

**Council Agenda Item #1:** Roll Call/Determine Quorum

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025 with the following members present; Mayor Boma, Deputy Mayor Smith, Councilors Bagley, Kelley, Lovewell, and Theriault. Councilor Watson was absent.

Penny Thompson, City Manager, was present at the meeting.

Paula Brewer of The County covered the meeting, and it was broadcast via Spectrum and YouTube.

**Council Agenda Item #2:** Call Meeting to order

Mayor Boma called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**Council Agenda Item #3:** Invocation/Inspirational Thought

Deputy Mayor Smith read the invocation.

**Council Agenda Item #4:** Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Boma led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Council Agenda Item #5:** Declaration of any Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations made.

**Council Agenda Item #6:** Public Forum

There were no comments made by the Public.

**Council Agenda Item #7:** Bid Openings, Awards, and Appointments

- a. Recognition of Grace Jean, 2025 Maine State Girls Wrestling Champion
- b. Recognition of Caribou High School Girls Basketball team, 2025 Maine State Class C Champions
- c. Recognition of Kayla Brown, 2025 Girls Big East Coach of the Year

Mayor Boma stated that the Caribou City Council acknowledges the dedication, hard work and the positive impact that each one of our student athletes has on our community. From those who participate in Little League and the programs offered at the Caribou Parks and Recreation Department to those who play varsity sports as champion Caribou Vikings, we commend your strength and resilience. Caribou student athletes embody the spirit of teamwork, perseverance, sportsmanship and their efforts are a source of inspiration for their peers and their community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the parents and family members who play a vital role in shaping their character, values and supporting their academic and athletic

success. Working alongside your student athletes, you celebrate their victories and offer support during challenging times, you help them to balance their commitments and achieve their goals.

The Caribou City Council recognizes that coaches are more than just instructors; they are mentors, role models, and motivators who guide and support student-athletes on their journey. Their expertise, empathy, and unwavering support are instrumental in shaping not only athletes but also our future citizens. The achievements of student athletes and the dedication of coaches impact positively on our community by fostering a sense of pride, unity and sportsmanship. Their presence on and off the court creates a positive environment for everyone.

Therefore, tonight, the Caribou City Council would like to honor some special student athletes and coaches from Caribou High School. By recognizing and celebrating the achievements of student athletes and coaches, the Caribou City Council hopes to inspire future generations to pursue their dreams, embrace challenges, and contribute positively to our community.

Mayor Boma presented certificates to the student athletes and their coaches for their accomplishments.

The Council also congratulated Jamie Selfridge for being recognized as the Principal of the Year, she is the first County recipient of the award in 30 years.

**Council Agenda Item #8:** Public Hearings and Possible Action Items

a. Public Hearing on the 2025 Municipal Income, Capital, and Expense Budgets

Manager Thompson explained that

Open Public Hearing: 6:23 PM

Deputy Mayor Smith asked if the appropriation allowance from a previous meeting had already been applied into the calculation, and if the remainder from 2024 would be going to lapsed appropriations for the 2026 tax season.

Manager Thompson confirmed that the funds that were allocated have already been used in the calculations.

Councilor Lovewell stated that there have been lots of changes for the Fire Department Budget.

Brian Lajoie (Fire Chief) explained that from the suggestions that had been made items have been moved from the capital to expense budgets.

Councilor Lovewell stated that she appreciated the Capital Budget Committee for all the work that went into making the suggestions.

Deputy Mayor Smith explained that items will be purchased for the departments when the time comes, that the City will not go without.

Closed Public Hearing: 6:30 PM

**Council Agenda Item #9:** Reports by Staff and Committees

a. City Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Managers Report dated March 10, 2025.

**Council Agenda Item #10:** Unfinished Business

a. Discussion of 2025 Municipal Budget, to be voted on at the March 17, 2025, meeting

Councilor Lovewell clarified that enterprise accounts are not directly in the budget because they are fully funded by the federal government.

Lisa Plourde (Housing Director) explained that the money comes in month by month, and that everything is still looking good for the programs to continue as usual. She also explained that Department 96 has received its funding grant for the year and things are hopeful.

Deputy Mayor Smith stated that the 1.2-million-dollar increase does not include the school or the county.

Councilor Lovewell stated that she would like to start looking at properties with back taxes owed and get them moving again.

Deputy Mayor Smith stated that he disagrees, there is a backlog of blighted properties, but there is a public hearing for LD 745 that starts at 10AM tomorrow regarding the new laws.

**Council Agenda Item #12:** Reports and Discussion by Mayor and Council Members

Councilor Lovewell congratulated all the winners.

Deputy Mayor Smith said that there are more awards to come next week, and congratulated Gary Marquis for being awarded Citizen of the Year from the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce.

**Council Agenda Item #13:** Next Regular Meetings: March 17, 2025, & April 28, 2025

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

b. Executive Session for union negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA §405.6.D (Fire Department Union)

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Lovewell to enter Executive Session at 6:59 PM for union negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA §405.6.D.

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

Council exited executive session at 7:32 PM

Members of the City Council gave guidance to the City Manager but no action was taken.

a. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Mayor Boma to go into executive session at 7:33 PM pursuant to 1 MRSA §405.6.D to discuss the Fire Department Union.

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

Council exited executive session at 8:15 PM

Members of the City Council gave guidance to the City Manager but no action taken.

Members of the City Council gave guidance to the City Manager on bringing back the budget cuts equal to 10% across the board for the 2025 municipal budget to the next meeting.

**Council Agenda Item #15:** Adjournment

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Theriault to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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

Danielle Brissette, Secretary