

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025 in the Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Boma, Deputy Mayor Smith, Councilors Lovewell, Theriault and Watson. Councilor Kelley was present via Zoom. Councilor Bagley was absent from the meeting.

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

Mayor Boma read the rules for addressing the City Council.

Bruce Hagelstein, Caribou Resident

Mr. Hagelstein came in concerning last month's meeting about the budget. He stated that the department heads should have their feet held to the fire because they were given a letter asking to cut their budgets by 10%, and he is disappointed that it did not happen. He extended an offer to go through the budget and perform the 10% cuts for each department.

Michelle Blackstone, Caribou Resident

Ms. Blackstone came in tonight to express her frustration regarding the lack of response to the flood on Grimes Rd. She stated that several tax paying residents were stranded for 3 days surrounded by high flood waters and that her 78-year-old father was included. The unfortunate event happened over a weekend, and timing was poor, but emergencies don't always happen Monday to Friday. Ms. Blackstone explained that nobody reached out to make her father aware of the sudden rise in the flood levels, or to check if he needed anything. She explained that postings were plastered on Social media, but that her father does not have Facebook or any similar mediums. Ms. Blackstone continued that a simple phone call to her father to make him aware of the situation. Ms. Blackstone stated that on Saturday evening she learned from AKEMA that they needed to be contacted by the City manager to engage any type of Action. She explained that her hope going forward, is a clear chain of command and accountability will be developed so that the situation isn't handled in the same way again.

Alexsea Cholewa, Caribou Resident

Ms. Cholewa came in to explain that there have been several failed businesses over the years, and that Richardson's is more than just a place for Cannabis. She explained that they give back to the community, they make donations to different events such as the Mud Bowl and by hosting a fireworks show over the Forth of July.

Scott Walker, Caribou Resident

Mr. Walker came in because he would like a tax abatement on his property and has been asking since 2021. He explained that he believed that he would have been in executive session to discuss the abatement.

Manager Thompson explained that he would need to complete his application for the abatement before it would be discussed in Executive session. She also informed him that the next board of Assessors Meeting would be on May 7, 2025.

Jim Cyr, Caribou Resident

Mr. Cyr came in regarding his concern for cannabis sales. He explained that he believes that he appreciates the businesses in Caribou, but that there should be limited access to cannabis. He explained that there have been decades of results and that the city should stand strong.

Jennifer Belcher, President of Cannabis Union

Ms. Belcher came in to speak about the medical cannabis ordinance. She explained that the state law language has changed, and she would like to assist the City with bringing their ordinance up to date to allow current shops to continue to operate. The proposed ordinance would allow Cannabis caregiver shops that were operating prior to 2018 permission to continue to operate. She explained that they are not asking for a change just for the city to follow along with the state law.

Rona Hart, Caribou Resident

Ms. Hart came in to speak in support of Richardsons Remedies and a proposed ordinance change. She explained that Richardsons is not just a place to go because you want it. She explained that she was hooked on other medications and with their help she was able to get away from those and get back parts of her life that she had lost. She explained the personalized care and how they would listen and even call her to check up on her to see how she was doing. She said using their remedies helped to calm things down.

Lisa Groff, Caribou Resident

Ms. Groff explained that she is a cancer survivor and that she has used medical marijuana as part of her treatments. She explained that the treatments are helpful to people in need.

James Bacon, Caribou taxpayer

Mr. Bacon explained he is an adult use cultivator. He would like to use his shop on Washburn Street in Caribou to be able to cultivate cannabis rather than renting other locations when he has one that he could use.

Derrell Richardson, Caribou Resident

Mr. Richardson came in and stated that he needs permission to continue to run as in the past. He stated that the location would be strictly medical and that he would like to have the City's support.

Sandra Hill, Treasurer of the Maine Cannabis Union

Ms. Hill came to offer her support and background experience with medicinal cannabis. She explained that she has worked in the medical profession for many years and that cannabis has helped many people.

Council Agenda Item #7: Minutes

- a. January 2, 2025, City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes
- b. January 13, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. January 27, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- d. February 24, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- e. March 10, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- f. March 17, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to move the slate and accept all of the City Council minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: 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. Civil Air Patrol

Deputy Mayor Smith explained that on April 23rd City Manager Penny Thompson was pleased to be able to attend a ceremony held at the VFW in Caribou which honored four Civil Air Patrol members who received the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell award to commemorate their completion of Phase II of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. This award recognizes sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character.

At the ceremony last week, the cadets were joined by Colonel Mark Hyland, the Wing Commander. They received sentiments from Maine Governor Janet Mills, both houses of the

Maine Legislature, U S Representatives Jared Golden and Chellie Pingree, and United States Senators Angus King and Susan Collins.

This evening the Caribou City Council would like to commend the Cadets Abigail Mierzwa, Gloria Dionne, Ian Lister, and Reece Lister on their achievements.

Mayor Boma presented the cadets with certificates congratulating them on their achievements.

b. Recognition of CCS Show Choir – Gold Recipients

Deputy Mayor Smith explained that Caribou Citizens have a lifelong interest in all aspects of music. A love of music is often instilled through our Caribou School department with programs like band, strings, and choir. From an early age, young people sing in their church choir and start dance lessons at the Maine Dance Academy. Over the years, several national acts have played at the Caribou Performing Arts Center and on Thursdays on Sweden Street, the local bands play to an enthusiastic crowd. It is safe to say that performing is a passion shared by many in our community.

The Caribou City Council is pleased to welcome members of the Caribou Community School Show Choir to be recognized for their dedication to this vibrant music program that combines singing with choreographed dancing. Your success continues the long-standing tradition of Show Choir and Jazz Choir in the Caribou School System, thanks to talented and devoted program staff. Students and advisers, your commitment to learning the songs and dance routines and hours of practice paid off with a “Gold” at the state level competition.

It is also an acknowledgement of the parents who devote a significant amount of effort into promoting their child’s participation in musical theater. From providing rides and snacks for practice to sewing costumes and listening to the same songs hundreds of times to cheering on the performances downstate, it’s the parents who provide love and encouragement for this high level of creativity and self-expression.

In addition to team Gold, the CCS show Choir won the Choreography Award, and several musicianship awards came home to Caribou for Bailey Cochran, Bella Belyea, and Benson Belanger.

Mayor Boma presented the students and staff members of the CCS Show Choir with certificates.

Sadie Hunter

Michaela Rhinebolt

Emma Graves

Morgan Lahey

Mallory Maynard

Meredith Lahey

Katelyn Stedman

Izzy Goodwin

Isabella Albert

Benson Belanger*

Marleia Stevens	Isabella Belyea*
Brooklyn Boutot	Quinn Gervais
Bailey Cochran*	Alexa Guyette
Hailey Johnson	Sophia Beaulieu
Georgianna Anderson	Camilla Boma
Evan Hamilton	Jorja Raymond
Elizabeth Powers	Ava Rosser
Jack Gibson	Adilynn Powers
Kaydence Mauny	Paityn Wing
Lexie Ouellette	Emma Adams
Nevaeh Anderson	

Amy Hunter, CCS Show Choir Director

Amy Stedman, CCS Show Choir Assistant

* Asterisk denotes that this student also received a musicianship award at the state competition.

c. Recognition of CHS Jazz Choir – Gold Recipients

Deputy Mayor Smith explained that the Caribou City Council is pleased to welcome members of the Caribou High School Jazz Choir to be recognized for their dedication to elevating their musical performance and interpretation skills. Students and advisors, your perfect harmony and hours of practice paid off with a “Gold” at the state level competition for the Jazz Choir.

A signature feature of the Jazz Choir is the rhythm section, so we also give our thanks to: Rebekkah Willey, Jennifer Holmes and Kjetil Rossignol for the part they played in the success of these students.

Sincere appreciation goes to the parents and other family members of these talented student performers. It has been said that the community is a strong supporter of the musical arts in the Caribou Schools, from donating set supplies to food to travelling to cheer on the choirs during their competitions. The value of this support cannot go unrecognized

In addition to earning a team Gold at the state competition, the CHS Jazz Choir won several musicianship awards for Aydin St. Pierre, Heather Gustin, Madison Thibault, and Sadielee Violette.

Mayor Boma presented the students and staff of the CHS Jazz Choir with certificates.

Chloe Boma	Madison Thibault*
Aydin St. Pierre*	Kaytlin Crouse
Heather Gustin*	Kassidy Saucier
Maggie Bell	Emmett Singer
Dean Gibson	Jadyn Holmes
Madelyn Cote	Amy Hunter, CHS Jazz Chori Director
Charlotte Plourde	Amy Stedman, CHS Jazz Choir Assistant
Trevor LaPlante	
Elizabeth Robbins	
Sadielee Violette*	

* Asterisk denotes that this student also received a musicianship award at the state competition.

d. Public Works' materials results of bid openings

Councilor Boma explained that the Public Works department solicited bids for materials that have been budgeted for use in 2025.

Dave Ouellette, Public Works Director presented the Council with the bid results and was available to answer questions regarding the results and prior experience with products.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to accept the following bids:

Culverts 2025	Paris Farmers	South Paris, ME	\$17,158.00
Street Paint 2025	Haney's Building Supply	Caribou, ME	\$12,584.30
Shim & Patch 2025	Northeast Paving	Presque Isle, ME	\$81.00
Country Paving 2025	Northeast Paving	Presque Isle, ME	\$91.40
In Town Paving	Trombley Industries	Limestone, ME	\$97.65
Sand 2025	JBBC Sand	Fort Kent, ME	\$16.45

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

e. Appointments to fill open board/committee positions

Mayor Boma explained that there are two appointments to be made to citizen committees, one on the Caribou Riverfront Redevelopment Committee and one on the Citizen's Airport Advisory committee. These will fill positions that are currently vacant due to the resignation of Andrea Flannery.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to appoint Ken Murchison to the Caribou Riverfront Redevelopment Committee and Shane McDougall to the Airport Advisory Committee, each for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025.

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

f. Unsolicited bids on tax-acquired properties received

Mayor Boma explained that there have been discussions since the Tyler vs. Hennepin County Supreme Court decision about the properties that have been tax-acquired by the City of Caribou prior to that decision. After that decision, the City has been waiving foreclosure on tax-acquired properties.

The City has continued to receive interest in the properties currently held. Graydon Mahoney has expressed interest in 15 Nancy Street because he owns a neighboring property. Additionally, the Northern Financial Home Mortgage Corporation has offered to purchase several properties which are listed on the following page.

Unfortunately, the State has dictated a process to sell properties that have been acquired through the automatic lien foreclosure process. Since the City of Caribou has not gone through this process on these properties, they cannot be sold at this time.

Deputy Mayor Smith stated that the City should come up with a plan to deal with our tax acquired property situation and possibly put out an RFQ for realtors.

Manager Thompson explained that there would be several different steps to the process including brokers, and appraisals.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to reject the unsolicited bids on the tax acquired properties.

Roll Call Vote: 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

a. No public Hearings at this meeting

Council Agenda Item #10: Reports by Staff and Committees

a. February and March Financial Reports – Finance Director

Carl Grant (Finance Director) reviewed the February Financial report for the City of Caribou.

Deputy Mayor Smith asked about accounts such as Tax Acquired tax account balances and mobile home park balances and if the money could potentially be moved and the accounts closed.

Mr. Grant explained that it is something that could be done.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to accept the February Financial report as presented.

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

Mr. Grant reviewed the March Financial report for the City of Caribou.

Councilor Watson explained that regarding the comments made earlier regarding the budget, there is still time, they are not pretending that there are no cuts available but are planning to look at it more in the future.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Lovewell to accept the march Financial Report as presented.

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

b. Committee Reports: Airport and Police Station

Mayor Boma explained that there has been a City Council Public Safety Building Committee that met on Thursday April 24 to finalize decisions relating to the RFP for the Police Station project. The project officially goes out for bid today. It will be advertised in various places and sent to contractors who have expressed interest in the project.

Some significant dates are:

Option pre-bid meeting: May 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm in person and via zoom

Bid Opening: June 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm in person and via zoom

Information will be available on the City's website.

Councilor Bagley is absent from the meeting but details regarding the airport meeting can be found on page 114 of the City Council Packet.

c. City Manager's Report

Manager Thompson reviewed the Grant Project updates for April of 2025 and the City Manager's report dated April 28, 2025.

Manager Thompson also thanked Jan Murchison, Christina Kane-Gibson and Mayor Courtney Boma for their continued support and work on the projects.

Councilor Watson stated that he would like to see the teachers and county workers tighten their belts like the rest of us with their budgets.

Council Agenda Item #11: Unfinished Business

- a. No unfinished business this meeting

Council Agenda Item #12: New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. June 10, 2025, RSU #39 Budget Validation Election Motions

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to set the start time as 8:00 AM, appoint Danielle Brissette as Election Warden, Kristina Drinkall, and Amber Madore as Deputy Wardens for the June 10, 2025 Election.

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

- b. Community Resilience Partnership Resolution

Mayor Boma explained that in 2021, the City of Caribou, along with the towns of Washburn and Ft. Fairfield, participated in a pilot program for the Community Resilience Partnership, an initiative of the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. During the process, many community stakeholders participated in a series of zoom meetings facilitated by the GOPIF and the Nature Conservancy. At the end, the City received a grant to try the TextMyGov community notification messaging service and the Caribou Fire Department was able to upgrade their emergency response system to “I am Responding”.

Something that came out of the pilot program was that communities could enroll in the partnership and become eligible for Community Action Grants to undertake additional planning efforts or to implement the priorities identified with the Community Resilience Self-Evaluation. This was a step that the City of Caribou did not complete. The City of Caribou is hoping to take advantage of grant opportunities in the future, so a resolution needs to be adopted.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilor Watson to adopt Resolution #2, 2025 Series, A Resolution of the Caribou City Council to enroll in the State of Maine Community Resilience Partnership.

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

- c. Date Change for the City Council May Regular Meeting

Mayor Boma explained that the District Budget Meeting for RSU#39 will be on Wednesday May 21 and the referendum vote on June 10, 2025. Since the City Council is required to countersign the warrant for election passed at the District Budget Meeting, the City Council meeting should be changed from May 19 to May 27 (Monday May 26 is Memorial Day).

Motion made by Councilor Watson to change the date of the May 2025 City Council meeting from Monday May 19, 2025 to Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: 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 Theriault extended her gratitude to Jan Murchison for all of her assistance regarding the work for the new Police Station.

Deputy Mayor Smith stated that he would like to see the City change to a fiscal year rather than calendar year, and reminded everyone of the Circus for the upcoming weekend.

Council Agenda Item #14: Next Regular Meetings: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Council Agenda Item #15: 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 #16: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Theriault to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM

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

Danielle Brissette, Secretary