

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21st, 2023

SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY – 6:00 P.M.

Those in Attendance: Councilor Floyd “Bub” Andrews, Councilor Colleen Dana-Cummings, Councilor Dave Morang, Councilor Jeanne Peacock, and Council President Boone. Also in attendance were Interim City Manager, George “Bud” Finch; Legal Counsel, Dennis Mahar; IT Support, Paige Atkinson; Deputy Clerk, Donnie Peters; and City Clerk, Ella Kowal.

Public Attendance: , Catherine Lee, Victoria Ganz, Walter Cummings, Paul Theriault, Peter Frewen, Jenie Smith, Sarah Gormady, Birdy Velveteen, Cami Deschene, Sandi McLellan, and recorded zoom participants.

I. CALL to ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Council President Boone.

II. ADJUSTMENT(S) to AGENDA

Councilor Peacock updates that the Zoning Board of Appeals has asked Robert Peacock to serve as a full-time member to the board and it requires Council approval for appointment. The City Clerk recommends that we place this as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

Council President Boone then speaks to agenda Item VIII and requests that the appointment of Sarah Gormady be tabled until the next meeting until Council has heard from the Budget Committee. There were no objections.

He further speaks to say that he is unsure if the Parks and Rec has recommended yet for Laurie Stone be added to their committee. The City Clerk confirms that this request has come to her in the form of an email and that it has been placed on the agenda.

Council President Boone spoke to a few housekeeping rules. The first being anyone who wishes to address the board to stand up and introduce themselves. He also asks that side conversations be kept quiet. Council President Boone then introduces Interim City Manager, George “Bud” Finch and also welcome former Councilor Dave Morang back to serve on the board.

III. PUBLIC HEARING(s):

[Renewal of Liquor License Application – Mary Beth Tolson
d/b/a Ole Hookers Bar & Grille, LLC]

Council President Boone declared the public hearing open at 6:12 p.m.

He called for public comments and/or questions. There were none.

Council President Boone declares the public hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

III(a). ACTION from PUBLIC HEARING(s)

[Renewal of Liquor License Application – Mary Beth Tolson
d/b/a Ole Hookers Bar & Grille, LLC]

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**

To approve the renewal of a Liquor License Application for Mary Beth Tolson
d/b/a Ole Hookers Bar & Grille, LLC.

**IV. APPOINTMENT of INTERIM ASSESSOR & INTERIM CODE
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

MOTION DANA-CUMMINGS **SECOND** MORANG **(PASSED 5-0)**

To approve the appointment of Robert Scott as Interim Assessor and to also
approve the appointment of Donnie Peters as Interim Code Enforcement Officer.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a) Island Fellows Update *(Paige Atkinson)*

Paige addresses the Council and the public and updates that her fellowship with the Island Institute will conclude and be coming to an end soon in July. She then speaks to a few things that she would like to see happen between now and then. One of them being a community event around a technical study which she has been a part of. Over the last two years, Eastport has been exploring on how to bring backup power back to the island through a microgrid. The Department of Energy has done some research for us such feasibility, sizing, etc. They are hoping to present this information to us in July. What she is asking of Council this evening is to pick a date for us to hold a meeting with the topic being energy opportunities and asks that it be separate from a regular Council meeting as it has turned out to be a 25-page power point and does not want to impede

Council's other business. Council President asks if she had dates in mind. She was looking somewhere the second week of July between the 10th and the 14th. Council agreed to meet on July 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Shead in the Library.

- b) Request for Letter of Intent – CDBG Grant (*Requested by Eunice Francis*)

The City Clerk updates Council that Ms. Francis was unsure that she would be able to make the meeting in person but try to call in or send someone in her stead. The Clerk confirms that she has heard nothing since and asks if she is on zoom, we are unable to determine that and ask her raise their hand should they be. There was no response.

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** ANDREWS **(PASSED 5-0)**
To table.

