

From: [Norvell, Bernie](#)
To: [Lemos, June](#)
Subject: Fwd: City Attorney Contract thoughts (although not a formal public comment)
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:43:07 PM
Attachments: [West Covina wants interim city manager to take the job permanently ... for 1 year – San Gabriel Valley Tribune.pdf](#)

Bernie Norvell Mayor City of Fort Bragg

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jacob Patterson <jacob.patterson.esq@gmail.com>
Date: April 12, 2021 at 4:38:22 PM PDT
Subject: City Attorney Contract thoughts (although not a formal public comment)

I know I emailed some of you before asking if we could just swap out Scott for Keith rather than having to keep Keith as the lead City Attorney under our Jones & Mayer (J&M) contract. I was even going to point out that Scott's profile on the J&M website lists him as serving as the West Covina City Attorney so it isn't that he is simply a land use subject matter specialist. Keith has proven quite problematic in giving the City advice in the past and I found Scott's recent training to be free from anything to complain about--strong raise from a critic like me. However, I uncovered an article that shows Jones & Mayer doesn't keep the website current because Scott was actually replaced in West Covina by a different J&M attorney after their City Council had issues with Scott's performance so maybe my positive impression isn't merited. (See attached.) We really need to find a different firm or hire an employee to handle these issues but as long as we are stuck with Jones & Mayer for whatever reason, Scott is certainly a better choice than Keith, at least in my opinion. The contract should be based on the client's needs and desires not whatever is convenient for the firm. If J&M isn't going to accommodate our needs, why keep them on at all?

The relevant portion of the article is excerpted below:

"In yet more changes, City Attorney Scott Porter stepped down from his position Tuesday "for personal reasons," Carmany said. However, Johnson provided further detail and said the council had "issues" with Porter.

"If things aren't working, you have to go in a different direction to make it work. It wasn't working the way it was," Johnson said.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to replace Porter with Tom Duarte of Jones & Mayer, the same firm Porter came from. Carmany said he would bring forth at the council's Aug. 20 meeting a revised agreement with Jones & Mayer to save the city money."

LOCAL NEWS

West Covina wants interim city manager to take the job permanently ... for 1 year

By **CHRISTOPHER YEE** | cyee@scng.com | San Gabriel Valley Tribune

PUBLISHED: July 17, 2019 at 3:34 p.m. | UPDATED: July 18, 2019 at 1:46 p.m.

The West Covina City Council effectively removed “interim” from City Manager David Carmany’s title this week, offering him a one-year contract.

The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday, with Councilwoman Jessica Shewmaker opposed, to direct the city attorney to negotiate and draft a contract with Carmany to continue leading the city staff, now on a more permanent basis. The council is set to consider the contract at its Aug. 20 meeting.

Mayor Lloyd Johnson said Carmany had done a good job since he was hired as interim city manager in April and that the one-year contract does not reflect the council’s lack of trust in him.

“There’s nothing wrong with it,” Johnson said in a Wednesday phone interview. “It keeps (employees) on their toes. As long as they’re doing their jobs, the contract can be renewed.”





West Covina City Manager David Carmany (Courtesy of city of West Covina)

Carmany has made several significant decisions since his hire, including firing police chief Marc Taylor and fire chief Larry Whithorn, hiring 20-year West Covina Police Department veteran Richard Bell as police chief and bringing forth a 2019-20 city budget that was balanced with eight layoffs and the elimination of eight unfilled positions.

“I am honored to be named city manager of West Covina,” Carmany said when reached by phone Wednesday. “It’s a privilege to serve such a great community. I’m looking forward to the challenges and giving it my very best.”

In yet more changes, City Attorney Scott Porter stepped down from his position Tuesday “for personal reasons,” Carmany said. However, Johnson provided further detail and said the council had “issues” with Porter.

“If things aren’t working, you have to go in a different direction to make it work. It wasn’t working the way it was,” Johnson said.

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Carmany served as La Puente’s city manager from November 2013 until January. Prior to that, he served in the same role in Manhattan Beach.

A former Manhattan Beach employee sued the city, alleging Carmany forced her to alter figures in staff reports, shred documents, falsify financial disclosure forms, and would often stand behind her desk and stare down her blouse, according to the lawsuit filed in 2014.



As part of [the 2016 settlement](#), the former employee received a \$1.5 million payout for dropping the suit, and the city did not admit liability or wrongdoing.

Carmany was previously fired as city manager in Pacifica in 2003 “for cause” — but exactly what that cause was unclear. He later filed a lawsuit against the city and received \$175,000 in a settlement. Carmany’s experience includes working as city manager in Agoura Hills and Malibu as well as assistant city manager in Alhambra.

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Christopher Yee | reporter

Christopher Yee is a reporter for the Pasadena Star-News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune covering cities in the west and central parts of the San Gabriel Valley. He grew up in Monterey Park and studied journalism at East Los Angeles College and UC Berkeley.

You may find him at Dodger Stadium or at the Staples Center for L.A. Kings games.

cye@scng.com

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