

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**  
**&**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**CITY HALL - 22 WASHINGTON STREET - 4:35 P.M.**

**Those in Attendance:** Councilor Floyd “Bub” Andrews, Councilor Colleen Dana-Cummings, Councilor Jeanne Peacock, and Council President Boone.. Also in attendance were IT Support, Paige Atkinson; Deputy Clerk, Donnie Peters; and City Clerk, Ella Kowal.

**Public Attendance:** Robert Scott, Dean Pike, Lora Whelan, Ross Furman, Wes Farley, Walter Cummings, former Councilor Robert Peacock, and recorded zoom participants.

**I. CALL to ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Council President Boone.

**II. ADJUSTMENT(S) to AGENDA**

**MOTION PEACOCK                      SECOND DANA-CUMMINGS (PASSED 4-0)**  
To adjust the agenda to add Item V(a) to create and advertise for a Weatherize Eastport Coordinator to be Funded from the Grant.

**III. ACCEPT RESIGNATION from COUNCILOR DAVID OJA of 5/10/2023**

**MOTION PEACOCK                      SECOND DANA-CUMMINGS (PASSED 4-0)**  
To accept the resignation of Councilor David Oja of 5/10/2023 with regret.

Council President Boone comments to say thank you to David Oja for his time served as Councilor.

#### **IV. COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Council President Boone opens the workshop at 4:38 p.m.

He has called for this to come up with a solution to the City's vacant City Manager position. He would like to know what Council feels and what direction they would like to take. He further comments that he is not comfortable with advertising without a job description and does not feel that can be accomplished tonight. He is in favor of going with an Interim City Manager until they can come up with what they want and how much they have to support and move forward.

Councilor Dana-Cummings responds to say that she feels the same way and that we need someone interim as soon as possible and she definitely supports that.

Councilor Peacock addresses Council President Boone and asks if he had called Jim Porter. He responded that he has called him twice and has not heard from him and has assumed that he is not interest in talking with him. He further comments to say that someone suggested to try and email him but that he didn't believe that this would change anything. He continues to say that maybe his wife, Theresa Porter might be interested but that she just retired recently. That being said, he does not have her phone number nor email.

He further shares with Council and the public that he has been in touch with former City Manager Bud Finch as to his willingness to return, and he is willing and that they did not discuss salaries nor time frames. They did discuss where the City is at this current state and time. He affirms that he has spoken with all of the Councilors and shared of the talks that he has had with Bud. He has spoken with anyone else and he has not heard of anyone else who wants it.

Councilor Peacock mentions a few names, one was Brett Lehigh and the other being Emily Gaulin who is currently serving as the Chair on the Parks & Recreation Committee; but that she has not spoken with neither of them – those were just names she heard about.

Councilor Dana-Cummings feels personally that we need someone with previous experience. She is comfortable with Bud and it would be interim until the Council we get the position advertised and does not feel that they should wait too long on this and is hopeful that Council will act on this tonight.

Council President Boone responds to say that he doubts they would do anything tonight other than give direction. He speaks to say that we do not know how much we can afford. Councilor Dana-Cummings suggests whatever it is we have budgeted and does not feel that they should go any more than that. She feels we should make the offer and if it is not acceptable then we go the next step. She wants to finish out this year's budget. The City Clerk reminds that the Treasurer left him a sheet with some numbers. Councilor Peacock reminds that two months salary was committed to former City Manager, Kate Devonshire which would take us to June. The new year starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilor Peacock adds that interim would be two months or so. Councilor Andrews speaks to say hopefully less than that and try to advertise and get someone within a month and to go outside the County with a decent wage so that we are not going through this every so often. To get someone good or decent, we are going to have to spend some money.

Dean Pike responds to say that what we need immediately is someone who is able to get into Kate's TRIO program as the Budget Committee is desperate to propagate any changes they made whether they were cuts and additions and right now their notes are just scribble. Usually the secretary of the committee would take it to the City Manager and then it would get repropagated and printed for them. Without that, they are in bad shape. He continues to say that although the Treasurer is very helpful, this data is not something that she can give them. He suggests asking the Treasurer if this is something that she could provide and maybe offer her some Overtime if she is willing and able to assist. Councilor Andrews speaks to say that He is for Bud for now and feels that he could take the Councilor Andrews does not see the issue here, we have someone willing to come and help us out right now it is about finding the funds to do it.

Wes Farley suggests that they create a manual so that the next time something like this happens, they have it and how to address it. He made reference to the one that was set up by Victoria Ganz at the Airport.

Councilor Andrews sums it up to say they are just looking for a "yes" or "no" on bringing Bud in at this point.

Dean Pike asks what Bud's response was and how soon could he come. Council President Boone responds that he said if we could pay the plane fare and Council President Boone responded with have you ever heard of zoom. He said he was coming North in a week or so for the summer and said he could be ready pretty quick and possibly June 1<sup>st</sup>. Council President Boone would like to see the Council work together on this.

Council President Boone said that he has spoken with Brett Lehigh quite a bit but that he has not reached out to him this time. The last time he had spoken with him he said that he was homeless, that he had sold his house and that he was traveling and in Africa the last time they had spoken. He did not get the indication that he wanted to set roots in Eastport and that his expertise was in aviation. He is uncertain that he would consider committing to this position for 3-4 months. Council President Boone comments to say that he does know Emily but does not know of her background or experience as a manager.

Councilor Andrews comments to say that Bud wants to do it even if it is only interim and there are no reservations of him just thinking about it, he is willing to come.

Lora Whelan asks if it might be worthwhile to reach out to him to make sure that he does know the TRIO system. Councilor Andrews responds to say that he has just retired recently from another town and assumed that he already knows it. The City Clerk commented to s that he was in Harrison and Ross Furman said the most recent was in Aroostook County in Fort Kent. The importance too is that he has City Manager experience. Ross Furman reminds Council that Bud has roots here, he's been here, and he knows people. Councilor Andrews feels strongly that we could use him right now to get us through and wants to know where the rest of the Council is at. Councilor Andrews only speaks for himself that he is comfortable. Council President Boone reminds them that they would need to come out of the workshop and then take action on the next item of agenda should that be the wish of the Council.

Council President Boone closes the workshop at 4:56 p.m.

## **V. ACTION from WORKSHOP**

[re: Interim City Manager]

**MOTION** ANDREWS

**SECOND** DANA-CUMMINGS **(PASSED 3-1)**

*Councilor Peacock Voted "NO"*

To authorize Council President Boone to offer Bud Finch the Interim City Manager position.

Council President Boone addressed the City Clerk with a question of including an amount for pay. She defers Council to Legal Counsel, Dennis Mahar, who is available by phone as she cannot speak to it as it is a negotiations matter and

he could better assist the Council. She asks for further clarification if this motion is only to bring him on as interim at this time or are they going to include in the motion to authorize for advertisement. Council President Boone responds to say he would believe they would wait until they have a job description. Robert Scott comments to say that MMA have job descriptions on their website that we could refer to.

Councilor Dana-Cummings and Councilor Andrews asks if they need to put an Amount to the motion. Council President Boone responds to say that he is certain that there is nothing budgeted for an interim manager and what is budgeted has to carry us through the end of this current fiscal year with the outgoing manager. He notes that the Treasurer has provided that there is \$27,187.88 in Special Reserves. Councilor Dana-Cummings responds that there are other line items that haven't been totally used up and asks if Council could leave it for him to negotiate with him and then work with Traci to take it out of administrative. Paige lets the Council know that she is on zoom right now and can answer any questions. Councilor Dana-Cummings comments to say that they are just trying to get the motion first.

Council President speaks to say that he is comfortable in talking with him to find out what his requirements would be. Councilor Dana-Cummings is confident with Council President Boone negotiating with Bud. Councilor Andrews speaks to say that we need to find the money somewhere and that he does not want to go another week without someone. Council President Boone addresses Councilor Peacock and recognizes that she has been quiet. He responds that she has and that speaks to say that she has been to past Council meetings and that there were some issues with Bud but that she does not want to bring those up but she does know that when he did Offer his resignation that it was a 5-0 "yes" vote. That being said, she does feel that Bud could fill the role but that she would not be voting for him. She feels that he could come in for a short time and do the things that need to be done. We need to take time to get a good job description, get an ad out there, and figure out what money they want to put to another City Manager. At the very least, it would give us some breathing room. She further comments to say that she feels that Council President Boone can negotiate to find the money and agrees with Councilor Dana-Cummings.

City Clerk asks the Council President for clarity on the wording of the motion.

**V(a). CREATE a POSITION for WEATHERIZATION**

Councilor Peacock asks Paige if she was able to come up with a name for the position and she responds with a yes and that it will be “Weatherize Eastport Coordinator”.

**MOTION\_\_PEACOCK SECOND\_\_DANA-CUMMINGS (PASSED 4-0)**  
To create a position titled “Weatherize Eastport Coordinator” with the money to come out of the Community Action Grant funds.

**VI. ADJOURN**

**MOTION\_\_PEACOCK SECOND\_\_ANDREWS (PASSED 4-0) TIME: 5:05 P.M.**  
To adjourn.