- c) Fiber Committee Request to Address Council w/Update
(*Re: Eastport Fiber Optic Internet Initiative*)

Ken Burke, Chair of the Fiber Optic Internet Committee, addresses the City Council and gives an update on the collection of information relative to requests for proposals for ISP's. Their goal is come back to Council in August with a recommended ISP as a partner. From there, they will be looking at filing for grant requests.

- d) Council Approval for Civic Event – Salmon & Seafood Festival
September 2nd & 3rd, 2023 (*Submitted by Chamber of Commerce*)

MOTION ANDREWS **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**
To approve the Civic Event for the Salmon & Seafood Festival scheduled for September 2nd and September 3rd, 2023.

- e) Approval of Sewer Commitment/Billing for 1st Quarter of FY2024 – 7/12/23

MOTION DANA-CUMMINGS **SECOND** MORANG **(PASSED 5-0)**
To approve the Sewer Commitment Billing for 1st Quarter of FY2024 – 7/12/23

- f) Council Approval to Authorize the Interim City Manager to put out an “RFP” for Auditing Services *(Requested by Councilor Colleen Dana-Cummings)*

MOTION MORANG **SECOND** PEACOCK **(PASSED 5-0)**

To approve and authorize the Interim City Manager to put out an “RFP” for Auditing Services.

- g) Accept & Award of Bid for “FY2024” Municipal Fuel Bid for Heating Oil & Propane

The City Clerk updates that there were two inquiries but only one bid received.

MOTION ANDREWS **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**

To accept and award the FY2024 Municipal Fuel Bid for Heating Oil & Propane to RH Foster as submitted and presented. *[Reflective of a one-year contract with Heating Oil at \$2.879 per gallon and with Propane at \$1.699 per gallon both assisting the municipality and General Assistance]*

- h) Council Approval for the Downeast Sunrise Trail Team Relay Race
(Requested by Christina Vizzcarando)

MOTION MORANG **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**

To approve the event for the Downeast Sunrise Trail Team Relay Race with a scheduled date of July 22, 2023.

- i) Accept Resignation of April Theriault as Election Clerk & Ballot Clerk

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**

To accept, with regret, the resignation of April Theriault as Election Clerk and Ballot Clerk. *[The City Council thanks her for her service]*

VI. MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETINGS

· 5/10/23 · 5/17/23 · 5/31/23 · 6/7/23 · 6/13/23

MOTION DANA-CUMMINGS **SECOND** MORANG **(PASSED 5-0)**

To table.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Councilor Dana-Cummings makes a request to see some numbers on the fuel in terms of gallons [*re: Airport*]

Victoria Ganz responds to say that they could possibly include this on the operations report. To date, she recalls that they have sold 2,000 gallons of the Avgas and 300 gallons of the Jet A.

- a) Airport Report
- b) Assessor Report & Code Enforcement Report
- c) Financial Report
- d) Police Department Report
- e) Public Works Report
- f) WWTP Sewer Report/Main Plant & Quoddy Village

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** MORANG **(PASSED 5-0)**

To accept the department reports as submitted and presented.

VIII. BOARDS and COMMITTEES (*Reports/Resignations/Appointments*)

“Resignation” of Melissa Lawrence from the Parks & Recreation Committee

“Appointment” of Sarah Gormady to the Budget Committee

“Appointment” of Laurie Stone to the Parks & Recreation Committee

MOTION MORANG **SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 5-0)**

To accept the resignation of Melissa Lawrence from the Parks and Recreation Committee and to approve the appointment of Laurie Stone to the Parks and Recreation.

IX. INTERIM CITY MANAGER’S REPORT/UPDATE

George “Bud” Finch updates that there are far too many things to report on that we are still working on prioritizing. He recognizes being able to get the budget passed was a big accomplishment. He speaks to the Middle Street grant, the Shackford Street sidewalk, and a number of items. For now, he is tending to those things that have deadlines that we do not want to lose out on. He will have a much better report at the next meeting.

X. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES/ISSUES

Councilor Peacock reminds Council that Ken Burke has already given an update on the Fiber. *Council President Boone* speaks to say that Eastport is ready for a ZOOM Coordinator. There have been many compliments that we are doing ZOOM but that the people want to see and hear everyone not just see the Council. He emphasizes that it is time that we focus and it needs to be plugged into the budget. He then reminds everyone that the Senior Citizen Center is having their crabmeat sales over the 4th for two days. He also notes that they lost a \$1,000.00 in the budget but will address that next week at the hearing. He reminds everyone that we have a Navy ship coming in July as well as September and cruise ships in the Fall. He thanks Bud and the volunteers on taking care of the flags. He is working on looking into alternatives for this to be a community service and that the goal is that they will be up by Memorial Day and will come down after July. He then speaks to the low attendance at the Cemetery on Memorial Day. It is being recognized as a three day weekend rather than Memorial Day.

Councilor Peacock speaks to mention about the roof at the Elementary School and the bid which was accepted last month. The bidder called the superintendent, Ken Johnson, and informed him that he had miscalculated how big the roof was and only put in for half of the roof. She updates that they are going to have to re-bid it and will be opening up the bids in July.

XI. PUBLIC/OPEN FORUM

Victoria Ganz, a member of the Budget Committee, addresses Council and speaks to say that she thought that they had increased the Senior Center an additional and is \$1,000.00 and is willing to go back and look at this. Council President Boone responds to say that it went from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and then \$12,000 to \$14,000. She believes the request was for \$15,000 and they gave \$14,000.

She then speaks to something that came before the Budget Committee which is not in their per view and wanted to bring it to their attention. She saw that there was an approval of a civic event for the Salmon & Seafood Festival. She then asks if there are any approvals that come from the 4th of July events. It was brought to the Budget Committee by Birdy but it really is not a budget issue. Birdy notes that it reflects \$8,000 of the budget. Council President Boone goes out on a limb to say that it was brought to his attention does the Pirate Festival need to get permission and he responded that they never have. Although he is not one to make

new rules, he has always been under the assumption that the 4th of July is going to happen. He will lean on Council and management as far as how it needs to happen. Councilor Peacock speaks to say that the reason the Salmon Festival comes before the Council is that they need Council's approval for a liquor license. Chris Vizzcarando from the audience was told last year that the Sunrise Downeast Trail needed to come before the City Council. Council President Boone closes to say that they will get clarification on this so that everyone is held by the same. Birdy explains that the reason she brought it forward, was to see what the \$8,000 covered and it was for the 4th of July and who was paying for it. Peter Frewen addresses the Council and asks for clarity to where Council stands on it but recognizes that sometimes things change.

Chesster Jenkins addresses the Council and asks if we have started advertising or sourcing out for a City Manager. Council President Boone responds with a "no" and that he personally would like to get pass the budget season and the 4th of July and then Council needs to work on this. They have yet to see a job description. Councilor Andrews comments to say that he personally feels it is going to take 3-4 months but that is not to say that they couldn't advertise and interview. He feels they need to give it some time to make the right choices.

Council President Boone closed Open Forum.

He then asks for a motion to table Item V(b).

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** ANDREWS **(PASSED 5-0)**
To table Item V(b).

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION PEACOCK **SECOND** ANDREWS **(PASSED 5-0) TIME: 6:57 P.M.**

To go into Executive Session for Personnel Matters under Title 1 M.R.S.A.
§ 405(6)(A); for Real Property or Economic Development under Title 1 M.R.S.A.
§ 405(6)(C); and for Consultation with Legal Counsel under Title 1 M.R.S.A.
§ 405(6)(E).

MOTION ANDREWS **SECOND** MORANG **(PASSED 5-0) TIME: 8:09 P.M.**
To come out of Executive Session

XIII. ACTION from EXECUTIVE SESSION

THERE WERE NONE

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION DANA-CUMMINGS SECOND MORANG (PASSED 5-0) TIME: 8:10 P.M.
To adjourn.