



## Presque Isle City Council Meeting

November 1, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Presque Isle Council Chambers

### Executive Session at 5:15

**Roll Call Present:** Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, Councilors M. Chasse, G. Nelson and J. Willette

**Others Present:** City Attorney Richard Currier, Director of Econ. & Comm. Development Galen Weibley, CEO Tim St. Peter, Executive Director Industrial Council Tom Powers.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to enter into executive session at 5:15 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) to discuss Real Estate.

**Vote: 4-0**

Out of executive session at 5:31 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to seek RFQ for demolition of 5 Verone St.

**Vote: 4-0**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Chairman J. Shaw, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to enter into executive session at 5:32 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) to discuss Real Estate.

**Vote: 4-0**

Out of executive session at 5:47 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to authorize the Presque Isle Industrial Council and Interim City Manager L. Cousins to proceed with negotiations pertaining to a land sale of 4.04 AC of land on Skyway St.

**Vote: 4-0**

Out of executive session at 5:56 p.m.

### Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Councilors C. Green, G. Nelson, M. Chasse, J. Willette and Deputy Chairman K. Freeman  
Absent Chairman J. Shaw and Councilor D. Cyr  
Interim City Manager Lewis Cousins and City Clerk Kimberly Finnemore were also present.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Hearing

1. Approve an adult use cultivation facility, tier 2 application for James Bacon, Bacon Holdings LLC with a location of 55 Industrial Street.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Interim City Manager L. Cousins stated staff recommends approval.

No citizens comment.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to approve an adult use cultivation facility, tier 2 to Jason Bacon, Bacon Holdings LLC with a location of 55 Industrial Street.

**Vote: 5-0**

2. Approval for a malt, spirituous and vinous liquor license for Anthony Sullivan d/b/a Ferris BBQ Inc. with a location of 79 Parsons Street.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

Interim City Manager L. Cousins said staff recommends approval.

No citizens comment.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve a malt, spiritous and vinous liquor license to Anthony Sullivan d/b/a Ferris BBQ Inc. with a location of 79 Parsons Street.

**Vote: 5-0**

3. Approval of a malt, spirituous and vinous liquor license for GTK d/b/a Maple Pig Bar and Grill, with a location of 710 Main Street.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Interim City Manager L. Cousins stated this was a first-time application and staff recommends approval.

No citizens comment.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to approve a malt, spirituous and vinous liquor license to GTK d/b/a Maple Pig Bar and Grill with a location of 710 Main Street.

**Vote: 5-0**

4. ARPA grant award contract agreement extension.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

Galen Weibley Director of Economic & Community Development asked the Council to extend county ARPA funding for Echo Lake. The City of Presque Isle has a deadline of utilizing Aroostook County ARPA funds for the Echo Lake STEP project by December 31, 2023. As the Council is aware, the bid was awarded at the October 18, 2023 Council meeting which will miss the construction season. To preserve the \$300,000.00 allocation by the County, we are requested to hold a public hearing following by authorizing and signing an extension agreement with Aroostook County.

No citizens comment.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve the ARPA grant award contract extension for the Echo Lake Project with a deadline of December 31, 2024.

**Vote: 5-0**

5. 2024 municipal budget (second hearing).

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Interim City Manager L. Cousins said this is the time for the public to ask any questions they might have on the 2024 municipal budget this is the second public hearing we have had. The draft of the budget is online for public to look at.

No citizens comment.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

No action required.

**Citizen Comments**

No citizens comment.

**Consent Agenda**

6. Approve minutes from September 27, 2023 and October 18, 2023.
7. Approve 2023 Warrant #36 totaling \$1,161,285.92
8. Approve appointment to Planning Board (Alternate) -Timothy Vernon expire December 31, 2023.
9. Approve Interim MSAD #1 Board member for District-Brandy Cronin until the November 2024 election.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to approve consent agenda #6-#9 as presented.

**Vote: 5-0**

10. Road closure for annual holiday light parade.  
LaNiece Sirois Executive Director for the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce spoke on the annual holiday light parade to be held on December 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> holiday light parade that has been held in Presque Isle. Line up will be at UMPI and end on North Street.

**BE IT RESOLED** by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve application to close Main Street on Saturday, December 2, 2023 for the annual light parade.

**Vote: 5-0**

## New Business

### 11. Rescue boggan donation.

Fire Chief D. White addressed the Council. With the new addition of our side by side and multi-purpose rescue unit which sets on the back of our unit allowing us to perform patient rescue and firefighting activities in the wildlands, we find ourselves no longer in need of the 20 plus year-old rescue boggan. During a serious ATV accident in Mars Hill where we provided the EMS we discovered that they have a homemade rescue unit which does not really meet the needs for EMS providers. As an example, when PIFD staff returned they were covered in mud as well as some very expensive equipment. Speaking with the Mars Hill Fire Chief, I offered to lend him our old unit to help them out and also as a mutual aid community it will still be useful for PIFD. I would like to request that Council consider donating the unit to Mars Hill Fire removing the tag on loan. As stated, this will benefit not only Mars Hill but also Westfield as we cover them for EMS and Mars Hill covers them for Fire.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve the donation of the Presque Isle Fire Department rescue boggan to the Mars Hill Fire Department.

**Vote: 5-0**

## Interim City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager L. Cousins said that City Attorney R. Currier sent out notices for 11 Griffin Ridge Road to vacate property. It is City owned property that has been used by others.

We have gone over the Election protocols and everything is in place for booths to be set up between Highways Foreman and the Facility's Foreman. Kim Smith had an accident and fell and is recovering well.

The Ford Taurus from assessing went out to bid and we received no bids. L. Cousin's asked the Council what they would like the next steps to be with the car. The Council suggested to donate the car to the high school automotive dept. or some vocational education program.

There are still some small projects left to do on the renovation. Front entrance hasn't been done yet. The committee is coming up with a design. There is an issue with the South door a serious safety issue, the snow drips off the roof and iced up the stairs, also chunks of snow comes off the side roof and could fall on someone. It will need some sort of cover over it.

Deputy Chief Hayes applied for a grant, was awarded \$2,700.00 for no slip mats for the Police Department.

The Presque Isle Downtown committee was given \$3,000.00 from the Masonic's Lodge for the Veterans program.

North Street and Maysville sidewalk MMG is going to contribute to the completion of the sidewalk jointly with the City.

The Manager search as of last night had 5 submittals and there is 2 more weeks left in the application process.

### **Announcements**

Election day is November 7<sup>th</sup>. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Main Street Mania will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Annual Light Parade is on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The City has the following employment vacancies:

Firefighter/Paramedic

Public Works Truck Driver

Rec. Dept. Admin Asst.

Rec Dept. Custodian

Rec Programmer

We have the following vacancies for Boards/ Committees:

Assessment Review, 2-one-year alternates

Audit Committee, 1-four-year member

Zoning Board, 1-three-year member and 1-one-year alternate

Rec & Parks, 2-one-year alternates

Downtown Revitalization, 1-four-year member


Please see the City Clerk for an application or apply online.

The next scheduled meeting of the Presque Isle City Council will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall.

### **Adjournment**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

**Vote: 5-0**

Attested by:   
Kimberly A Finnemore, City Clerk