

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a special City Council Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, with the following members present; Mayor Boma, Deputy Mayor Theriault, Councilors Kelley, Lovewell, Morrill, and Smith. Councilor Bagley was absent and excused.

Manager Thompson was present for the meeting.

Department Managers Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks & Recreation) and Peter Baldwin 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

Councilor Morrill read an Invocation.

Council Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Boma 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 2024 Municipal Expense, Capital, and Revenue Budgets

Mayor Boma explained that per the City Charter, Section 5.06 Budget that the budget process shall be divided into three processes: expense budget, capital expense and the income budget. She continued to explain that on or before the third Monday in March the City Council will hold a public hearing and vote on the City's final detailed expense budget for the ensuing year. Up to this point all of the department budgets have been presented and tonight there is a public hearing for the 2024 municipal budget.

Open Public Hearing: 6:03 PM

Lukas Carlson, William Carlson, Lou Willey, Brenda Bourgoine, Dana Jones (read a letter from Alex Hale), Heather Hale, Gale Hagelstein, and Mark Leuhrs all spoke in favor of the Caribou Library and explained what the library means to them, helps them with and how it impacts their lives.

Councilor Morrill Commended Peter for all his work with the library and all of the department heads for their work.

Councilor Lovewell explained that to new councilors this is a lot of information up front, that the council is doing good, and it is a lot of responsibility.

Manager Thompson explained that the packet has all of the initial requests from the departments.

Closed Public Hearing: 6:35 PM

Manager Thompson explained that the miscellaneous expenses at Public works were retention stipends.

Councilor Lovewell asked if there was a replacement plan for vehicles. Chief Gahagan stated that money is put away into capital accounts for the replacement.

Manager Thompson explained that Department 85 has a capital improvement request that they are funding for a snow hauler, and a reserve for streets.

Councilor Morrill stated that previous reserves had gotten emptied to help lower the mil rate and now the Council is trying to build back the reserves.

Manager Thompson stated that the budget reflects a 2% increase in sewer and 1.5% increase in water.

Councilor Morrill explained that it is better to have a cushion instead of rock bottom, that you have to have insurance.

Carl Grant, Finance Director explained that any funds left over from the budgeted amounts goes to lapsed appropriations, for example 2023 would help to reduce the mil rate for the 2025 budget.

Manager Thompson explained that some departments, such as the police and public works. Thanks to action by Council some of these levels have come up. She also explained the idea of cell phone stipends for officers, if possible, it would be approximately \$25 per month or \$4,500 a year. They are also looking into load bearing vests to help the officers and building a Radio reserve. For the police department they are looking at upgrading uniforms so that all the officers' uniforms match, creating detective positions, and providing training to staff.

Manager Thompson explained that some of the lines for the housing department were a little light and they needed to raise the paper, ink and fee accountant lines.

Gary Marquis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation explained that the recreation department's 5-year sprinkler test is due, which is increasing the maintenance budget and the sewer budgeted line was a little high and he was able to decrease it by \$300.

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Theriault to accept the 2024-01 Resolution approving the 2024 Municipal, Capital and expense and revenue budget as amended with the following modifications:

Police Department budget:	Increase
35-01-015-01 Cell Phone	\$4,500
85-01-229-01 Equipment Reserve	\$10,000
35-01-070-01 Clothing Allowance	\$11,250
35-01-001-01 Salaries	\$75,348.36
35-01-018-01 Health Insurance	\$29,004.44
35-01-038-01 Social Security	\$ 5,764.15
35-01-040-01 Retirement	\$ 9,945.98
TOTAL INCREASE	\$145,812.93

Recreation budget:	Increase	
50-01-031-01 Building maintenance	\$2,500	

Housing department:	Increase		New Amount
24-01-003-05 Printer Ink	\$ 300.00	to	\$ 500.00
24-01-003-07 Paper	\$ 450.00	to	\$ 700.00
24-01-003-08 Office Supplies	\$1,750.00	to	\$2,500.00
24-01-014-01 New Equipment	\$1,000.00	to	\$1,500.00
24-01-412-01 Fee Accountant	\$7,000.00	to	\$11,000.00

Library department:			New Amount
25-01-001-01 Salaries		to	\$176,425.60

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Absent, J. Kelley – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, J. Morrill – Yes, J. Smith – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, C. Boma – Yes. (So voted)

Council Agenda Item #6: New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Resolution 2024-01, Approving the 2024 Municipal Budget

Resolution 2024-01 was adopted under Agenda Item 5 A.

Council Agenda Item #7: Old Business

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

Council Agenda Item #8: Reports and discussion by Mayor and Council Members

Councilor Morrill stated that on Thursday Versant is having a public meeting at the Northeastland in Presque Isle.

Councilor Lovewell thanked the Community for their involvement.

Mayor Boma reminded that the eclipse is coming soon and there are glasses available at several city locations so that you can be ready.

Council Agenda Item #13: Next Regular Meeting: March 25 & April 22

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

Council did not enter into executive session.

Council Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Morrill, seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Absent, J. Kelley – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, J. Morrill – Yes, J. Smith – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, C. Boma – Yes. (So voted)

Danielle Brissette, Secretary