

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a City Council meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023, with the following members present; Mayor Smith, Deputy Mayor Boma, Councilors Bagley, Goughan, Theriault and Willey. Councilor Morrill was absent and excused.

Manager Thompson was present for 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

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

Melinda Barnard, Caribou Resident

Ms. Barnard provided the following statement:

“Four years ago, I was provided with a job opportunity that would allow me to return to Caribou after living away for a decade. I received that offer the day after I delivered my youngest daughter, I was still in the hospital at that time. While I was excited about the opportunity I had one big hurdle ahead of me, securing childcare for an infant within the next 8 weeks. I immediately set to work and began calling the very short list of licensed providers who could take infants, the list quickly grew shorter as I was told there were no openings available, and waitlists were up to a yearlong. I was fortunate to find a single opening at a facility in Caribou.

At this time last week, I was sitting in a room full of parents and received the news that the facility that has had a key part in my daughter’s growth and development into an incredibly smart, caring, and joyful little human would be closing. I looked around the room as people absorbed the news, several with tears and fear in their eyes because of the impact this could potentially have on their ability to provide for their family. I will say I was one of the luckier ones in that room. Nora starts PreK at Caribou Community School this week, my dad is retired and is willing to get her off the bus, that along with my husband’s job that is primarily remote at this time, we can make it work for the time-being. We are still heartbroken by this loss for our family.

When I returned to the area I knew I wanted to play an active role in the community, making contributions that would help Caribou be a place that my children want to stay/return to. This was one of my big motivations for sitting as a member of the Riverfront Redevelopment Committee, a position that I am thrilled and honored to hold. I see economic and community development as a key piece to reversing the outmigration trend that we have seen since the closure of the base. Having adequate and affordable childcare is a critical aspect to having a

quality workforce that supports economic growth. Had I not been able to find childcare four years ago, I certainly wouldn't be standing here today.

In the Council's 2022 Priorities and Goals reviewed at your meeting on January 3rd of this year, Affordable Childcare Barriers was ranked 9th on the priority list in the economic development category. Only two of the councilors that were sitting at that time ranked it within their top 5 priorities and reviewing the budget for the next year, please do some research into municipally supported childcare programs and think about the far-reaching positive impact it could have here. I believe you would see a valuable return on investment in recruitment and retention of workforce and businesses who feel that there are supports in place that will help them to be successful. Many of the "solutions" that I have heard in the last week are reactive band aid that don't fix a larger problem and are not sustainable. It takes a village to raise a child, I hope this village will take this as a wakeup call to develop a plan and a proactive solution that supports working families in to the future. "

Jim Cyr, Caribou Resident

Mr. Cyr came in to speak about Caribou and stated that it was a child-friendly community. He stated that the library is a treasured place in the community and is concerned that there may be transients residing in the back and that there has also been graffiti on the facility making the area not fit for children.

Peter Baldwin (Library Director) explained that they have installed closed loop cameras to monitor the area.

Councilor Goughan stated that it is hard to believe that its happening and that there is someone living there.

Councilor Willey stated that Peter has been very diligent regarding the issues and the vandalism that has occurred there in the past.

Council Agenda Item #5: Minutes

- a. Regular City Council meeting – June 26, 2023
- b. Special City Council meeting – August 14, 2023

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Theriault to accept the minutes from June 26th and August 14th as presented.

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

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

- a. Appointment to the Nylander Board of Directors

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Theriault to appoint Robert Carlson to the Nylander Board of Directors with a term ending on December 31, 2023.

b. Award Contract for the QEP for the Brownfields project at the Caribou Diesel Electric Plant

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Willey to retain County Environmental Engineering, Inc. as the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) for the Caribou Diesel Electric Power Plant and Outbuildings Brownfields Cleanup project for an amount not to exceed \$82,000.

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

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

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

Council Agenda Item #8: Reports by Staff and Committees

a. Update about taxpayer feedback on market adjustments

Joe Salley (Assessors Agent) joined via Zoom and explained that most of the kickback or feedback so far is mainly questions on why the values increased. Some citizens stated that they believed that the valuation was too high and that there was a lack of advanced notice to the tax payers.

Mr. Salley stated that all land went up by 15% and all buildings went up as well.

Manager Thompson explained that there are appeal options, and that Mr. Salley would be in the area September 11th and 12th to meet with taxpayers and make recommendations to the Board of Assessors.

b. Election memo for November 7, 2023 election

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Bagley to set the start time as 8:00 a.m. and to appoint Danielle Brissette as Election Warden, Cherie Garman & Kristina Drinkall as Deputy Wardens for the November 7, 2023 election.

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

c. July 2023 Financials – Finance Director

Carl Grant (Finance Director) reviewed the July 2023 Financial Report.

Motion made by Councilor Willey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to accept the July 2023 Financial report as presented.

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

d. Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Managers report dated August 28, 2023.

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

- a. Request by Maine DOT for an overlimit permit, Project 018984.00 (Bridge Street)

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Willey to approve a Construction Overlimit Permit for Maine Department of Transportation for the Bridge Street over Caribou Stream Construction project #018984.00.

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

- b. Request to cancel the September 11, 2023 regularly scheduled City Council meeting

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Boma, seconded by Councilor Willey to cancel the September 11, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting.

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

Council Agenda Item #10: Old Business

- a. Findings and Order – 24 Park Street, Map 35 Lot 73

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Mayor Smith to approve and sign the findings and order to be delivered to the owner of 24 Park Street and will be recorded at the Southern Registry of Deeds in Houlton.

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

- b. Final Draft: Ordinance 3, 2023 Series, Charter Amendment, an Ordinance to Amend the Capital Improvement Referendum Process

Mayor Smith explained that the Council has previously voted and held a public hearing and that the charter change will be on the ballot November 7, 2023.

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

Councilor Goughan apologized regarding his frustration earlier in the meeting. He also stated that he believes that this is a historical building that should be worked on and utilized.

Council Agenda Item #12: Next Regular Meetings: September 11th and 25th

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 Willey, seconded by Deputy Mayor Boma to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

August 28, 2023

23-13 Pg. 5

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

Danielle Brissette, Secretary