

May 26, 2009

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Christopher A.R. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, David Martin, Karla M. Bell, Mary Kate Barbosa, and Miles R. Williams.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager, and Michael Gahagan, Police Chief, and Richard Hoppe, Regional Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, were present.

Others in attendance included John Swanberg, Deborah Sirois, Doug Morrell, Wilfred Martin, Paul and Joan Theriault, Paul and Paula Barnes, Arthur Selander, Brian Ostlund, Vernon Leavitt, Philip Trombley, Wayne Belanger, Milo Haney, Donald Goughan, and Lynn Hartley.

Barbara Scott, representing the Aroostook Republican; and Time Warner covered the meeting.

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input. There was no public input.

Council Agenda item #2: Sesquicentennial Update

John Swanberg reported that the goal of selling 150 had been surpassed and 93 of those have been donated back to be planted on City property. He thanked the Rotary Club and the Parks Department for their efforts in this project. The history/recipe book is ready and is being sold for \$20 a copy. A number have been sold with more being printed and they will be available by the end of next week in several locations, including the library, Mr. Paperback, Shop N' Save, Sleeper's and the chamber office. The library will keep two copies in their inventory. The committee is looking for floats for the September 5th parade. Anyone interested is invited to enter.

Council Agenda item #3: Consider authorizing the minutes for the May 11, 2009 Council meeting.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by MK Barbosa, to authorize the minutes for the May 11, 2009 Council meeting as printed. (6 yes, 1 abstention, K. Bell) So voted.

Council Agenda item #4: Discussion of Bear Control Options and the presence of bears within the compact zone.

Richard Hoppe, a wildlife biologist for IF&W, spoke to the Council concerning the habitual nuisance bear situation that has existed in Caribou for the past three years. The problem bears are actually a sow and her twin two-year old cubs, whose preferred food is birdseed. Garbage is also an attraction. The mother is well versed in knowing exactly where to find these items and is teaching her young to be the same. It is soon time for the cubs to be on their own, which means their population will grow and escalate the problem of bears educated in the ways of urban foraging. Mr. Hoppe's advice to residents was to control the smells that attract the bears. He suggested washing garbage containers periodically with ammonia and bleach and removing birdseed containers at night. Dogs are also a big deterrent, as is distasteful food like hot pepper sauce placed outside, for example. Some of the methods used by Mr. Hoppe and others trained

May 26, 2009

09-12 Pg. 2

in this field, including the police, to remove these nuisance bears were described. He explained the pros and cons of culvert traps, immobilization methods, pyrotechnics, running with hounds, Aldridge snares, and lethal control. Ultimately, Mr. Hoppe said that removing a particular bear or bears does not remove the real problem, which are people not managing to keep their surroundings unattractive to the bears.

Council Agenda item #5: Consider authorizing a Municipal Quitclaim Deed to Roland Thompson, Map 38 Lot 88, for taxes paid in full.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to authorize a Municipal Quitclaim Deed to Roland Thompson, Map 38 Lot 88, for taxes paid in full. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #6: Consider the renewal of a Bingo Game of Chance license for the Knights of Columbus #1870, 357 Washburn Road.

Motion made by D. Martin, seconded by K. Bell, to authorize the renewal of a Bingo Game of Chance license for the Knights of Columbus #1870, 357 Washburn Road. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #7: Consider the renewal of a Restaurant Class XI Liquor License for Katherine Esty d/b/a Van Buren Road Lodge, 416 Van Buren Road.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by MK Barbosa, to approve the renewal of a Restaurant Class XI Liquor License for Katherine Esty d/b/a Van Buren Road Lodge, 416 Van Buren Road. (6 yes, 1 abstention, M. Williams) So voted.

Council Agenda item #8: Consider the renewal of a Special Entertainment License for Katherine Esty d/b/a Van Buren Road Lodge, 416 Van Buren Road.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to approve the renewal of a Special Entertainment License for Katherine Esty d/b/a Van Buren Road Lodge, 416 Van Buren Road. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #9: Consider acting upon Bids for Tax Acquired Properties:

Parcel	Minimum Bid
Map 21 Lot 12A – Approximately 689 Madawaska Rd.	\$250.00
Map 8 Lot 39 – 450 Fort Fairfield Road	\$500.00
Map 38 Lot 75 - End of Glendale Road, north side	\$650.00
Map 11 Lot 31B – 274 Access Highway	\$650.00
Map 25 Lot 135 – 21 Katahdin Avenue	\$500.00

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by C. Bell, to accept the following bids: Map 21, Lot 12A from Dave Ireland Builders of \$500.00; Map 8, Lot 39 from Dave Ireland Builders of \$750.00; Map 38, Lot 75 from JR White & Sons of \$1,001.99; Map 11, Lot 31B from JR White & Sons of \$2,001.99; and Map 25, Lot 135 from Angela Wells of \$1,600.00. (7 yes) So voted.

May 26, 2009

09-12 Pg. 3

Council Agenda item #9B. Consider authorizing a Congratulatory Letter to the City of Presque Isle for their 150th Anniversary Incorporation.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by K. Bell, to authorize a Congratulatory Letter to the City of Presque Isle for their 150th Anniversary Incorporation.

(7 yes) So voted. See Exhibit "A"

Council Agenda item #10: Updates

The City Manager presented information on several topics, including:

- Caribou Stream – City not successful in Urban Impacted Stream Application 604BF – Ten applicants for \$600,000 – DEP had only \$300,000 available – Community Development working with Jay Kamm to look at other options to address the issue – Mike Shrewsberry plans to look for other funding sources for dredging, etc.
- MaineCare – State budget not passed – DHHS will not pay MaineCare after May 20th until budget passes – Transactions being held until then
- Health Insurance Quotes – HR still working with several vendors for quotes on options – HR (health reimbursement) option is perceived as more favorable than POS (point of service) – HR allows City to retain the savings when there is favorable utilization.
- Ambulance Reimbursements - American Ambulance Assoc communication states upcoming federal legislation, if passed, would be effective 01/01/2010 – overall 17% average increase for ground transportation would be realized
- Rezoning RC2 to R3 – Consent Agreement Public Hearing to be advertised this week for June 8th meeting – Abutting owners have been notified
- N/S Hgy – John Melrose communication – Presque Isle currently in permitting process on Segment 7 – No word from MDOT's new administration as to its communications with Caribou's Segment 4 landowners
- Media Research – Recent research done by two University of Maine graduate students to learn how people receive news in rural parts of Maine – Students were based at the Library – They inquired about broadband, cable TV, and cell phone access – State, national and local news coverage and local media coverage were researched - Interviews were done with the VFW Bingo crowd – Students were surprised at the positive results of the study and amazed that their cell phones worked here

Council Agenda item #10: Other Business

- a. Presentation of Nominations Forms for the Maine Municipal Executive Committee

Councilors interested in having either their name or another councilor's name submitted to the Nominating Committee for a position on the MMA Executive Committee may complete the form provided by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2009. Details on the procedure and responsibilities of the office were distributed to the Council.

- b. Latest Actions on Howes Corner PRP Settlement

The City Manager provided a time frame of steps leading up to October, when FAME is anticipated to reimburse the PRP's and finally end the twenty year long struggle to close out Caribou's liabilities and responsibilities concerning the clean-up.

c. Public Works Dept. work towards GIS

The City Manager distributed information on Public Works Director David Ouellette's work with Dr. Wang to have the City's tax maps in a digital form to eventually create a complete GIS system. UMPI is applying for funding to make Caribou part of the teaching curriculum whereby the students would do the digitalization process. The City could then be able to go to a private vendor for the hosting of the system at a reasonable cost. The hosting and maintenance costs could potentially be recouped by selling professional level access after that.

d. Discussion to hold a June 22nd Public Hearing prior to setting the Mil Rate

This was brought forward as a First Read to see if the Council would consider holding a public hearing on setting the mil rate. It was noted that the Charter has been satisfied as public hearings have been held for both the CIP and the 2009 Budget. The School Budget Referendum will be held on June 24th and the mil rate would have to be set after that. The Council would have the referendum ballot question and school budget information by the June 22nd meeting and could consider an estimated mil rate at that time. A discussion ensued with some members of the audience interjecting comments. It was noted that no one had attended either of the two public hearings to offer comments. Councilor Bell pointed out that the best time to address the budget is in November when budget workshops are held and he invited those interested to plan to attend then.

e. Discussion on televising Workshops

Mayor Murchison said it had been his idea not televise workshops so that the Councilors would not have to make guarded statements and they could speak frankly without offending anyone. Councilor Barbosa added that sometimes ideas stated in workshops are merely ideas, but they could be misconstrued as adopted by the Council. Councilor Goughan, in favor of televising workshops, said his plan had been to reintroduce the idea as a First Read. Councilor Martin said he was not opposed to televising any workshop except those pertaining to the budget.

f. Airport Committee minutes

The City Manager had distributed the minutes from the last meeting for the Council to review for future discussion. He pointed out several of the more important items that had been discussed.

g. Next Meeting Dates:

- i. Building Committee – May 27, 2009 6:00PM Council Chambers
- ii. Council Meeting – June 8, 2009 7:00PM Council Chambers

Council Agenda item #10: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session for a personnel matter, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Section 405 (6)(E).

8:34 p.m. Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by MK Barbosa, to move to Executive Session for a personnel matter, pursuant to MRSA Title 1 Section 405 (6)(E).
(6 yes, 1 no, M. Goughan) So voted.

9:20 p.m. Returned from Executive Session.

No action taken or motion made, presentation of information pursuant to the personnel matter.

9:21 p.m. Meeting adjourned. Workshop Session to follow meeting.

Judy-Ann Corrow, Secretary

May 26, 2009