

SPECIAL CALL COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, October 28, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Council Members Knickerbocker, Janes, Mayor Pro Tem Wilson,
Mayor Hark, Council Members Behymer and Lyng – 6

Absent: -0-

CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Hark called the meeting to order and asked the City Clerk to read the Special Call:

To the Chief of Police of the City of Hannibal, Missouri:

You are hereby directed to notify City Attorney James Lemon, Council Members Knickerbocker, Janes, Mayor Pro Tem Wilson, Council Members Behymer and Lyng, that there will be a called session of the City Council to be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, for the purpose of:

ROLL CALL

CALL TO ORDER

4th WARD COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE FORUM

4TH WARD COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Witness my hand, and the Seal of the
City of Hannibal, Missouri. Done in
my Office this 22nd day of October,
2008.

Signed by:
ROY G. HARK, MAYOR

Attested by:
ANGELICA N. ZEBONIA, CITY CLERK

Also Signed by:

First Ward Council Member Kevin Knickerbocker

Second Ward Council Member Jason Janes

Fifth Ward Council Member Jim Behymer

Third Ward Council Member Kyle Wilson

Sixth Ward Council Member Jefferson Lyng

City Attorney James Lemon

4th WARD COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE FORUM

Mayor Hark instructed that each candidate would be allowed five minutes in which to make a brief introduction and to explain the reason for their interest in the Fourth Ward Council seat. This would be followed by a period of questions and answers. He added that, in fairness to each candidate, they should leave the Council chambers until they were called upon to make their presentation.

After his instruction, Mayor Hark asked all candidates to step out of Council chambers. He then called each candidate, one-by-one, to the podium.

BOWEN DUFFY

Candidate #1

Bo Duffy was the first candidate to speak regarding his interest in the Fourth Ward Council seat. He stated that he was a 27 year-old father of four who had grown up in Hannibal. He added that he was very interested in the growth of the City, in general. Duffy had returned to Hannibal a few years ago and was the owner of a local landscaping company. His desire is to raise his children here and to have opportunities available so that other Hannibal natives, like him, would be able to return to the area vs. somewhere else. He believes his strong point is his youth, which is accompanied with new ideas and perspectives. His goal is to do something pro-active for Hannibal.

Long-term, Duffy sees Hannibal growing, progressively, since it lies on a major thoroughfare which is marketable to industry, also having better tax laws than Illinois, our neighboring state. He sees Hannibal as an untapped resource to corporations.

During the question period Duffy was asked about serving on City boards; he responded that he was excited about the challenge of serving on these various boards and the opportunities they provided to make a difference.

JERRY IRICK

Candidate #2

The second candidate to make his presentation before Council was Jerry Irick., who stated that he was a 46-year old Hannibal native. Irick added that he had grown up on Park Avenue and now resided on Lyon Street. Irick explained that he has contributed to his community in a number of ways, that included: Being an active member of the Hannibal Jaycees, founding a motorcycle

club in Monroe City, MO named Motorcycle Charities, serving on the Hannibal Board of Adjustment as an alternate and serving on the Affirmative Action Committee.

In Response to a question, Irick responded that a Council Member's responsibility would include representing the whole city, as well as his specific ward. He explained that he would like to see an improvement to the appearance of the city streets.

Irick stated that he would also like to see the City utilize the area located on South Main Street by converting it into a park, possibly with the inclusion of a pavilion. In answer to a question regarding the City's budget, he responded that he had never developed a budget; however, in the past, he had been required to follow one. In conclusion, he said that, instead of continuing to build on the outskirts of the City, it was his opinion that the current infrastructure be maintained.

SANDRA LANE
Candidate #3

The next candidate, Sandra Lane, gave Council a brief summary of her background and the reason for her desire to become the Fourth Ward Council Member. Lane, a life-time resident of the fourth ward and the mother of a 24 year-old son, explained that her long time companion owns a trash-hauling business in Hannibal and she has been involved in the public safety field, working at the 911 office for the past fifteen years, so she has a personal stock in the future of Hannibal. She stated that, in her present position, she deals with citizen complaints on a daily basis and handles herself well in these situations. She added that she would represent the Fourth Ward, to the best of her ability, if she was chosen.

Lane is unsure of the entire scope of responsibility that the position entails; however, she knows what she would like to see happen in the City, for instance: City streets in need of repair, dangerous areas of town in need of more policing, city in need of more animal control and Market Street in need of general cleanup.

When asked about the budget issue, Lane answered that she had no recent budget experience.

BARRY LOUDERMAN
Candidate #4

Barry Louderman, the next candidate who spoke before Council, began by saying that he resided on Hickory Street, behind the old Stowell School. Louderman explained that he and his wife, the diabetic and wound nurse at Hannibal Regional and the daughter of Dorothy Findlay, is a native of Hannibal. They have five children, three who are still school age. He is seeking the Fourth Ward Council position because he has been a resident of the South Side for the past fifteen years and recognizes its potential for growth.

When asked about his budget experience, Louderman, an employee of Rent-A-Center, stated that he did have some experience with budgets. In answer to a question regarding his vision for Hannibal, he said that he thought the City is at a crossroad of something big, with its location in relation to the highways, there is much room for expansion in all areas. He sees a potential for bigger business opportunities, as well, adding that the Fourth Ward, specifically, has many older buildings and empty lots that could be better utilized by the City for recreation or small business. Some properties along Warren Barrett need to be addressed and city-owned property could be

utilized in a better way, in his opinion. In regard to serving on committees, Louderman stated that he had no problem with serving on committees, adding that serving on Council meant pitching in for the entire City and not only the ward represented.

LINDA WHEATLEY-COLEBRED
Candidate #5

Linda Colebred began by stating that she moved to Hannibal in 2000 and currently resides in the vicinity of Mark Twain Cave. She is the general Manager of the Cave, which is owned by her husband and his brother.

Linda lived in Missouri as a child, and attended High School in St. Joseph, Mo. Shortly after graduation she moved to Wyoming. Following the death of her husband, she and her two sons moved to Laramie to attend college at the University of Wyoming. There she obtained a special educational degree for elementary education and a master's degree in educational psychology. On a visit to Missouri, she met her current husband, Jim Colebred.

After Jim's retirement and the death the former owner of the Mark Twain Cave, Linda and husband felt it their duty to come to Hannibal and run the Cave business. She feels that Hannibal is a great community, friendly to outsiders. She added that when calling the various entities around town they have been quick to offer help, answer questions and provide guidance. She specifically named the Hannibal Police Department and the Post Office as being very helpful.

As a resident of the Fourth Ward, Linda is particularly concerned for this area; for that reason she is interested in the open Council position. She stated that, in her opinion, they are doing wonderful things with the neighborhood watch program and, if she were chosen as a member of Council, she looks forward to making decisions that would promote the Fourth Ward and, of course, the whole City of Hannibal. She feels that she is a caring person because of her educational background.

She concluded by saying that she loves Hannibal and loves the history that is here, adding that she has become a Mark Twain 'buff'. She wants to do her part, as a citizen, to make a positive difference in the town that she loves.

In answer to a question, she stated that her vision for Hannibal was growth for the City. The improvement of Highway 61 and the MoDOT proposal for the bypass is a true bonus, in her opinion; because what generally happens is new businesses 'spring-up' along bypass routes, such as this, providing economic revenue to Hannibal. The new Hospital and Emergency Room facilities are such a boost to the City, according to Colebred.

When asked about her passion for the Forth Ward, in particular, she answered that the current Neighborhood Watch Program needs to be reinforced by the City. She would also like to see the station, across from Stowell School, inhabited again, providing a viable part of the South Side. Linda would like to see encouragement and incentive provided for residents that clean-up their sidewalks and yards, because there are wonderful, historic homes in the ward and some areas are rather looking rather poorly; efforts need to be made to assist the South Side in regaining some of its former stature.

