

City of Selah
Council Minutes
March 1, 2012

Special Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Gawlik called the meeting to order at 8:20am.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Keith Larson; John Tierney; Paul Overby; Kevin Jorgensen; Dave Smeback; Allen Schmid

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Monica Lake, Executive Assistant

C. Certification of Applicant Addresses

Community Planner Davison certified that the referenced addresses are located with the municipal boundary of the City of Selah.

Executive Assistant Lake gave a brief explanation of the procedure and agenda for the Special Meeting.

D. Applicant Interviews

1. 8:30am – Steven (Jamie) Morford

Mr. Morford approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that he felt the top priorities for the City should be beautification of the downtown area, cohesiveness between the School District and the City, long-term pool development and outreach to the local businesses; that Selah's best asset is the parks, which bring people to town for tournaments and need to remain state-of-the-art facilities; that the least appealing feature in Selah are the business entrances; that a Council Member's responsibilities are to represent as broad a base of the population as you can and to be a sounding board for those in your demographic; that he has qualifications that make him a viable candidate, such as serving on both the Planning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Board, meeting a demographic that is not as well-represented on the current Council; that the City should explore volunteer hours, look at additional revenue sources for Parks & Recreation, and decrease expenses where possible; that a Council member should be receptive to phone calls, make unsolicited visits to local businesses and be out

in public; and that he would be available both during the day and in the evenings to attend meetings.

2. 9:00am – Carl Torkelson

Mr. Torkelson approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that he felt the top priorities are to be the voice of the people and have a fair and honest opinion, to promote commercial and residential growth within the City, and the invest time in the City's youth; that the best asset of Selah is that it has that small town America feel to the town and is a fantastic small bedroom community to live in; that there are always places for improvement, especially to improve and promote commercial growth; that a Council Member's responsibilities include making decisions on items such as land development and signage, to be fair and open-minded, and to be a voice of the people; that he is pro-Selah, feels that where your heart is so is your money, owns numerous rentals in Selah, coaches wrestling, feels that he is fair, just tenacious and open-minded; that growth in the City will lead to additional revenues and help the City's budget; that the Council does a good job communicating but there is always room for improvement; and that he would be available to attend meetings during the day and at night.

3. 9:30am – Michele Strobel

Ms. Strobel approached the podium and stated her name and address for the record. She said that she felt the top priorities should be communication with the constituents of the community, working to make sure objectives are met, building our community, pulling together as a team, and working with our local businesses; that Selah's best asset is its people, as we are a community who cares and works together to make this a great place; that the least appealing feature is the difficulties with business signage and what is allowed per Municipal Code; that a Council Member should be a listening ear for the community, make sure that administrative task and policies are being met, working together as a group and meeting the Council objectives; that she is passionate about the community, she likes to serve and would like to include as many people as possible in the process and make it a positive experience for all; that the Council has a responsibility to be frugal with their resources, to be responsible, and to look for ways to cut expenses; that the communication could certainly be improved, citing the City Pool as an example that should be discussed with the public; and that she is available but would need advance notice to clear her work schedule.

4. 10:00am – George Domine'

Mr. Domine' approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that the top priorities are continued coordination between departments to meet the needs of the citizens, to look at future development for Selah, growth and development issues within the City and annexation issues; that our best asset is not suffering from Yakima's maladies and having a quality School District; that our limited access is the least appealing feature, but it also makes Selah the community it is, and that we need to work with the State to develop better access and make it a destination, not a drive-thru; that a Council Member's responsibility is to the citizens and to aid in decision making that benefits the citizens; that he is not political in nature, that new blood will help break

the good old boy chain and allow for a balancing of perspective, that he has no ties to persons or agendas and that he has a different vision of how things should be; that promoting Selah as a receptive community for manufacturing and light industrial businesses will generate additional revenues; that communication can always be improved upon, that the Council should utilize the technology available, and reach out to the local businesses; and that he is available during the day and in the evenings.

E. Council discussion regarding City Supervisor position

Councilman Smeback opened a discussion regarding the vacant City Supervisor position and whether it should be filled by an interim or they should simply look for someone to fill the permanent position. The Council discussed the issue before taking a consensus.

The Mayor polled the Council for a consensus on opting to defer the process of searching for an interim City Supervisor and instead go directly to recruitment for the permanent position. Consensus was unanimous.

Council took a 12 minute recess.

