

Minutes for Damascus City Council, Special Meeting, Aug 13, 2020

The Mayor, James De Young, called the council meeting to order via ZOOM at 7:04 pm. He followed the printed agenda closely.

At the roll call, Councilors Wehr, Robinson, Johnson, in addition to the Mayor, were present. Absent were Councilors Hadley, Morrison, and Fitz. Councilor Fitz later joined the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The Mayor then led the Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Councilor Robinson moved, Councilor Johnson seconded, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Under Council Business the Mayor reported--

(1) that the balance at Banner Bank was about \$200; he commended those who had made donations to the City

(2) that CIS insurance was all paid in full for fiscal year, 2019-2020;

(3) that the City still awaits the decision from the State Supreme Court re SB 226; and that the atty balance owing is about \$162 k; he commended the Ramis law firm for their diligent and good work on behalf of the City, esp through the work of Ed Trompke;

(4) re. fund raising, that over \$8700 has been donated during 2019 and 2020;

(5) that the city website can be visited by citizens to ask questions

(www.damascusoregon.city) and ways to improve communications are always welcome;

(6) comprehensive planning of over 1100 A. of western Damascus by Happy Valley is on hold (they say because of the pandemic);

(7) that the meeting times of the City Council are somewhat fluid due to the pandemic;

(8) that filling vacancies on the planning commission are on hold due to the pandemic;

(9) that the potential vacancy of position 3 on City Council is still unresolved (he did follow the instructions of the Council);

(10) that the City needs to appoint a temporary, volunteer City Elections Official. The Mayor noted that because this is a general election (even numbered year) our charter calls for the position of Mayor and three councilor positions (nos. 1, 2, and 6) to be elected this year. The form SEL 101 must be filled out and submitted to the City Elections Official by Aug 25, 5 pm; he in turn submits the official list of candidates on city letterhead to the County Elections officer by Sept 3; by Sept 14 information for the Voters Pamphlet is due with a picture (not more than 2 years old). The SEL 101 form is available on line and in physical form from the City Elections Official and from the Mayor. The Mayor will assist the City Elections Official.

After discussion, Councilor Wehr moved, Councilor Johnson seconded, the motion to appoint Doug Walker to the position of temporary, voluntary City Elections Official. The Mayor pointed out that Mr Walker has been a staunch supporter of the City. Presently he is suffering ill health. The Mayor advised that we also make a motion to appoint a back-up to Mr. Walker should he be unable to serve in this capacity. The motion re. Mr. Walker carried unanimously.

Then Councilor Robinson moved, and Councilor Wehr seconded, to appoint Mr Jay Robinson to serve as a back-up to Mr Walker in the event that Mr Walker cannot serve in the position of City Elections Official. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr Fitz raised the issue of whether we as a City had made sufficient advertisement of the pending elections, and whether the County had agreed to receive our slate of candidates. The Mayor replied that we are doing all we can to advertise the election: it will be part of this meeting's minutes; and the election will be noted on our City website along with the SEL 101 form. The Mayor also noted that thus far the County Elections Office under Sherry Hall had not yet decided what to do; that it is waiting for the input of the County Counsel, Stephen Madkour. But the Mayor with the compliance of our City attorney advised that we should do all we can to have a slate of candidates ready for the Voters Pamphlet.

Under Councilor Comments, Council Wehr voiced his pleasure that Doug Walker had agreed to serve as our temporary Elections Officer. Councilor Robinson gave a brief report on the Damascus Merchants project. The Mayor commended her for her leadership in this event. Councilor Johnson had nothing to report. Councilor Fitz suggested that the Mayor document with the City attorney, Mr. Trompke, that we are meeting all requirements re the election of City officials so that we are in compliance lest someone fault us on this matter. Mayor De Young agreed to do so. Mr Fitz also reported on his recent business travels.

Mayor De Young ended the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Minutes taken by Patricia De Young