MELANIE POWELL
Candidate #6

Melanie addressed Council, at this time, stating that she had been a resident of Hannibal since 1977, residing in the Fourth Ward since 1981. She is proud to say that Jim Dexheimer was her neighbor and friend; and, for that reason she is seeking the Council position. Jim was a strong believer in the potential that lies within the South Side and she believes that, as well. She also believes that Hannibal is a good place to raise a family, with much opportunity and an abundance of good citizens. She would like the chance to give back to the community.

When asked about her vision for the direction that she would like Hannibal to move toward, she answered that growth was an important aspect, bringing in new businesses to the area. Also an important responsibility was to take care of current residents and the City employees, as well.

In focusing on the Fourth Ward, Powell stated that more structure for the young people was needed, such as, a place for children to gather. She responded, when questioned about serving on the various committees, that when a position, such as this, is accepted, the candidate must be willing to serve wherever he or she is needed.

4TH WARD COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT

At this time, Mayor Hark asked Council's pleasure. Council Member Lyng questioned whether all the candidates, if appointed, were intending to run for the Council seat in April, 2009. (It was clarified that the selected candidate would serve until April, 2009. At that time, the Fourth Ward Council position would be included in the municipal election for the remainder of the term, or one year. Then, at the following general municipal election, the regular three-year term would be on the ballot.)

Bo Duffy stated that he was glad to see so many interested candidates and thought it would be great to see a 6-candidate race for the Council seat in April. The Mayor agreed.

Council Member Knickerbocker wished to have additional time to make a decision, scheduling another special session to appoint a selected candidate to the Council position. Even though this selection process would not be completed until November, it was his opinion that some thought should be put into choosing the right person to represent the Fourth Ward and the City of Hannibal.

Council Member Behymer agreed that more time is needed to make the selection.

Council Member Janes stated that he was not comfortable for several reasons. He understood that Council could not go into closed session to discuss the issue, since it was a matter of public record. He questioned the procedure, including the possibility of having a ballot. The opinion of City Attorney Lemon was sought; he stated that the City Code is silent in regard to the method of selection, only stating that Council is to choose the person who will fill the vacant Council seat until the next municipal election.

Council Member Janes reiterated the possibility of a secret ballot, tallying the top three votes for each member of the body, choosing one from the top three candidates; however, Lemon stated that a 'secret' ballot could be in violation of the Sunshine Law.

Council Member Janes was against leaving these candidates hanging, adding that filing for the Council position, to be placed on the next municipal election in April, will close in late December or early January. With that said, the selected person has only a month to decide if they like the position enough to run on the next ballot. Mayor Hark agreed.

City Attorney Lemon suggested that a motion be made by a Council Member in regard to a candidate that they saw fit, putting it to a vote. Selection could be made in this way. In his opinion, that is the appropriate way of selection under Council's rule of order, the City Code and according to the Sunshine Law.

Council Member Knickerbocker restated that another special session should be scheduled to make the decision, having a ballot with all names included. The City Counselor advised that Council Member Knickerbocker's suggestion would work, according to Sunshine Law as long as it was not a 'secret' ballot.

Council Member Janes made a motion to proceed with an immediate vote for Fourth Ward Council position. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lyng.

Roll Call

Yes: Council Member Janes – 1

No: Council Member Knickerbocker, Mayor Pro Tem Wilson, Mayor Hark, Council Member Behymer and Lyng – 5

Motion failed. Motion was then made by Council Member Knickerbocker to make the election/selection on November 18, 2008. Mayor Hark seconded this motion. The Mayor suggested that, in the meantime, constituents from the Fourth Ward could call the current Council Members and offer suggestions in regard to ward representation. Mayor Pro Tem Wilson directed the City Attorney to research possible options and provide direction to Council. On November 18, he would return with a recommendation for an appropriate method of selection. At that time, the selected candidate could be sworn in and seated, according to proper procedure.

Roll Call

Yes: Council Member Knickerbocker, Mayor Pro Tem Wilson, Mayor Hark, Council Member Behymer and Lyng – 5

No: Council Member Janes – 1

Motion carried. Council Member Janes suggested that the procedure be recorded for future reference.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Behymer to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Knickerbocker.

Motion carried.