F. Applicant Interviews

5. 11:15am – Brooke Finch

Ms. Finch approached the podium and stated her name and address for the record. She said that the top three priorities for the City should be downtown improvement and community revitalization, improving the ability of the Chamber to interact with businesses, and increasing value to the youth in the form of activities, the pool, parks, and new events that appeal to them; that Selah's best asset is its friendliness, interaction with one another and the community environment; that the least appealing feature is the downtown area, which needs to be cleaned up and improved; that a Council Member should keep the best interest of the community ahead of personal alliances or opinions, that one should walk in the shoes of a community member to better represent the City, and should put any personal agenda aside; that while she is one of the youngest applicants for the position, she has business and financial leadership experience, as well as lending, management and sales experience, and she got involved with the Selah Chamber and Kiwanis to become active in the community; that the City needs to bring in new events and activities that not only draw visitors but foster a feeling of community, but stated that she is not familiar with the current budget; that good communication via the local newspaper will keep the citizens informed on Council doings, along with keeping the website updated; and that she is available to attend meetings during the day and in the evenings.

6. 11:45am – Wayne Johnson

Mr. Johnson approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his top priorities are to insure that everything is fair, encourage more growth in Selah, have the pool reopen, and to have activities for the youth; that Selah's best asset is that it is a safe City; that Selah needs some higher end restaurants; that a Council Member provides checks and balances, insures that the budget is handled properly, and makes sure

things are done correctly; that he has no alliance with any particular group, he has experience dealing with entities such as Yakima County, Kittitas County, and Washington State, can bring enlightenment, and desires to learn more about how Cities work; that Selah needs to attract additional businesses and housing; that the City should have information available both online and in newsletters, but one cannot force people to participate; and that he is available both during the day and in the evening to attend meetings.

G. 30 Minute Lunch Break 12:15 – 12:45pm

H. Applicant Interviews

7. 12:45pm – Roy Sample

Mr. Sample approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his priorities are to continue with the good work the City is doing, to concentrate more on revitalizing the downtown area, to retain the high quality residential properties, and to add more commercial properties; that the City's best asset is its recreational facilities; that Selah should have been located about a mile north of its present location, the City needs to add more Commercial properties, and to have the downtown become a vibrant part of the City; that a Council Member should attend all meetings, give his best effort, and try to keep the standards high; that he is the oldest applicant, with no housing or development projects in Selah, but is currently working as a building consultant and familiar with the Planning Department in Selah and other Cities in the Valley; that he would need to do some study and research before offering an opinion on the budget; that better advertisement may lead to better attendance at Public Hearings, but it is human nature to ignore something unless it directly affects you; and that he is available at any time.

8. 1:15pm – Jane Williams

Ms. Williams approached the podium and stated her name and address for the record. She said that she would pull the Mayor, the Council and the City staff together as a cohesive team, have Code enforcement work on stronger enforcement of the Codes currently on the books, and encourage and attract businesses to the area that would provide good-paying jobs for its citizens; that the people and the Yakima River are its best assets; that Selah needs strong Code Enforcement regarding vacant or abandoned buildings and structures; that a Council Member should attend every meeting, stay involved in the community, listen to the residents, bring back questions and concerns, and do research on agenda items to make an informed vote; that she is a strong candidate as she has the time to research and analyze problems, and she has a good relationship with the retired community due to her volunteer work at the Civic Center; that she would need to study the budget before answering questions regarding the budget and revenues; that meetings should be held in a larger facility such as the Civic Center, to allow more citizens to attend, and that the Council should consider bringing back the informational meetings; and that she is available both day and night.

9. 1:45pm – Michael Quigley

Mr. Quigley approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his top priorities would be cultivating a better relationship between the City and the School district, good working relationships, and a Council that gets along and works well together; that Selah's best asset is its people; that we need to encourage new businesses to come to Selah, as it is better for the community; that a Council Member answers to the people, expresses his opinion, and makes sure that everyone is on the same page when we leave; that he has been with the same company for twenty-nine years, during that time has done everything from hiring to firing, dealt with yearly budgets of \$200 million and has never gone over a budget; that getting more business in Selah will increase the tax base; that he feels communication is not a weakness of this Council, as there are articles in the paper and meetings are broadcast on Y-PAC, but that the Council has an obligation to be upfront with the community; and that he is available day and night.

10. 2:15pm – Gene Thorpe

Mr. Thorpe approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his top priorities are to protect the citizens of Selah, make sure that what the City is doing is agreeable, and to work with the Police Department and the Fire Department to keep things on an even keel within the community; that our best asset is the fruit packing industry and one needs to use an open mind concerning their issues and make a decision on those values; that he has not observed anything in Selah he would label as least appealing; that a Council Member should do what is right for both the community and for the City; that he is a successful business owner, open-minded, and has always been a fighter, but would rather talk and negotiate; that we need to acquire another business that would benefit the City and the community; that the City informs the community of happenings; and that he is available after twelve o'clock any day.

