

January 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza

Web Site: www.ci.tracy.ca.us

Mayor Maciel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll call found Council Members Rickman, Vargas, Young, and Mayor Maciel present.

Council Member Young presented a West High School Jersey to Council Member Rickman in recognition of West High Wolf Pack beating Tracy High Bulldogs at basketball.

Steve Abercrombie, Chair, Brighter Christmas, thanked the volunteers who participated in Brighter Christmas and helped to make the effort a huge success.

Mike Chivers, Resident, stated he strongly disagreed with the process for filling the vacant seat on the City Council.

CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND VOTE TO APPOINT AN APPLICANT TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE FORMER INCUMBENT WHICH WILL EXPIRE IN NOVEMBER 2016 - Mayor Maciel gave a brief overview of the interview process and stated:

- Questions will be divided among the Council; Council Members will take turns asking applicants the 11 questions
- A 2-minute Opening Statement and 2-minute Closing Statement will be allowed
- A 2-minute time limit will be given to answer each question
- Applicants will receive a visual 30-second notice when time is almost up
- A beeper will sound at the end of the 2-minutes; when the beeper sounds please finish your sentence since your time will be up
- No follow-up questions will be allowed, although clarification is allowed
- There will be a 5-minute recess following the interviews and a 10-minute recess following public comment.

Mayor Maciel invited the City Clerk to randomly draw names to determine the order of the interviews. Interim City Clerk Carole Fleischmann drew the names in the following order - Victor Pierson, Eleassia Davis, Mary Mitracos, Bill Pollard and Rhodesia Ransom.

Mayor Maciel invited the first applicant to approach the podium and suggested the remaining applicants retreat to the Green Room. Mayor Maciel stated applicants may remain in Council Chambers following their interviews.

Each candidate was asked the following questions and invited to offer an opening and a closing statement:

1. Why would you like to be appointed to serve on the City Council?
2. What expertise or experience do you bring to the Council?
3. What are your accomplishments in providing community service to the residents of Tracy?

4. How would you promote transparency and accountability as a member of the City Council?
5. What do you consider to be the top three most significant issues in our City right now?
6. What do you think should be changed in City government?
7. What is your understanding of Measure A?
8. What is your understanding of Development Agreements?
9. What role does public safety play in the quality of life in Tracy?
10. When Measure E expires, what should be done if annual expenses continue to exceed revenues?
11. In regards to Capital Improvement Projects, how would you establish your priorities?

Following the interviews Mayor Maciel called for a recess. The meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Maciel invited public comment.

Mel Waller, 1111 Michelle Avenue, spoke in support of Bill Pollard and commented on his loyalty to the community and his experience in the private sector.

Dr. Theresa Brown, 360 Gonzales Street, Delta Board of Trustees, spoke in support of Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom, and added they are the only two applicants who are qualified to serve on the Council.

Diana Diaz, 211 Rancho Way, spoke in support of Rhodesia Ransom and commented on her work with Tracy's youth. Ms. Diaz stated the community has good ideas and questioned why the Council was limited to four seats.

Dr. Leah Austin, 217 James W. Smith Drive, stated she believed Rhodesia Ransom was the most qualified and commented on her grasp of the inner workings of the community. Ms. Austin added she was concerned with quality of life issues, community services for families, jobs for youth and the opportunity for residents to establish careers locally.

Linda Jimenez, P.O. Box 1065, Tracy, stated she appreciated the commitment each candidate had made to completing the application process and appearing before the Council. Ms. Jimenez spoke in support of Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom because both have civic government experience.

Rodney Davis spoke in support of Eleassia Davis, and stated Ms. Davis would work with the Council for the benefit of the community.

A resident spoke in support of Rhodesia Ransom stating her work with Tracy's youth is amazing.

Marvin Rothschild, resident, stated the City needs leadership, not a group thinker. Mr. Rothschild suggested Council think outside the box.

Brooke Bullard, 242 W. Lowell Avenue, spoke in support of Rhodesia Ransom for her work on the anti-bullying project.

Paul Miles, 1397 Mansfield Street, referred to past issues the City had faced and suggested the City needs someone with strong line management skills and experience in managing organizations.

Mitra Benham spoke in support of Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom and commented on their experience and service to the community. Ms. Benham added suggested Tracy's youth need more activities.

Laurie Souza, 315 Mount Oso, spoke in support of Rhodesia Ransom and commented on her passion for the City and her commitment to the youth of Tracy.

Dave Helm stated the City has five well-qualified candidates, who would serve with integrity and honor and with the community's best interests at heart.

Mark Wiebel, 2106 Lighthouse Circle, spoke in support of Bill Pollard and added the City needs business sense and Mr. Pollard is the best person for the job.

Following public comment Mayor Maciel called for a recess. The meeting was recessed at 7:44 p.m. and reconvened at 7:57 p.m. Mayor Maciel requested Council remain in chambers during the recess.

Following the recess Mayor Maciel invited Council discussion.

