

November 23, 2009

09-24

A regular meeting of the Caribou City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2009 in Council Chambers with the following members present: Mayor Kenneth G. Murchison, Jr., Christopher A.R. Bell, R. Mark Goughan, Karla M. Bell, Mary Kate Barbosa, David Martin, and Miles R. Williams.

Steven R. Buck, City Manager, was present.

Also in attendance were John R. Boone, James Cerrato, Doug Morrell, Wilfred Martin, and several other interested citizens.

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

Council Agenda item #1: Public Input – No public input

Council Agenda item #2: Sesquicentennial Update – Anyone interested in knowing more about upcoming events may go online to www.celebratecaribou.com

Council Agenda item #3: Consider authorizing the Minutes of the November 9, 2009 Council Meeting.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by K. Bell, to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2009 Council meeting as printed. (3 yes, M. Williams, K. Bell, K. Murchison, 3 abstentions, M. Goughan, C. Bell, MK Barbosa) So voted.

Council Agenda item #4: Reconsideration of proposed Charter Amendments for the Caribou Utilities district to be submitted to the State Legislature. (November 9, 2009 Agenda Item #8)

The City Manager recommended a reconsideration of the vote that was taken at the last meeting on item #8. Although the four members present constituted a quorum, the vote was three in favor and one abstention. Therefore, a second vote was deemed to be prudent.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by C. Bell, to authorize the response to two proposed Charter Amendments for the Caribou Utilities as presented. (6 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #5: Reconsideration of the renewal of a Club Class V Liquor License for the American Legion Post #15, 67 Sweden Street. (November 9, 2009 Agenda Item #11A.)

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by C. Bell, to approve the renewal of a Club Class V Liquor License for the American Legion Post #15, 67 Sweden Street. (5 yes, 1 abstention, M. Williams) So voted.

Council Agenda item #6: Consider authorizing the Financial Statements for the period ending October 31, 2009.

The City Manager reported the month of October ended with the Revenue Summary Report closing at 89.28%, or 5.95% ahead of projections and the Expense Summary Report closing at 80.6%, or 2.73% under budget. He went on to provide detailed information on the factors most impacting the financial figures for the month.

Motion made by M. Williams, seconded by K. Bell, to accept the Financial Statements for the period ending October 31, 2009 as presented.
(5 yes, 1 no, M. Goughan) So voted.

Council Agenda item #7: Consider acting upon Bids for the sale of three City owned properties:

Property #1: Tax Map 25 Lot 122 – A vacant lot 0.25 acres having 75’ frontage on Harvey St. and being 142.5’ deep. Said lot is opposite the intersection of Donnelly Ave lying to the north and west. Minimum Bid - \$350

The following bids were received for property #1:

Bill Belanger	\$350.00
Todd and Amanda Lericos	\$725.00
Lee Beaulieu, Jr.	\$450.00

Property #2: Tax Map 23 Lot 10C – A vacant lot 0.29 acres having 85’ frontage at 62 Lafayette St. and being 150’ deep. Minimum Bid - \$800

The following bids were received for property #2:

Bill Belanger	\$800.00
Todd and Amanda Lericos	\$1,051.00

Property #3: Tax Map 35 Lot 103 – A donated, not tax acquired, vacant lot 0.16 acres having 50’ frontage on North Main St. and being 140’ deep. Minimum Bid - \$4,500

No bids were received for property #3.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by M. Williams, to accept the bid of Todd and Amanda Lericos in the amount of \$725.00 for Tax Map 25 Lot 122, Harvey Street (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by MK Barbosa, to accept the bid of Todd and Amanda Lericos in the amount of \$1,051.00 for Tax Map 23 Lot 10C, 62 Lafayette Street. (6 yes) So voted.

Motion made by M. Goughan, seconded by K. Bell, to authorize the City Manager to again contact the three abutters to Map 35 Lot 103 on Main Street and attempt to negotiate a sale with one or more of them. Councilor C. Bell said he would prefer to see the City hold on to that property for the time being with the idea it would possibly be sold to someone for the construction of a house. (5 yes, 1 no, C. Bell) So voted.

Council Agenda item #8: Discussion of pending Loring Development Authority Board and Planning Board appointments.

8:10 p.m. Councilor D. Martin joined the meeting.

The City Manager reported that Carl Flora had communicated that there was a potential of four openings on the LDA Planning and Executive Boards. Maynard St. Peter would not be seeking a reappointment to the LDA Board, but would continue to serve until the Governor makes a new appointment. One vacancy on the LDA Planning Board was due to the death of Fred Thomas. Mr. Flora would be forwarding information on what membership on either board entails. The consensus of the Council was that the City Manager would see if anyone on the Caribou Planning Board is interested in a seat on the LDA Planning Board before advertising for both boards.

Council Agenda item #9: Consider assigning the donation of funds on behalf of the City by Key Bank to a charitable organization.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by D. Martin, to select the Caribou Bread of Life Soup Kitchen as the not-for-profit organization to receive a \$50.00 donation from Key Giving. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #10: Consider authorizing a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for taxes paid in full to Tammie Howard for Tax Map 18 Lot 31-048.

Motion made by K. Bell, seconded by M. Williams, to authorize a Municipal Quitclaim Deed for taxes paid in full to Tammie Howard for Tax Map 18 Lot 31-048. (7 yes) So voted.

Council Agenda item #11: Updates

The City Manager provided information on several topics, including:

- State Revenues – Shortfalls of \$26.8 million for October - \$300 to \$400 million shortfall anticipated for the two-year budget – Governor taking steps to stop state spending – General-purpose education aid is targeted
- VA Ambulance Contract – City has secured land transport contract in Aroostook County – Chief Woods also seeking Air Ambulance contract
- Flu Exercise – November 12th session attended by City, Cary Medical and School Department representatives – Potential shortages include beds – Chief Woods proceeding to fill the need
- CIP – A single meeting was held November 16th – Steve to work with some departments to address outstanding elements
- North Main Street Sidewalk – MDOT scoping meeting on proposed project – Application being made to MDOT for \$10,000 in additional engineering funds to cover new requirements – City must provide certified person perform paper work and submissions – Steve is an engineer qualified for the work involved - MDOT to charge for their time to be credited to the City's account for Safe Routes to School Grant – Stipulations may warrant Council reassessment of project and reconsideration of grant funding

- Air Ambulance – Steve working with Fresh Air LLC to explore equitable funding for air ambulance services – Life Flight receives such funding through transportation bonds – Fixed wing services does not receive this – City working with NMDC to find similar assistance with CDBG funding and USDA Rural Development
- N/S Highway – Record of Decision should be completed by middle of January – Delays caused by new requirements for salmon and lynx habitat impacts – Work being done with Dept of Conservation for funding acquisition of AVR rail bed and Otter Creek Park n Ride – FEIS sent for final legal sufficiency review – City’s Park n Ride to be relocated – ITS 83 trail crossings to be accommodated with Segment 4 – Timing is major factor in relation to construction date mandate, late ROD signing, and public forum process

Council Agenda item #12: Other Business

- a. First Read: Railroad Industries Incorporated proposal to State of Maine to analyze and develop solutions to the proposed abandonment of the rail lines throughout Aroostook.

The City Manager had distributed material, including background information on RII, for the councilors to review and said he would keep them updated on the issue of the possible abandonment of the rail lines.

- b. Invitation – Ceremony for Olympic Flame, November 28, 2009, 2:15PM Canadian time, Grand Falls, NB
- c. Next Meetings
 - i. Legislative Meeting, tentative, December 4, 2009 time/place TBD

The dinner meeting will be held in the atrium of the Green House Restaurant on December 4th at 7:00 p.m. The Councilors were agreeable to also invite Bob Watson.

- ii. Council Meeting, December 14, 2009 7:00PM Council Chambers

The consensus was to hold only the one meeting in December, it being noted that the organizational meeting would be January 4th at 7:00 p.m. in addition to the two regular January meetings.

- iii. Evening meeting with LEAD, Presque Isle and Caribou Councils, Consultant John Melrose - Discussion of date/s

Councilors considered December 8, 9, 15 or 16 as available dates. The City Manager would contact the other parties to find a time agreeable to all.

- d. Discussion of potential Union Negotiation meeting dates

November 30th at 5:30 p.m. was agreed upon. The Personnel Committee invited all Councilors as well as Councilor-elect John Boone to attend.

- e. Other Business

Council Agenda item #13: Executive Session: Consider moving to Executive Session to discuss materials for pending Union contract negotiations, AFSCME Local 93 Public Works, Teamsters Local 340 Police, Fire & Ambulance, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405 (6)(D).

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8:58 p.m. Motion made by C. Bell, seconded by K. Bell, to move to Executive Session to discuss materials for pending Union contract negotiations, AFSCME Local 93 Public Works, Teamsters Local 340 Police, Fire & Ambulance, pursuant to Title 1 MRSA 405 (6)(D). (7 yes) So voted.

9:52 p.m. Returned from Executive Session

No motions were made or action taken as the session was confined to the presentation and confirmation of first proposals for the pending Union negotiations as listed.

9:53.p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Judy-Ann Corrow, Secretary