

Council Agenda Item #1: Roll Call

The Caribou City Council held a regular City Council meeting on Monday, June 29, 2026, in the Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Boma, Councilors Bagley, Knight Phair, Lovewell and Watson. Deputy Mayor Smith and Councilor Kelley were absent.

Department Managers Brian Lajoie (Fire Chief), Corey Saucier (Police Chief), Carl Grant (Finance Director), Gary Marquis (Superintendent of Parks and Recreation), Peter Baldwin (Library Director), Chris Perkins (Public Works Director), and Eric Sanderson (Economic & Community Development Specialist) were present at the meeting.

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

The meeting was covered by Cameron Levasseur of “The County” and broadcast via Spectrum and YouTube.

Council Agenda Item #2: Invocation/Inspirational Thought

Councilor Watson read the invocation.

Council Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Boma led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Agenda Item #4: Declaration of any Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Council Agenda Item #5: Public Forum

Gail Hagelstein, Caribou Resident

Ms. Hagelstein came in to speak about the budget considerations and thanked the City and Staff for all of their work and dedication to the municipal budget. She explained that she understands the increases to the budgets that effect the mil rate for the City and that she wanted to stress the importance of not cutting the budget.

Council Agenda Item #6: Minutes

a. Minutes of the April 13, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Lovewell to accept the minutes from the April 13, 2026, meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Yes, L. Knight Phair – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma– Yes (So voted)

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

a. RSU #39 Student Recognitions – CCS and CHS Show Choirs

Mayor Boma 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 and Caribou High 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.

Mayor Boma presented certificates to the students in Show Choir.

CHS:

Bella Albert
Chloe Boma
Emma Coty
Kaytlin Crouse
Heather Gustin
Morgan Lahey
Meredith Lahey
Ava Powers
Isabella Robbins
Annabelle Smith
Katelyn Stedman
Madison Thibault
Gretchen Towle
Jane Towle
Sadielee Violette
Mitchell Hewitt
Brooklyn Boutot

Emma Graves
Jadyn Holmes
Elyza Landeen
Abigail Mierzwa
Mallory Maynard
Charlotte Plourde
Kassidy Porter
Elizabeth Robbins
Dean Gibson
Aubrey Plante
Michaela Rhinebolt
Emmett Singer
Maggie Bell
Trevor LaPlante
Jasmine York
Sadie Hunter

Amy Hunter – Director

Rebekkah Willey – Assistant Director

CCS:

Evan Hamilton

Hailey Johnson

Amelia Cook

Aiva Elliott

Bailey Cochran

Hudson Codrey

Addy Elliott

Camilla Boma

Ava Adams

Winnie Stedt

Emma Sandstrom

Addy Ginish

Emma Goodwin

Jilly Langworthy

Giselle Raymond

Addy Nadeau

Addy Powers

Emma Adams

Marigan Maynard

Sophie Morrow

Araya Mojica

Delilah Anderson

Bella Adams

Ella Dillon

Lexie Ouellette

Evelyn Irving

Clark Sheridan

Jorja Raymond

Ava Rosser

Bella Belyea

Zoey Baker

Georgianna Anderson

Brooklyn Boutot

Alexa Guyette

Quinn Gervais

Amy Hunter – Director

Amy Stedman – Assistant Director

The Council congratulated the Students for their achievements, hard work and dedication.

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

There were no items scheduled for discussion under this topic.

Council Agenda Item #9: Reports by Staff and Committees

a. May 2026 Financial Reports – Finance/HR Director Carl Grant

Carl Grant (Finance & HR Director) reviewed the May 2026 Financial report for the City of Caribou.

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Knight Phair to accept the May 2026 financial report as presented.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Yes, L. Knight Phair – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma– Yes (So voted)

b. City Manager's Report

Manager Thompson presented the City Manager's report dated June 29, 2026.

Council Agenda Item #10: Unfinished Business

a. 2026 Municipal Budget

Council had a discussion regarding taking a separate vote for the Capital budget from the other budgets. They also discussed plans for the Police department vehicles, and scheduled projects. The Council discussed leasing vs purchasing vehicles for the departments in need and the availability to purchase vehicles that are ready and available.

Motion made by Councilor Lovewell, seconded by Councilor Watson to accept the expense and income budgets as presented.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – Yes, L. Knight Phair – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma– Yes (So voted)

Motion made by Councilor Knight Phair, seconded by Councilor Watson to accept the Capital budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote: D. Bagley – No, L. Knight Phair – Yes, T. Lovewell – Yes, P. Watson – Yes, C. Boma– Yes (So voted)

Council Agenda Item #11: New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Updates to the Animal Control Ordinance – Economic & Community Dev Specialist Eric Sanderson

Eric Sanderson (Economic & Community Development Specialist) reviewed the reasons for updating the Animal control ordinance for the City of Caribou. He explained that it gives the officers more authority to handle situations regarding animals.

Council had a brief discussion regarding the proposed changes to the ordinance in the City and the limitations on numbers of dogs that can be owned. They also discussed the zones that are affected by the changes, and suggested using the terminology of inside the DOT compact zone as identifying borders.

The proposed ordinances will be brought back to a future meeting for introduction.

b. 2026 Tax Commitment update

Manager Thompson explained that she is still waiting for information regarding the Business personal property taxes. She explained that the City Council will set the rate of taxation for the City based on the approved budgets of the City, County and RSU39 on or before the 30th of June each year.

Staff cannot provide the information needed to recommend a rate of taxation because the City budget was not approved by the date of this meeting.

If the budget is set at this meeting, staff can bring back a recommendation at the next regular meeting, July 20.

Based on the 2025 value of a mil (\$503,472) and the budget increases received from the County of Aroostook (\$75,520), RSU#39 (\$358,058), and the anticipated increase to the municipal budget (\$697,519), the anticipated increase to the tax rate will be 2.25 mils. The 2025 tax rate was 22.00 mils. The 2026 tax rate is estimated to be 24.25 mils. Since many items (real estate valuation, personal property valuation, exemptions, reimbursements, etc.) factor in the 2026 value of a mil, that will likely change.

The City of Caribou 2026 certified ratio (which also affects the tax rate) is 99%.

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

Councilor Watson explained that he has been working through the last two (2) years on a Homeless Veteran Project. He explained that they currently have a tiny home that sleeps three (3), and that they are working on four (4) more units for Caribou and three (3) for Fort Fairfield. They will be hosting an open house at the VFW on the 11th and 12th.

Councilor Bagley stated that August 15th and 16th there will be events in conjunction with Skydiving held at the municipal airport. They are working on lots of big plans and it is very exciting.

Council Agenda Item #13: Next Meeting: Regular Meeting July 20, 2026

Council Agenda Item #14: 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 #15: Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Knight Phair to adjourn the meeting at 7:15PM

Danielle Brissette, Secretary