Council Member Rickman thanked those present for attending the meeting and stated he was impressed with the willingness of the applicants to serve the community.

Council Member Vargas commented on the qualifications of all the applicants and thanked them for completing the application process.

Council Member Young commented on the qualifications of the applicants and thanked them for stepping up and appearing before the Council. Council Member Young added many great ideas were suggested by the applicants and she hoped staff had taken note.

Mayor Maciel stated he was impressed with the level of preparation and understanding of the issues shown by the applicants. The City needs to have a pipeline of capable people lined up either through serving on the City's boards and commissions or other roles.

Mayor Maciel invited the City Clerk to describe the voting procedure. Interim City Clerk Carole Fleischmann stated:

- Each Council Member shall vote for two applicants
- The applicant or applicants receiving the least number of votes, including no votes, shall be eliminated
- Subsequent votes shall be taken with each Council Member voting for two applicants until one or two applicants remain
- Each Council Member shall then vote for one applicant and the applicant who receives the majority vote shall be nominated to fill the vacancy

Ms. Fleischmann stated the names of the Council would be called in alphabetical order, with the Mayor last.

In Round 1 of the voting Council Member Rickman voted for Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom. Council Member Vargas voted for Mary Mitracos and Bill Pollard. Council Member Young voted for Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom, and Mayor Maciel voted for Bill Pollard and Rhodesia Ransom. The results of the vote indicated Victor Pierson received no votes; Eleassia Davis received no votes; Mary Mitracos received three votes, Bill Pollard received two votes, and Rhodesia Ransom received three votes. Therefore, Victor Pierson and Eleassia Davis were eliminated.

In Round Two of the voting Council Member Rickman voted for Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom. Council Member Vargas voted for Mary Mitracos and Bill Pollard. Council Member Young voted for Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom, and Mayor Maciel voted for Bill Pollard and Rhodesia Ransom. The results show Mary Mitracos received three votes, Bill Pollard received two votes, and Rhodesia Ransom received three votes. Therefore, Bill Pollard was eliminated.

In Round Three of the voting Council Member Rickman voted for Mary Mitracos. Council Member Vargas voted for Mary Mitracos. Council Member Young voted for Rhodesia Ransom and Mayor Maciel voted for Rhodesia Ransom, resulting in a tie vote.

Interim City Clerk Carole Fleischmann stated in the event of a tie vote the Council has the option to:

- (a) Develop additional question(s) for applicants; follow up questions will be allowed (to be determined by Council)
- (b) Resolve the deadlock by discussion
- (c) Discuss other options

Council Member Rickman clarified that if the Council chooses a special election, the process would be open to all Tracy citizens. Dan Sodergren, City Attorney, stated that was correct.

Mayor Maciel stated Council has options. The Council can develop additional questions, discuss this further or consider other options. Council Member Rickman stated Council's options include holding a special election and added he had no problem with developing additional questions. Mayor Maciel stated he would like to have the process work itself out and asked if Council wanted to develop additional questions, or discuss the process further. Council agreed to begin with discussions.

Council Member Young compared Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom's qualifications and spoke in support of Rhodesia Ransom. Council Member Young added continuity was important and she was looking for somebody with passion who could hit the ground running.

Council Member Rickman spoke in support of Mary Mitracos but added that he believed Mary Mitracos and Rhodesia Ransom were both qualified to service on the Council.

Council Member Vargas spoke in support of Mary Mitracos and added she was looking for a candidate with a long-term view.

Mayor Maciel spoke in support of Mary Mitracos and added he was looking for the best person to serve on the Council. Mayor Maciel stated he would do what he felt was best for the City.

Council Member Young stated she was surprised that more weight was given to regional influence than to local influence. Council Member Young commented on Rhodesia Ransom's

qualifications, her commitment to the Planning Commission and her work with the youth of Tracy.

Council Member Rickman commented on the qualifications of the applicants and stated each one of them would have brought something different to the Council. Council Member Rickman commented on the new development and new businesses which would be coming forward in the near future.

Mayor Maciel stated he was not invested in the candidates, but was invested in the process and in moving the City forward.

Following a brief Council discussion Council Member Rickman moved to adopt Resolution 2015-001, Appointing Mary Mitracos to Fill the Vacancy on the City Council for the Remainder of the Unexpired Term of the Former Incumbent Which Expires in November 2016. Council Member Vargas seconded the motion. Roll call vote found Council Members Rickman, Vargas and Mayor Maciel in favor; Council Member Young opposed. Motion carried.

Interim City Clerk Carole Fleischmann administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Mary Mitracos.

Council Member Mitracos complimented all the applicants and added she was pleased that the City has people who are willing to serve the community. Council Member Mitracos added she was aware she had not been elected, but stated she felt an obligation to serve each resident of Tracy to the best of her ability.

It was moved by Council Member Rickman and seconded by Council Member Young to adjourn. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered. Time: 8:45 p.m.

The above agenda was posted at the Tracy City Hall on December 31, 2014. The above are summary minutes. A recording is available at the office of the City Clerk.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk