

The City Council met in special session, January 30, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. Present on roll call: Mayor Vulich; Councilmembers: Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Allesee, O'Neill and Connell.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings to come before the Council.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

No persons came before the Council to speak.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Vulich advised that this was the time to conduct interviews with William (Bill) Schemers, Jennifer Graf, and Seth Odor for the vacant City Council position. City Administrator Brooke welcomed the candidates and explained the interview process.

Councilmember Gassman – What makes you the best qualified to take the position?

Schemers – Take a look at my application. Over three years prior to coming to Clinton I listened to the Council meetings and read articles about Clinton. When I got here I began attending Council meetings, got involved in the community and began serving on the Planning Commission. I talked to relatives from the City and the residents. I have gone to the State Capitol with groups from the community and am familiar with the issues. What I do now is nothing different than in other states. This is my lifestyle. I think I am a good candidate.

Graf – You all have seen my application. I know all of you personally. My life's work is serving others and that will continue. I have a passion for this community. You have done great things and have good people in place.

Odor – I think I am a good candidate because of what I have done in other areas of my life. I invented the position at Skyline and feel I am leaving a legacy for the next person. I know what employers want and have seen an increase in sales nationwide. I can run with the position and can bring in new ideas.

Councilmember Seeley – If you do one thing over the next 11 months what will it be and why?

Graf – I would obtain information from the City Attorney on various matters to come up to speed. I would work on an equitable budget and look at contractual issues. This is a full-time job and I would do the homework and come in prepared.

Odor – I would get to know the business leaders in the community and would try to bridge the gap with the major players. I would get to work on the budget.

Schemers – I have been meeting with business leaders, the CRDC and Council Members and that would continue. There is success in a groups working together. I would listen to the concerns of the Department Heads and talk to persons in the community. I would look at what has been done well and what can be done better.

Councilmember McGraw – If you could pick one issue which you feel is important what would it be?

Odor – Issues with the budget.

Schemers – there is a data base which shows the financial health of a community. Three years ago Clinton was ranked number one in the State of Iowa and 104th in the Country now it is number seven in the State and 217th in the country. We need to reverse this trend.

Graf – I would help the City Administrator to acclimate to the area and people and help him be successful. I would want to make sure the Council is successful and positive. I would work toward a balanced budget and make the tough decisions.

Councilmember Connell – How would you appeal to the youth?

Graf – I am passionate about a succession plan. We need to empower the minorities. There are a lot of non-profit organizations getting information from the youth. We need them on Boards and Commissions and to attend important events.

Odor – I am a graduate of the Leadership Institute and we had a great young group. It is hard to find housing and people end up in other areas. We need solid media engagement. We need to work with non-profit organizations and ask people what is needed to keep them in the area.

Schemers – We must be involved with the youth. My son wants to be involved. It was great that the President of the Clinton High School Student Council was asked to participate in the search process for the new City Administrator. The City should start a mentorship program.

Councilmember O’Neill – What is the weakest attribute of the Council and how would you rectify it?

Odor – Some is the image of the Council. We could try to create an image of not being out of touch. The use of social medial would also help.

Councilmember O’Neill – What is your understanding of single stream recycling and how would you sell it to the public?

Graf – I have always been passionate about this. The City must have the weighted vote at the Landfill. It is the responsibility of all of us economically and ethically to recycle. Single stream recycling helps us all.

Councilmember O’Neill – what is your understanding of TIF and how would you bring economic development to the area?

Schemers – it is an incentive for businesses and individuals wanting to come into the City.

Councilmember Allesee – How will you handle problems in the City related to nuisance properties?

Schemers – The City is on a good path with the building inspector and abatements. Every City employee, when they see a nuisance, should fill out a card and give it to BNS.

Graf – The City has done a good job regarding online notification. There is a line item in the budget for demolitions. BNS is over worked and under staffed. The smoke detector program was good. There is no easy answer. Poor communities can result in blight. There are CDBG Grants available.

Odor – There is not much more to add. We must rely on our constituents and people in the neighborhood. There must be constant communication. Funds for cleanup should be allocated in the budget.

City Administrator Brooke advised the Council regarding the ballot process. Each Council Member would check two names on the ballot and would vote until there were two clear winners, then they would select one name out of the two.

M/S, Gassman-O'Neill moved to accept the process. On roll call, carried unanimously.

City Administrator Brooke advised the Council that the final two candidates were Bill Schemers and Seth Odor. After the final ballot process Mayor Vulich announced that the new Council Member At-Large is Seth Odor.

M/S, Allesee-Gassman moved the Council adopt Resolution No. 2017-029 appointing Seth Odor as the new Councilmember At-Large. On roll call, carried unanimously.

M/S, Allesee-Connell moved to adjourn to 7:00 February 14, 2017. On roll call, carried unanimously.

Mark S. Vulich
Mayor

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk