

0012 Mayor Pro-Tempore Earl Queen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with the following councilmembers present: Ray Teter, Glenn Pingree, Jack Reilly and Mike Mask. Also present: City Attorney Tom O'Neill and Clerk-Treasurer Ryana Covington.

0101 Councilmember Mask stated that would be excusing himself as a councilmember, and would not participate in interviewing any of the candidates for mayor; he would like to be considered a candidate and not a councilmember. City Attorney O'Neill stated that action would be his advice.

0236 Purpose of the Special Meeting:

1. to review the five applications submitted to fill the vacant mayor's position
2. conduct interviews of those who have submitted their intent to be considered for the vacant position
3. provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions of the applicants

Letters of intent to apply for the position were received from Greg Marcil, Paul Helenberg, Ed Smith, Roy Henson and Mike Mask.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen explained that councilmembers would have the first opportunity to interview each candidate. When the councilmembers conclude their interview for that candidate, the public will then have the opportunity to pose questions to that individual candidate.

Some questions posed by Councilmembers included issues such as:

- what they would like to achieve before the election,
- how would they promote the city,
- why are they interested in the position,
- explanation of what they believe the mayor's responsibilities to be,
- summary of qualifications,
- how they felt their leadership abilities would be measured,
- budgetary issues,
- business development,
- leadership style

0314 Councilmembers posed questions to the first applicant, Greg Marcil. In answer to questions posed, Marcil stated his goals include finishing projects such as the boat launch and Cowlitz Street West reconstruction. He would also seek funding for other projects. He also noted it would take a coordinated effort within the community to create more business opportunities.

0900 In answer to a question from resident Paul Simonsen, Marcil stated his three priorities would be the budget, completion of the boat launch project and

development of more business.

Simonsen posed questions pertaining to Marcil's temperament. Simonsen also asked Marcil if he had ever been convicted of any crimes during his term as city councilmember. Marcil stated he had not.

City Attorney O'Neill called point of order and advised Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen that regarding questioning from the public or other members, Queen has the right to prescript the types of questions that are involved in terms of privacy.

Mr. Simonsen felt his questions were appropriate for establishing character for the position of mayor. Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen concurred with Simonsen and allowed further questioning on personal issues.

1601 Susie Barker questioned if the process would allow the public to ask additional questions of any candidate once all of the individual interviews were completed. Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen answered that each candidate will be questioned by the public and additional opportunities for questions will be available after all candidates have had their individual interviews. In answer to Ms Barker's question, Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen stated that councilmembers have the latitude to ask whatever question they feel is appropriate and not all candidates would be asked the same questions.

1747 Applicant Paul Helenberg stated he would like to be proactive in annexing properties on the west side of the Cowlitz River into the city limits. Secondly, he feels that completion of the Cowlitz Street West project is important for revitalization of the downtown area. He also felt that business development would require a combined effort and added there is an opportunity to develop light industrial businesses in the south section of the city. He felt the city needed this to increase their tax base. Mr. Helenberg cited his lengthy community involvement, supervisory experience and public works knowledge as assets to being able to make sound decisions.

2923 In answer to a question from Paul Simonsen, Mr. Helenberg stated his three priorities would be; to control the budget while retaining staff, completion of the annexation, and completion of the Cowlitz Street West reconstruction project. A fourth priority would be to find funding to sustain the existing park system.

Simonsen asked if Helenberg could work under pressure and Mr. Helenberg stated he works well under those situations.

Lee Kessler questioned if Mr. Helenberg had specific steps to develop a light-industrial area. Helenberg stated this would take time to develop.

3445 Mr. Ed Smith stated he felt that business owners needed to improve the

infrastructure of their buildings, which will encourage other business development. He stated that before the November election he would like to be able to facilitate council meetings in a more efficient manner to allow citizens to see that meetings are held in a professional manner. He felt that citizens needed to be involved to allow them to 'buy in' that this community will survive the current economic setback. Third, he would like to establish unity between the department supervisors and implement performance reviews for employees and continue to improve the educational opportunities for our employees.

Mr. Smith cited his strengths as being a past city councilmember and his experience in conducting meetings through his employment responsibilities. Smith stated during his twelve years on city council he has learned that the city needs to pick what they can do, instead of what they want to do. He has also learned patience and those duties were some of the hardest that he has ever done.

Mr. Smith felt that the mayor's responsibilities included facilitating meetings, managing department supervisors, working to improve the community and representing the community in a positive way.

Smith also answered questions pertaining to his leadership style and community activities and reasons for wanting to become mayor. Regarding the budget issues, he felt that proposed projects need to be assessed carefully to see how the project improves the community and whether or not it helps to keep the current infrastructure operating at it's best.

In answer to Mr. Simonsen's questions, Mr. Smith stated the order of his priorities would be: working with staff to make sure that the city has the property working relationship with the community, continue to push for grant money, setting goals for infrastructure improvements.

Side - B

5348 Bob Janisch noted that as a councilmember, Mr. Smith did not support the boat launch project. He asked if Mr. Smith will support efforts to continue to obtain funds to complete the project. Mr. Smith stated the city is committed to the boat ramp. His concerns over the project included cost overruns, which he did not want the citizens to have to pay for from tax dollars.

In answer to a question from Gene Frymire, Mr. Smith stated he felt that his work schedule would not be a detriment to his position as mayor.

James Tarragano asked why Mr. Smith left the city council and has now decided to return as mayor. Smith answered that when Mr. Reilly applied for the position, he decided not to reapply. He felt that everyone should participate in their city issues.

6017 Roy Henson stated that he felt the city has work to do before they try to market the city to future developers. Henson suggested that within the next six months, he proposes to have a team working on development strategies. Before the November election, he would like to be able to motivate the citizenship of Castle Rock to become involved in their community to reduce the feeling of alienation between the citizenship and the city governance. Secondly, he proposed implementation of a marketing strategy for the city. He cited his experience in marketing, an ability to motivate and his availability of time as advantages that he would bring to the position.

Henson felt there is a need for someone in city government to take a leadership role to work with the chamber, service groups, churches and citizens to identify goals for the community and work with groups to accomplish those goals. This will create an identity for Castle Rock to build off from.

Henson feels the mayor's responsibilities include: management of the daily operations of the city and motivating people to build a sense of pride in the community, which will result in more people investing in the city.

He felt that his leadership would be measured by what goals have been accomplished within the city.

In answer to Councilmember Reilly's question, Mr. Henson stated that the community may feel alienated because they are not able to be included in the process and thus are not able to participate in the solution. Mr. Henson noted that the city has a great marketing plan – it just needs to be implemented. This plan includes a step-by-step outline to develop a viable business climate. It will require time and hard work, however he feels it is critical to bringing in new business ventures. He feels Castle Rock has so much potential and he would not like to see it squandered. Mr. Henson stated putting the ideas of the community together is important for building a future for the city.

In answer to Mr. Simonsen's question, Henson stated his top three priorities would be: implementing the marketing plan, motivating citizens to become involved actively, and finding solutions to management issues.

Mr. Henson stated that he thrives on pressure and his management style is as a team builder.

In answer to Mr. Kessler's question, Mr. Henson clarified that for every dollar spent in the community, the community will realize a value of \$1.60 in return. This is based on the premise that for every dollar spent, jobs are retained and those people will in turn purchase locally to generate more local dollars within the community.

8018 Mike Mask stated that he would spearhead tasks to make sure the budget was

completed in a timely manner and that it was presented to the citizens and city council. Secondly he would align the council and staff and give direction to allow each to do the tasks there elected to do.

Mask added that Castle Rock needs to do a better job of promoting their assets and he provided examples of how this could be accomplished. Mr. Mask stated he has the time to dedicate to this position and cited his volunteer work and managerial job experience in the retail field.

Mr. Mask stated the mayor has to be responsible for the employees of the city, making sure the doors are open and the citizens receive appropriate service. He acknowledged that he does not have all of the answers, however he is willing to ask questions to get the best resolution to issues.

Mr. Mask stated his leadership style includes asking questions before making decisions. He would ask for input from the department supervisors and city council before implementing any policy. He noted that he loves to serve people and he would make this his priority. He wants to serve as mayor because he feels that he has a connection with the people and is proud of the community.

Mask stated that the mayor should be continuing to promote the city. He stated that he has been visiting various areas and has made contacts which could result in bringing new business to the city.

9943 In answer to Mr. Simonsen's question, Mask stated his priorities would be; to unify the City of Castle Rock, from the people, leadership, city council and staff and secondly to promote the city at various meetings and events.

Mask stated the number one exception that Castle Rock has over other small communities in the area is the Interstate 5 business loop and the current business core. He feels that a facelift for the business area will make people feel more welcome to shop in Castle Rock. The city has a unique feeling and people in the city are very friendly.

In answer to a question pertaining to his management style, Mask stated he asks a lot of questions. His number one priority is to facilitate with staff ways to better serve the community through each of the city departments.

Tape 2 of 2

Side - A

0003 Mask stated he believes the mayor needs to have the ability to join forces to solve a problem. The mayor needs to be a problem solver, a lover of people and, if needed, an authoritative person. He feels that he can meet all of those goals.

In answer to Mr. Simonsen's question, Mask stated he is not a professional at public works, police work or finance. The city pays to have experts in those

fields and it would be his job to make sure they can do their jobs. He would not be a micro-manager; he strives to work as a team.

- 0315 James Tarragano requested to ask a question of Mr. Mask. Prior to any questions, Mr. Mask disclosed that Mr. Tarragano was his son-in-law.

Mr. Tarragano asked how Mr. Mask will be bringing his leadership experience to the city. Mask stated he will research for the correct answer and then use a team effort to resolve issues.

Lee Kessler asked if Mr. Mask would seek or pursue individual performance reviews of department supervisors. Mask stated if there is an agency that would be able to do this service without undue costs he would be willing to listen to what is recommended. Mask suggested reviews for each department supervisor, including city council members and the mayor.

- 0716 Steve White asked Mr. Marcil why he chose not to seek another term as city councilmember. In response, Mr. Marcil stated that he has served as city councilmember for the past eight years. He had expressed an interest in serving as mayor, but when Mayor Larsen did not step down, he chose not to serve another four-year term as city councilmember.

- 0821 In response to City Attorney O'Neill's question, Mask, Smith, Marcil and Henson stated they did receive ballots to vote in the last election and had the opportunity to vote on measures affecting Castle Rock. Mr. Helenberg stated he had not changed his voting address for the last election and was unable to vote on the Castle Rock levy issue. However, approximately three months ago he has taken care of this issue and is a registered voter in the City of Castle Rock.

- 0944 Cowlitz County Commissioner Axel Swanson stated he has recently moved to Castle Rock. He asked the applicants if they saw any way for the city to partner with the county in the future.

Mike Mask answered that for the past six months he has been serving as chairperson for an interagency committee to research aspects to reduce expenses by creating intergovernmental partnerships. His committee is tasked with seeking ways to reduce the cost of park systems.

- 1240 Mr. O'Neill stated that any action to be taken by the city council must be in open session. The only thing that could occur in Executive Session was discussion of the issues.

- 1326 Mayor Pro-Tempore Earl Queen closed regular session at 8:13 p.m. for a twenty-minute Executive Session to discuss issues pertaining to the mayor selection, with action to follow.

- 1354 Mayor Pro-Tempore Earl Queen reconvened regular session at 8:25 p.m.
- 1406 Mayor Pro-Tempore Earl Queen requested nominations to narrow the mayor candidates from five applicants to two runner-up applicants. He noted there could be discussion on the issue either before or after the nominations.
- 1430 Councilmember Reilly nominated Ed Smith and Paul Helenberg, and the nomination was seconded.

Discussion: Mike Mask stated he had excused himself from the application process and he asked the city attorney if he could be allowed to participate in the voting process. Mr. O'Neill stated that as discussed at the last city council meeting, there is no court authority in Washington State to prevent Mr. Mask from participating. However, Mr. O'Neill advised Mr. Mask not to participate in the process.

Mr. Mask stated that he chooses to participate in the process as an elected official. Mask then moved to his council position seat.

- 1627 O'Neill stated there is a second to the action and he requested the motion be summarized.

Clerk-Treasurer Covington stated the motion was made to nominate Ed Smith and Paul Helenberg as the two mayor finalists to be considered at the January 25<sup>th</sup> city council meeting.

Councilmember Mask noted this was made by Councilmember Reilly. Covington stated the motion had been seconded, with the original motion being made by Councilmember Reilly. City Attorney O'Neill noted that Councilmember Teter had seconded the motion.

Further discussion: In response to Councilmember Mask's question, Councilmember Reilly stated this decision was made by consensus. O'Neill noted there has not yet been a decision made, only discussion. Queen noted the discussion was of two applicants. O'Neill added that discussion can continue until officially closed.

Councilmember Mask made a motion to nominate Roy Henson. Covington noted there is a motion on the table that must first be acted upon.

- 2030 Vote on the motion for nomination made by Councilmember Reilly: Councilmembers Teter, Pingree, and Reilly voted 'Aye', Councilmember Mask abstained. Motion passed. Councilmember Earl Queen is not eligible to vote on this issue because he is serving in the capacity of mayor pro-tempore. City Attorney O'Neill noted there is not tie vote on this issue.

2118 Councilmember Mask made a motion to nominate Roy Henson and Mike Mask as finalists for mayor.

2131 Covington asked if the action taken by the council already determined the two finalists. City Attorney O'Neill stated this was correct.

2141 Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen stated the council already has chosen the two candidates by nominating and a motion.

Councilmember Mask stated the process was not explained to him.

2203 Covington asked if her understanding is correct in that Ed Smith and Paul Helenberg will be considered the two finalists at the January 25<sup>th</sup> city council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen stated this is correct.

2221 Mayor Pro-Tempore Earl Queen provided the public with an opportunity to ask further questions or to provide comments.

In answer to Mr. Smith's question, Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen stated at the next meeting council will not be requiring further interviews of the candidates.

Councilmember Mask stated he is totally lost. Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen called Councilmember Mask out of order and he stated that discussions were closed. O'Neill stated discussion was closed on the motion that was just passed. The purpose of the meeting was called to have the field narrowed to two. This point has been done and this is the end of the purpose of the meeting. No other topic can be discussed at this meeting.

2515 Mayor Pro-Tempore Queen adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

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Mayor Pro-Tempore

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Clerk-Treasurer