

North Powder City Council Special Meeting
July 18, 2023
7 PM City Hall

Attendance: Mayor John Frieboes, Councilors Logan McCrae, Vicki Townsend, Justin Wright, and Lindsey Thompson. City Recorder Beth Wendt

Others: Rick Lawyer, Joyce Lawyer, Dave Hoene, Mike & Jane Wisdom, Randy & Sally Aldrich, Karlie Martin, Barry Princevalle, Jeff & Wynn Nielsen, Barbara Weeks, Linda Dixon, Suzanne Watson, Alan & Teri Brown.

Mayor John Frieboes called to the meeting to order to potentially fill a vacant council position. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Beth apologized for posting the wrong time. The meeting was set for 7PM and notices that were sent to the applicants said 7PM. However, the posted notices said 6PM.

Beth took a few minutes to address some issues that came up after the last Council meeting. This is a meeting of the City Council that is open to public observation but is not a public forum. The Council has always encouraged public comment, but there is a time and method for it. The Council agenda is posted at City Hall and on the city website at least 3 days prior to a regular meeting and extra copies are available at the meeting. The Council is aware there is a problem with acoustics and are working to address the issue. It is not illegal to record the meeting. However, if you are recording, you must disclose that. Oregon Public Records law requires audio and visual recording to be kept for a minimum of one year after the minutes are approved. Minutes are intended to be summary of what took place in a meeting and a record of all motions and decisions. They aren't supposed to be a word-for-word rehash of what was said. Executive Sessions are allowed for a limited number of issues, many of which don't apply to the City. No votes can be held during an executive session. The City Charter, like the Oregon State Constitution and the US Constitution, allows that a vacancy of a public office is to be filled by appointment of a majority vote of the remaining members of the governing body. In this case, the City Council. The Council may choose whomever they wish to fill the vacancy as long as they meet the criteria of an elected office. There is no time limit as to when or if the vacancy must be filled.

Mayor Frieboes noted that, of the three applicants, Jeff Nielsen and Randy Aldrich were in attendance. Randy withdrew his application.

Jeff was asked to explain how he has dealt with conflict and give examples. Jeff said when he was on the building committee and wanted an inspection done, his request was over ruled and he held his piece. When he was called a trouble maker by council members, he bit his tongue.

In terms of city business, what were the 3 highest priorities? Jeff felt the most important aspects of the City were maintaining the water and sewer systems and maintaining equipment.

Jeff's goals for the council were to serve the best interests of the people of North Powder and to encourage community involvement.

Projects Jeff would like to see happen during his term in office were to increase the desirability of the town, simplify ordinances and make things less controversial, and to encourage more community involvement.

He felt he could stand on his merits for what he has done and his involvement. He was interested in the position because he cares about the town and its residents. He and his wife are active in the community. He is creative and loves a challenge.

He felt he could work with anybody as long as things were done legally and ethically and for the best of the community.

Vicki made a motion to vote whether to accept or not accept Jeff's application. Lindsey seconded. Logan abstained from the vote. Justin and Lindsey were in favor of acceptance. Vicki was opposed. Motion carried, 2 to 1 in favor.

Beth immediately swore Jeff into office for City Council Position #2.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder