

SPECIAL MINUTES
PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT
Tuesday, August 11, 2009

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan was convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

The City Clerk took the roll call:

Members Present: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Satterlee and Wills.

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Wills delivered the invocation.

The Mayor led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates to fill the city council seat vacancy created by the resignation of Shane Husted on July 21, 2009.

7 p.m. Mike Scheid

1. Please tell us about yourself and briefly explain your reasons for wishing to serve on the Belding City Council.

Mr. Scheid stated he was a lifelong Belding resident, moving back in 1974 after being away a few years. It is a nice town, and it was a good place to go to school. They wanted to start their family here. It is home and comfortable. He has been attending the meetings, and he thought it was time to step up to the plate. He would like to do something to help the city out.

2. Please tell us about any previous civic or service club involvement.

He was involved with the youth baseball and softball leagues for a number of years. He and his wife ran the program. He has not been involved in a lot of civic things.

3. What goals and objectives would you seek to achieve if you are appointed?

He stated he was not here to change the wheel. His intention was to help the city progress. There are a lot of empty buildings and the city has gotten stagnant. Maybe they could get some small businesses in town. People have to leave to get things. He talked to a lot of people and maybe they could get things going. He would like to attract people into town. There are not a lot of things to buy in town.

4. What is your vision for the City of Belding in five years?

He thinks they need to get back to basics, as that has slipped by. He would like to help low

income residents fix up their houses. They need to do more to help people get rid of trash, as some can't afford it. They need to do some sprucing up around town.

5. Please tell us about your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

He can be outspoken at times. He is good at his job and committed to it. When he is involved, he stays committed. He would criticize himself if he was not doing the job. Anything worth anything takes a lot of work. Being outspoken can work either way. He tries to turn any weaknesses into strengths. Sometimes he has difficulty understanding, and it doesn't click. He doesn't talk about himself. He is committed to the things he does.

6. Do you have any scheduling conflicts with attending council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month?

Not really, he can work around it. He would change his schedule.

7. Would you be willing to be considered for appointment to any other boards or commissions of the city if you are not appointed to the city council?

Of course. He has no specific areas of interest. He would take what comes his way. He would have to learn about all of them.

8. Is there anything you would like to add to our discussion or do you have questions for us?

No, not really. You get what you see with him.

7:20 p.m. Tami Tefft

1. Please tell us about yourself and briefly explain your reasons for wishing to serve on the Belding City Council.

Mrs. Tefft stated that she has lived here for 23 years, and has been married 26 years. She has served on the Labor Day Committee, Sesquicentennial Committee and Lion's Club. She felt it was time to get involved in city government.

2. Please tell us about any previous civic or service club involvement.

No further comment.

3. What goals and objectives would you seek to achieve if you are appointed?

She works for the school system. She would like to see Belding take a more positive role for kids in Belding. There is a great arts program and she would like to see the summer programs continue.

4. What is your vision for the City of Belding in five years?

She would like to see a few more things for youth to do. The city has a lot of wonderful senior citizens, and they are great role models with the younger kids. She would like to utilize what they have in this town.

5. Please tell us about your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

She tries to lead by example. She doesn't ask people to do what she wouldn't. She follows through with commitments. She admits when she is in over her head. She takes the side of the underdog. She is good at delegating if she needs help. She tries to find out the answer if she doesn't know.

6. Do you have any scheduling conflicts with attending council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month?

Not at this time.

7. Would you be willing to be considered for appointment to any other boards or commissions of the city if you are not appointed to the city council?

Yes. She doesn't know all the boards, but would be willing to serve and learn as she goes.

8. Is there anything you would like to add to our discussion or do you have questions for us?

No, she is who she is. The people around town know her and that would stand for itself, she would hope.

7:40 p.m. Andrea Belding

1. Please tell us about yourself and briefly explain your reasons for wishing to serve on the Belding City Council.

Mrs. Belding stated she moved to Belding 7 years ago. She fell in love with the town, and they chose to build their family here. They own Liberty Cleaning Service. They love it here. She was involved in student council in high school. She has a real estate background. She has a lot to bring to the table.

2. Please tell us about any previous civic or service club involvement.

She does not have a whole lot in town. They have been growing their family and business. She wants to be involved in civic things. She has the time now to do that.

3. What goals and objectives would you seek to achieve if you are appointed?

There should be an interest in what goes on at city council. She would like to see more

involvement for her age range and everyone, to be a part of what goes on in the community. She wants Belding to grow and prosper. She would like to go out into the community and be involved – get the excitement going. She chose to live here because she loves it. She would like to be a part of what goes on at city council. It will be a lot of hard work and effort.

4. What is your vision for the City of Belding in five years?

No further comment.

5. Please tell us about your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

She has real estate experience and could share her knowledge of that and zoning. She has good family orientation. She tends to speak her mind. She likes to voice her opinion and she likes to be heard. She can take criticism and use it.

6. Do you have any scheduling conflicts with attending council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month?

No, she thinks it would be a benefit. She is in town all day and available anytime. She is flexible with running their own business, which has lots of advantages.

7. Would you be willing to be considered for appointment to any other boards or commissions of the city if you are not appointed to the city council?

Yes, the most exciting thing is to be involved. She would like to be a part of the DDA. She could use her experience to benefit the whole city council.

8. Is there anything you would like to add to our discussion or do you have questions for us?

It would be an honor to represent the city and their families.

8 p.m. Robert Thompson

1. Please tell us about yourself and briefly explain your reasons for wishing to serve on the Belding City Council.

Mr. Thompson stated he had been a council member and Mayor ProTem. He worked on the Wright/Ellis drain issue, sidewalk issue and sewer system. He ran for a city council seat last time and was narrowly defeated. He wants to finish the branding program for future growth. He has served on the Library Board, Museum Board, TIFA and Planning Commission.

2. Please tell us about any previous civic or service club involvement.

No further comment.

3. What goals and objectives would you seek to achieve if you are appointed?

He would support the council. He would like to get involved again on branding. He hasn't read or seen a lot on that. He would like to get back up to speed.

4. What is your vision for the City of Belding in five years?

He distributed data from Sperling's Best Places to Live, and said that taking the numbers and turning them around was doable. It would take a lot of strategic planning and goal setting. He believes the numbers tell them they are going one direction or another.

5. Please tell us about your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

His strength is in planning, strategic planning and goal setting. He has done that for business and city council before. They had to seek grant monies. They got together and planned for the future. He will run this fall for the city council. They have to have plans to turn the numbers around. His weakness is sometimes he speaks before he thinks, but he tries to keep it under control.

6. Do you have any scheduling conflicts with attending council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month?

He would have a conflict every once in a while. He may be called to a sales meeting or out of the country. There have been many nights when he has driven 3-4 hours after a meeting to get where he was going the next morning. It is worth being a part of the city.

7. Would you be willing to be considered for appointment to any other boards or commissions of the city if you are not appointed to the city council?

He has been a liaison to the Library Board, and is now a full member. He would like to get back into the Planning Commission if possible. He would like to do something he hasn't done. They must do strategic planning.

8. Is there anything you would like to add to our discussion or do you have questions for us?

He pulled the data from Sperling and the numbers have changed. That is a good benchmark for where things are going. He will still run in the fall. He would like to work on the branding issue. Some communities are doing advertising on cable. Those things have to happen before businesses will look at the city – they have to see something. He would like to work on community strengths and weaknesses. As a community, people should participate. That needs to happen. They need enthusiasm to be supported through council and the media. He would like to move forward.

Paper ballots were cast by council members for the following candidates:

Council Member Bunce Tami Tefft

Council Member Stout Mike Scheid
Mayor Wills Andrea Belding
Council Member Satterlee Andrea Belding

Mayor Wills asked council members how they would like to proceed, or if anyone would like to reconsider their vote?

Council Member Stout stated he would vote for Andrea Belding.

Council Member Bunce made a motion to appoint Andrea Belding to fill the city council vacancy until the November 2009 election, supported by Council Member Satterlee.

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Satterlee and Wills.
Nays: None.

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Stout moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Council Member Satterlee.

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Satterlee and Wills.
Nays: None.

Mayor Wills adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Roger Wills, Mayor

Kareen J. Thomas, City Clerk