I. 15 Minute Break 2:15 – 2:45pm

J. Applicant Interviews

11. 3:00pm – Dennis Murphy

Mr. Murphy approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. HE said that his top priorities are the welfare of the kids and families regarding the swimming pool, business developemtn and the continued quality of life in Selah; that the quality of life in Selah, its economic continuity, and the closeness of its community are its greatest assets; that everyone should be on the same page, but there is a lack of continuity between the Council, the School District and the community at present; that a Council Member is responsible for making the best decisions on behalf of the citizens who live here, so one should be a problem solver, a decision maker, and a planner, with no ties to special interests; that he is a viable candidate as he has chosen to be part of the decision rather than part of the problem, that he has done budgeting and planning, is a great communicator, and that one needs to wiegh the facts, do the analysis, make a resolution and stick by that decision; that he is not familiair with the budget at present, but that he can learn any job within thirty days; that a lack of knowledge is worse than bad knowledge, the Council should be telling the citizens what happens at the Council

meetings, and information should be available the day following any meetings; and that he is available at any time of day or night.

12. 3:30pm – Dale Becker

Mr. Becker approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his top priorities are to ensure that public services are met in the most efficient means possible for the City, to look at the priorities in the City's budget regarding things such as utilities, the Fire Department and the Police Department, while placing parks towards the end of the priority list, to maintain the quality of life, to draw new businesses and to provide positive support to the businesses already here; that Selah is a safe and quiet community with no gang problems and a small town feel; that the main streets need to be spruced up to draw people in, as we have nice parks and a great school system; that a Council Member's responsibility is to be the eyes and ears for those who cannot do this and to make the best decision possible based on the information at hand; that he has over twenty years of legal experience, is willing to work collaboratively, and use common sense; that the City needs to attract new businesses while retaining those we have, meet individually with each employee to solicit ideas and ways to cut expenses, and not to leave the door open for gang activity to enter; that a feed to the Council meetings should be on the website, as not everyone has access to Y-PAC; and that he is available day or night.

13. 4:00pm – Bruce Williams

Mr. Williams approached the podium and stated his name and address for the record. He said that his priorities are community involvement, teamwork within the City Council, and public safety and health; that the best assets are the swimming pool and the ball fields, as they bring money into the community; that the least appealing feature is trashy neighborhoods and that Code Enforcement should be strictly enforced; that a Council Member is responsible for governing the City, making sure that City services meet the Codes and requirements of the State and the County, to provide services for the community, and to make sure the budget is balanced and the City is solvent; that he is a viable candidate with excellent problem-solving skills, common sense, creative thinking, and ideas that might benefit the Council; that the city should take a look at everything, including the services provided, whether City expenses are comparable to other Cities of comparable size, taxes and fees, and ways to increase revenue; the Council needs to solicit feedback from the public, to get a feel for what the people in the community think about issues on the table; and that he works full-time but would be available when needed.

K. Executive Session

Council took a fifteen minute recess, and then entered into an Executive Session for thirty minutes to evaluate the qualifications of the candidates for appointment to an elective office, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (h).

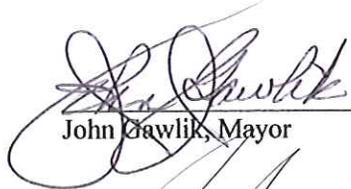
Upon conclusion of the Executive Session, the Council went back to Public Session. Mayor Gawlik stated that no actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Council Member Overby moved, and Council Member Jorgensen seconded, to appoint Brooke Finch to fill vacant Council Position No. 1 until the next election. By voice vote, approval was unanimous.

L. Adjournment

Council Member Schmid moved, and Council Member Jorgensen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, approval was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.



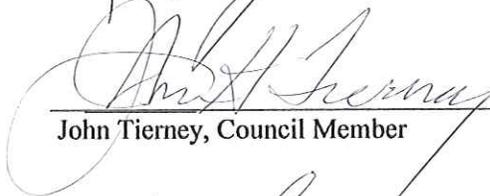
John Gawlik, Mayor



Keith Larson, Council Member



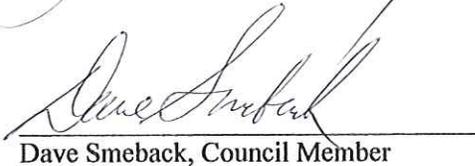
Paul Overby, Council Member



John Tierney, Council Member



Kevin Jorgensen, Council Member

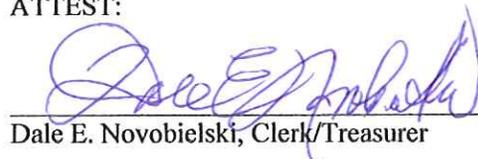


Dave Smeback, Council Member



Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:



Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer