

**Council Agenda Item #1:** Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025, with the following members present: Mayor Boma, Councilors Bagley, Kelley, Lovewell, Theriault and Watson. Deputy Mayor Smith was absent.

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

Department managers Lisa Plourde (Housing Director), Corey Saucier (Police Chief), Brian Lajoie (Fire Chief), Dave Ouellette (Director of Public Works), Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks & Recreation) and Peter Baldwin (Library Director) were present for the meeting.

Paula Brewer of The County covered the meeting, and it was streamed 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

Councilor Lovewell 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:** Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes of the October 29, 2024, regular City Council Meeting
- b. Minutes of the November 18, 2024, regular City Council Meeting
- c. Minutes of the December 16, 2024, regular City Council Meeting

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Theriault to move the slate and approve all of the minutes as presented.

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

**Council Agenda Item #8:** Bid Openings, Awards, and Appointments

a. Recognition of Caribou High School Boys Basketball team, 2025 Maine State Class B Champions.

b. Recognition of Kyle Corrigan, 2025 Boys 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.

c. Appointments to the Citizen's Airport Advisory Committee

Mayor Boma explained that the city has received applications for the Airport Advisory committee. The Citizen's Airport Advisory committee has two reappointments that need to be made. Additionally, there is one vacant seat that needs a new appointment. This is coming forward at this meeting as it was overlooked earlier this year.

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Watson to appoint Dr. John Karod, David Barbosa and Bruce Laveway each for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2027.

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

**Council Agenda Item #9:** Public Hearings and Possible Action Items

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

**Council Agenda Item #10:** Reports by staff and Committees

a. City Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the City Manager's report dated March 17, 2025.

**Council Agenda Item #11:** Unfinished Business

a. Discussion and possible vote on the 2025 Municipal Budget

Dave Ouellette (Public Works Director) reviewed the possible budget cuts for the Public Works department, and the potential impact that it would have on the city. He also explained the cold patch process that is being used to fill holes currently and why it doesn't always hold, because of water getting under the patch, freezing and pushing it up.

Councilor Theriault stated that previously the Council had decided to stop kicking the can, and if the cuts happen it will be worse in the future, and that the city needs to keep up on the infrastructure.

Corey Saucier (Police Chief) reviewed the possible cuts to the police department budget, which would include cuts to the training budget for the officers, but he did not want to cut the budget for K-9 Officer Ace's training that he has twice a month through the state.

Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks & Recreation) stated that from Department 50 he could reduce the heating cost by approximately \$4,000 and reviewed other potential cuts as well.

Brian Lajoie (Fire Chief) explained the potential cuts to his department including up to \$10,000 between heating fuel and diesel fuel, cutting the employee physical line and moving monies from Capital to expense budgets.

Councilor Watson explained that looking at rental/leasing the ambulances or fire trucks may be an option to explore.

Councilor Lovewell stated that there were several items that were redundant or duplicates in the Fire Department budget and that it should be looked at again, moving money is not a reduction in the budget. She also explained that she would like to see the \$165,000 stay in the street reserves budget in case of any issues needing major repairs, that the K-9 officer needs to be funded and to keep the janitorial services for the facilities.

Councilor Watson said we still have time to review this later also.

Councilor Bagley explained that he would like to see the budget preserved and funded at the 2024 actual levels

Mayor Boma stated that the council could set the budget with what had been previously presented and that cuts could still happen later.

Motion made by Councilor Theriault, seconded by Councilor Kelley to approve the 2025 budgets as previously presented.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – No, J. Kelley – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma – Yes (So voted)

**Council Agenda Item #13:** Reports and Discussion by Mayor and Council Members

Councilor Watson stated that he believes that maybe we should do away with janitorial services and hire someone to share for cleaning and handyman types of services.

Councilor Kelley stated that she was glad that the budget is closer to being done and congratulated the boys basketball team for their win.

Councilor Bagley stated that the Planning board has been working with ACAP regarding their plan to convert the childcare center into apartments.

Mayor Boma explained that one upcoming focus will be blight removal, and that the Mill Pond Project will begin construction in 2026.

Dave Ouellette (Public Works Director) explained that he is working with the DOT regarding the intersection from Bennett Drive on to High Street because the infrastructure in the ground has failed and the basin has collapsed. He has had conversations with Bob Watson of region 5 and the project will be approximately a quarter of a million dollars.

**Council Agenda Item #14:** Next Regular Meetings: April 28, 2025

**Council Agenda Item #15:** Executive Session(s) (May be called to discuss matters identified under 1 MRSA, Title 1, §405.6)

a. Executive Session for economic development pursuant to MRSA §405.6.C (Real Estate)

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Theriault to enter into executive session at 7:46 PM to discuss economic development pursuant to MRSA §405.6.C

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – No, J. Kelley – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma – Yes (So voted)

Council exited executive session at 8:17 PM.

**Council Agenda Item #16:** Adjournment

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Lovewell to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – No, J. Kelley – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, J. Theriault – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma – Yes (So voted)

Danielle Brissette, Secretary