would put the pet out of his misery and pain. The trauma she has experienced has even affected the ACO of Woodland. That horrific day has changed the whole families’ lives. They cannot function in their normal lives. They do not sleep, eat or even engage in outside activities. The other family dog does not want to play or eat, just stands and watches for his brother to come home. Keeps on looking towards the woods where his brother was shot.

This man should be held to a higher standard, he should be able to make rational decisions under duress.

The Maine Department of Public Safety EMSS Rules has Statues and Rules of being an EMT ... §1 Rule #5 Acting or engaging in ways that are dangerous or injurious to the licensee (himself) or other persons ... subjects him to suspension or revocation of license.

My next concern for my family is if they, or I could be in need of emergency services at any given time at our residence or my place of business, what will be the action of this individual? Will his erratic decisions put our loved ones in jeopardy or not given the proper care and treatment, or our homes or business burn at the hands of this incapable or reckless EMT/First Responder?

Thank you for your time.”

Council Agenda Item #5: Minutes

- a. Regular City Council meeting – April 24, 2023
- b. Regular City Council meeting – May 8, 2023

Councilor Bagley suggested editing page 6 of the packet to change “BIG Final accounting” to “BIG engineering Study”. He also suggested correcting the votes on both Agenda Item #13 & 14 for Mayor Smiths votes to be reflected as yes rather than no.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to accept the minutes as amended.

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

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

a. Retirement of Ken Murchison

Manager Thompson explained that Mr. Murchison was born and raised in Caribou and is a graduate of Caribou High School. His first position in city government was in 2011 with an appointment to the Caribou Planning board. He began serving on the Caribou City Council in 2002 including serving as Mayor for Caribou’s Sesquicentennial year, 2009. By the time he had finished his Council service in 2013, he had been elected, appointed, and even elected as a write-in candidate.

In his time, Caribou built the new Wellness and Recreation Center and the Caribou Connector. Mr. Murchison has been a part of Aroostook Waste Solutions, formerly the Tri-Community Landfill, for many years and has agreed to continue his appointment to that board at the pleasure of the City Council.

In 2018, Mr. Murchison was hired by former City Manager Dennis Marker to serve as the City of Caribou Code Enforcement Officer / Zoning Administrator and staff support to the Caribou Planning Board. During these five years, the City developed the blight toolkit and has implemented several strategies to reduce blight in the community, established the Caribou Riverfront Renaissance and Age-Friendly Caribou committees, passed several amendments to chapter thirteen, and brought his GIS knowledge to Caribou and advocated for updated orthoimagery files to assist with planning and zoning.

We thank Mr. Murchison for his service to the department and wish him well as he starts his next adventure in retirement. We are having an open house on Ken’s last day, Thursday, May 25th from 2 to 4 pm here in the Caribou City Council chambers.

Mayor Smith presented Ken with a token of appreciation thanking him for his service.

Mr. Murchison stated that it has been an honor serve the city over the years in different ways. He explained that enjoyed working with people and seeing results from the different undertakings.

Council thanked Ken for his time and applauded him for his retirement.

b. Appointment of Kristina Drinkall as a Deputy City Clerk

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to appoint Kristina Drinkall as a Deputy City clerk for the ensuing year.

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

c. Appointment of Health Officer for a 3-year term – Brian Lajoie

Mayor Smith explained that in January, Scott Susi was appointed to act as the Health Officer for the City of Caribou for a 3-year term ending 12/31/2025. Mr. Susi left his city employment and so the City needs to appoint someone to fill the remainder of the appointment term.

The Fire Chief has traditionally been appointed to fill this position. Mr. Brian Lajoie has been named the new Chief of the Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department and is recommended to also be appointed as the Health Officer.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Morrill to approve Brian Lajoie as the Caribou Health Officer as required by state statute for a 3-year term ending 12/31/2025.

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

d. Appointment of members to the Nylander Museum Board of Trustees

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to accept the recommendation from the Library director for appointments to the Nylander Board.

Travis Michaud (3-year), Christina Kane-Gibson (3-year), Betheny C. Anderson (2-year), Jason Gillis (2-year), and Romeo Parent (1-year).

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

e. Discussion and possible action regarding the Caribou Development Committee

i. Member from the Caribou City Council – Daniel Bagley

ii. Member from the Planning Board – David Corriveau

iii. Member from the Caribou Economic Growth Council – Lydia Kieffer-Till

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to have a public hearing on June 26th to discuss changes to Chapter 22.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – No, C. Boma – Yes, R.M. Goughan – Absent, J. Morrill – Yes, J. Theriault – No, L. Willey – No, J. Smith – No (Motion Failed)

Motion made by Councilor Bagley, seconded by Mayor Smith to appoint Gary Marquis and Christina Kane-Gibson for 3-year terms, Troy Haney and James Nelson for 2-year terms, and Justin Staples for a 1-year term to the Caribou Development Committee.

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

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Willey to appoint Councilor Dan Bagley to the Caribou Development Committee as the Council representative.

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

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Willey to confirm the appointments of David Corriveau from Planning Board and Lydia Kieffer-Till from the Caribou Economic Development Committee as members of the Caribou Development Committee.

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

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

a. Public Hearing – Zoning Change Request Map 7 Lot 26, I-2 to R-3

Open Public Hearing: 6:26 p.m.

Ken Murchison (CEO/Zoning Administrator) explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to rezone 201 York Street from Industrial to Residential.

Deputy Mayor Boma asked if making the changes would interfere or have an impact on the trail system.

Mr. Murchison stated that it would not have any impact on the trail system.

John Lajoie, property owner of 201 York Street

Mr. Lajoie explained that they have 34 acres and would like to have the property rezoned because his son would like to build a house on the land.

Councilor Willey asked Mr. Lajoie if he was only planning on building one house on the property.

Mr. Lajoie stated that one for sure with a possibility of two.

Closed Public Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Theriault to rezone the property at 201 York Street, Map 7 Lot 26 from I-2 (Industrial) to R-3 (Rural Residential).

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

Council Agenda Item #8: Reports by Staff and Committees

a. April 2023 Financials – Finance Director

Carl Grant (Finance Director) reviewed the April 2023 Financial report.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to accept the April 2023 Finance report as presented.

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

b. Code Enforcement Officer report on dangerous buildings

Ken Murchison (CEO/Zoning Administrator) explained that there are a number of properties that need attention. He explained that the dangerous building process should be started to try to remediate the issues at the different locations.

7 Water Street: There is a hole in the ground where there once stood a building that had recently burned.

24 Park Street: is owned by a mortgage company, the company stated that they encourage the city to secure the location and send a bill.

375 Belanger Road: The location is a Tax Acquired property, there are several tires and different violations at the property, and he suggests starting the eviction process for the people that are living there.

Council suggested that seeking assistance from Legal regarding 375 Belanger Road.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Mayor Smith to set a public hearing for June 26, 2023 for the properties at 7 Water Street and 24 Park Street.

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

c. City Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Manager's Report dated May 22, 2023

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

a. Authorization of MOU with IAFF Local 5191

Councilor Bagley asked if using an MOU was the proper way to make the changes.

Councilor Willey stated that this is a legal way of making the changes.

Manager Thompson explained that it is the best way because they do not want to reopen the entire contract for negotiation.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

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

b. Authorization of MOU with Nurture by Nature (Community Garden)

Gary Marquis explained that the MOU between the City and Nurture by Nature. He explained that Nurture by Nature is going to have a small area and the rest of the area will be a community

garden area. On the area for Nurture by Nature they are going to have a gazebo and raised beds. They have been working on getting donations to get this to take place.

The recent information that has been found is that the area would require rent to be paid to the City because of FAA regulations. Fair Market rent for garden/ tillable land goes from \$75.00 to \$175 per acer.

Councilor Willey asked if building a gazebo would work with the FAA Regulations.

Mr. Marquis stated that the gazebo is not going to be a very tall structure and that it would be open aired, the trees around the area are taller than the structure would be.

Councilor Morrill asked if the area would be lit at night.

Mr. Marquis explained that they plan to clean up some of the poles, but that there will be power to the park. They are not planning on lighting the area. He explained that he is working with Public Works on the water situation.

He stated that if everything gets approved tonight that he would be able to begin working and making progress on the project and that the open house is coming up very soon on June 28th.

Laura Bagley of Nurture by Nature

Ms. Bagley explained that back in August of 2022 she reached out to share her plans for the project. She stated that it has been a collaborative effort between herself and the City and they have received a great response. Her plan with the space that she has is to help to bring the joy of interacting with nature and nature-based groups around the community. She explained that there is a practice called therapeutic horticulture in which a person uses plants and plant related activities to improve wellness. Gardening has several different benefits from physical, social, emotional, and cognitive.

She explained that regarding the comments to the MOA would be difficult to work on this with a yearly contract and that it would be more reasonable to work on a two- or three-year contract giving her the time to apply for funding and grants to help for the community garden space.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Councilor Theriault to approve the agreement with the amendments included pending more information about liability insurance.

Councilor Theriault asked if the liability insurance for the City could name Nurture by Nature as an additional insured.

Manager Thompson explained that MMA has already stated that Nurture by Nature would need to carry their own liability insurance.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Abstain, C. Boma – Yes, R.M. Goughan – Absent, J. Morrill – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, L. Willey – Yes, J. Smith – Yes (So Voted)

c. Authorization for City Manager to sign contracts related to airport apron project

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to authorize City Manager Penny Thompson to execute the needed contracts and documents for the Caribou Municipal Airport apron project.

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

d. Resolution for Northern Border Regional Commission grant application

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Theriault to approve Resolution 05-01-2023 which will authorize Caribou City Manager Penny Thompson to make and sign the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program application, and should the project be selected for funding all NBRC investment documents that bind the applicant. This resolution of the Caribou City Council formally authorizes Penny Thompson, The Caribou City Manager, to apply for, receive and spend funding on behalf of the City of Caribou.

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

e. 2023 Spirit of America nominees

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to approve the nominations of Gary Cook and Keith Brown as Spirit of America recipients from the City of Caribou for the year 2023.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Yes, C. Boma – Yes, R.M. Goughan – Absent, 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 Bagley provided an update regarding the broadband report that he has received. He stated that he has received the final accounting from Business Investment Group and he will email it to all of the Council.

He also stated that in the past there had been discussions about land bank here in Caribou. Councilor Bagley explained that he has been talking to Mr. Haney from the Business Investment Group, regarding what such a program might look brainstorming ideas about laying out a project template and continue exploring some different ideas.

Councilor Morrill extended his gratitude to the EMS workers in the community as it is National EMS week.

Councilor Willey stated that the library's annual plant sale will be held on June 10th in the Caribou Room.

Council Agenda Item #12: Next Regular Meetings: June 26, July 24

May 22, 2023

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

The council did not enter executive into session.

Council Agenda Item #14: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Theriault to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

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

Danielle Brissette, Secretary