

**CANBY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2009**

Presiding: Mayor Melody Thompson.

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

Staff Present: Kim Scheafer, City Recorder.

Others Present: Christie Perez, Gregory Perez, Richard Ares, Greg Parker, Bev Doolittle, Randy Carson, Robert Backstrom, and Brian Hodson.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Thompson 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 that four applicants had been interviewed the previous night and four would be interviewed that night. Each applicant had 15 minutes to answer six questions that had been provided to them along with other information they deemed relevant.

Gregory Perez – Mr. Perez said he had lived in Canby for the past 15 years. He was a retired US Army Veteran and now worked for the Canby School District as a Skills Trainer. He was good at conflict resolution and being a team player. He had been involved with Canby Boys Rugby for the past seven years. It was important that members in the community step up to the plate and help in the community. In Wallowa County he was the president of a condominium association along with the water board association and road association. He went to college in California and Texas. The reason for his interest was that it was a citizen's duty to serve within the community. They should encourage others to serve also. He had the fortitude and enthusiasm to serve and with his contacts and ideas to bring to the table, he would be an asset. Confidentiality was important to him. He was a people person and was involved in Canby on a daily basis. He was interested in running in 2010. It was one of his dreams to be part of City government. It was the right time for him. The most pressing problem was filling the Council vacancy positions along with those of the City Administrator and Chief of Police. The downtown area was important and it was a crisis because they had lost some businesses. They needed to support and find out what needed to be done to bring downtown back to where it used to be. The entryway to Canby on NE 3rd Avenue was also a very pressing issue. Making time to attend the meetings would not be a problem.

Mr. Perez asked what the short and long term goals were for the City.

Mayor Thompson reviewed some of the various City goals.

Greg Parker – Mr. Parker spoke about why he moved to Canby and his employment background. He was now retired and had a home based management business. He did volunteer work with the school district and Habitat for Humanity. He wanted to connect citizens with the government and make government more efficient. He had done executive searches and hiring. He thought a

people person was needed for both the City Administrator and Police Chief positions. The most pressing issue in Canby was the businesses that were barely getting by. He had time to participate in the meetings. He did not know if he would run in 2010. It would depend upon how he felt he was doing. He would be proud to bring representation from south Canby.

Councilor Bitter asked what he thought was most pressing regarding City government.

Mr. Parker said it was reconnecting. Losing the City Administrator, Police Chief, and two City Councilors had put a strain on the City. Canby government's number one goal needed to be to restore faith, renew a sense of community, and build trust.

Councilor Henri asked what his feelings were regarding the current main street program.

Mr. Parker said there was a narrow band with which government could operate in terms of including or excluding businesses. It should be on a case by case basis and it needed to involve the Chamber and City leaders and experts so they had a mix and not businesses all competing for the same sector and diverse enough to bring in downtown traffic. He was available to go to Salem and try all the avenues to get any money he could for Canby.

Richard Ares – Mr. Ares said he started working in Canby 13 years ago and served as president of Canby Telcom and then retired in 2005. He moved to Canby because of the atmosphere and was active in the Canby Rotary Club. He had experience in both paid and non-paid positions, private business, government, and community organizations. He was skilled in listening with an open mind, could diplomatically discuss and debate the issues, and could make a decision. He had high ethical standards. He discussed his education in management and how he had worked for large and small businesses. He had negotiated union contracts in both private and public sectors. He was experienced in working with outside consultants, financial audits, legal counsel, elected representatives in both state and federal offices, and had done recruitment. He was a founding board member of three corporations that were still in business. He discussed the many committees and boards he had served on, including several Clackamas County boards. He understood and respected the difference in roles between City Council and staff. His background and experience would help him work with the new City Administrator to bring stability back to the Council and City government and get back to accomplishing the goals of the City. He wanted to be prudent with the taxpayers' money. He wanted to help the City be accountable to the citizens and work towards stability. It was his intent to file for office in 2010. The most pressing problem was to recruit a City Administrator that would act as a partner with citizens, businesses, and staff along with a Police Chief that would develop an effective law enforcement team and maintain a high degree of visibility with the citizens. Within the first month of his appointment, he would like to visit with the department heads so that he could make knowledgeable and fact based decisions. He would also spend time with the City Attorney to review any litigation. He was prepared to spend the necessary time.

Mayor Thompson asked about the Mt. Hood Economic Alliance.

Mr. Ares explained what the organization did.

His concern with the goals was that with too many things you couldn't get them done.

Brian Hodson – Mr. Hodson said he had lived in Canby for five years. He worked at the Starbucks in town and had worked for the company for 15 years. He was the vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and had been on the board for two years. He also served on the Fire and Community Foundation. He had a BA in psychology from Linfield. He saw Canby going in a great direction. He wanted to be involved and see where Canby was going in the future. There were a lot of things to put in place to prepare for the growth. Getting involved now was the right time. If appointed it would depend on his decisions and if he felt support to run for office in 2010. Hopefully, the answer would be yes. He felt the most pressing problems were that City Hall needed continuity in leadership, they needed to create a solid business foundation, and they needed more community involvement. He was able to make the time commitment.

Mayor Thompson asked what he thought about the main street program.

Mr. Hodson said staff's excitement was a help in the support of the program. He thought to prevent leakage to other cities something needed to be done. The program was inviting. He was excited for the theatre coming to town. He thought it would take time, but would draw businesses downtown. He liked what he saw and was encouraged by it.

Councilor Henri reiterated the time commitment the position required.

Mr. Hodson said he and his family were prepared for that.

Mayor Thompson recessed the Special Meeting at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened it at 8:09 p.m.

All the councilors said Richard Ares was one of their top choices. They discussed the reasons for the choice.

Councilor Henri said he thought Brian Hodson and Dawn Depner would bring something having children at home, but felt Brian Hodson was his second choice.

Councilor Bitter said Greg Parker was his second choice.

Councilor Padden said Randy Carson would bring some prior experience with the Council.

Councilor Daniels suggested Robert Backstrom as his second choice.

****Councilor Bitter moved to appoint Richard Ares to the City Council vacant position for a term to expire on December 31, 2010. Motion was seconded by Councilor Daniels and passed 4-0.**

Councilor Henri said he felt Canby was going through a new phase and they were making changes. Brian Hodson was active in the community and had a vested interest in the community.

Councilor Bitter said he mentioned Greg Parker but could support Brian Hodson also.

Councilor Daniels said Brian Hodson was one of his top choices as well.

Councilor Padden said Brian Hodson was his third choice, but he was comfortable with the decision.

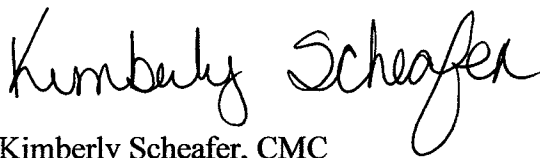
****Councilor Henri moved to appoint Brian Hodson to the City Council vacant position for a term to expire on December 31, 2010. Motion was seconded by Councilor Padden and passed 4-0.**

Councilor Bitter said they were happy to get so many highly qualified people. He thanked the candidates for applying and he hoped they would see more of them.

Councilor Padden said if they were really interested in this position, get to know what the City was doing and run in the next election.

Councilor Henri thought they could serve on one of the several vacant City committee positions.

Mayor Thompson adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:30 p.m.



Kimberly Scheafer, CMC
City Recorder Pro-Tem



Melody Thompson
Mayor