

**CANBY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2009**

Presiding: Council President Walt Daniels. Mayor Melody Thompson was absent.

Council Present: John Henri, Jason Padden, and Robert Bitter.

Staff Present: Kim Scheafer, City Recorder.

Others Present: Dawn Depner, Robert Backstrom, Randy Carson, Loren Hamar, Gregory Perez, and Bev Doolittle.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Daniels called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

CITIZEN INPUT & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Interview of City Council Applicants – Kim Scheafer, City Recorder, said there were two vacant City Council positions and the terms of service would end on December 31, 2010. Four applicants would be interviewed that night and four would be interviewed the next night. Each applicant had 15 minutes to answer six questions that had been provided to them along with other information they deemed relevant.

Dawn Depner – Ms. Depner said she served on the Ackerman PTA, Canby Softball vice president, and started up Operation Snuggle. She had been a financial advisor for 10 years, attended college classes in Montana, and did various training and management duties. She loved Canby and thought it was important to be a part of the community. She felt a person's voice was the strongest thing they had. It was important to be part of a solution. She would consider running for office in 2010. The most pressing problem in Canby was the lack of trust and communication. She wanted to be a part of the healing. The Council had done a good job. She did not feel that she would have problems with the time commitment.

Councilor Henri said it was turning out to be two to three nights every few weeks. He thought it was important that she knew that.

Ms. Depner said she liked to keep busy and felt passionate about the position.

Councilor Henri said the Council did not always agree but agreed at the end of the day to have one voice. He wondered how she felt about being a team player.

Ms. Depner said she was a team player.

Councilor Bitter asked if there was anything she would like to see accomplished or any changes made that she thought the Council should take on.

Ms. Depner said she felt the Council had opened the doors to communication. She would like the communication to be improved.

Councilor Padden said he was amazed how much editing had to be done and things that needed to be kept secure until they were ready to be released. He asked if she considered herself to be a good self editor of her communication.

Ms. Depner said yes she was.

Loren Hamar – Mr. Hamar said he led Connection Central, a Christian ministry of networking and encouragement that partnered with city, government, businesses, and schools. He had been a Pastor since 1972. His heart was in encouraging people. He had also done a lot of coaching and working with sports and kids. He graduated from Northwest University. He served in a group that founded a YMCA partnership with another city and had served as the YMCA President. He wanted to encourage and add value to the City staff and people that served the City. He was impressed with the quality of the people working for the City of Canby. He would be interested in running for the position next fall for the same motives as he stated, to add an influence and an impact on the City. He thought the most pressing problems were the economic infrastructure of the main street project and enhancing the economic possibilities. He liked what was being done in the industrial park and with the theatre. He did not think the time commitment would be a problem.

Councilor Henri said one of the difficult things was there were two or more sides to each issue and sometimes citizens were very vocal about their opinions. He asked if Mr. Hamar would be able to handle that.

Mr. Hamar said he would be naive if he thought that did not happen. He had served people for over 30 years, and he had his share of experience with this. He said civility, courtesy, and respect should be given whether a person shared the same opinion with you or not. He let people think what they wanted and if there was a place where they could exchange ideas, they could produce change. He appreciated what the Council did and would be positive about whomever the Council selected.

Councilor Bitter said to all the candidates that there were many openings on other City committees and many opportunities to serve.

Robert Backstrom – Mr. Backstrom said he echoed what the other two candidates had said. He was positive about where the City was going. He wanted to be part of that. He had been chair of the Riverside Neighborhood Association, and had served on the Street Maintenance Committee and Traffic Safety Commission. He had opposed the Northwood development, but when they lost that fight, they petitioned that it be made an area of special concern and worked with the developer. He was good at compromising. He spoke about his background in education. He drove for Canby Area Transit and it had opened his eyes. The reason he was interested in this position was he felt Canby residents deserved a beautiful and safe neighborhood. He felt the City's goals were right on track. He had been a team player his whole career and was good at editing. He felt the most pressing problem was neighborhood livability. He would be willing and able to attend the meetings. He had committed to a month in October in Florida. He was open to running for office in 2010.

Councilor Henri asked how he felt regarding the main street program.

Mr. Backstrom thought it was a wonderful program.

Randy Carson – Mr. Carson said his wife had been active in the Historical Society for a number of years and they were planning on doing less meetings but their plans had changed. After two people resigned, he felt his prior experience of 10 years was needed. He wanted to get the downtown and industrial park moving. He discussed his experience and background in aviation. He wanted Canby to be a business friendly community and thought they needed a little more vision with the downtown plan. He would run again in 2010 since his wife was going to continue to be active in the Historical Society. Economic development for the downtown was the most pressing issue. Infrastructure for new streets was important. The three main intersections along 99E also needed a lot of work. He had stayed active in the community and still had visions for the City.

Councilor Henri asked if the applicants had anything they wanted to add.

Robert Backstrom asked if there were any plans to move businesses from the north end of town to the other end of town. The truck traffic was a problem.

Councilor Daniels said the zone from the Legion Hall to the Post Office was changed to C1 and there was not much development currently due to the economy.

Mr. Backstrom was hoping there would be a gradual fade out of some of the businesses that had truck traffic.

Councilor Padden said there was no effort from the City for the businesses to move.

Councilor Bitter said the issue would be addressed in the Transportation System Plan update.

Council President Daniels adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:22 p.m.


Kimberly Scheafer, CMC
City Recorder Pro-Tem


Walt Daniels
Council President