

# **SPECIAL CALL OFFICIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**December 29, 2009  
6:30 p.m.**

**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, Louderman, Mayor Pro Tem Behymer and Council Member Lyng, that there will be a called session of the City Council to be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 for the purpose of:**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> WARD COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE FORUM**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** -0-

### **CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, Mayor Hark called the meeting to order.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> WARD COUNCIL MEMBER CANDIDATE FORUM**

Mayor Hark opened the proceedings by restating the purpose of the Special Call meeting, which was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council Member vacancy, specifically, to hold a candidate forum for all who have submitted an interest and met the advertised criteria. Hark explained that seven individuals submitted letters, adding that all seven candidates had been verified by the City Clerk. He stated that the seventh candidate was unable to attend the proceedings due to a family illness. He continued by saying that the forum would serve to assist Council in appointing the individual determined to be best suited for the position.

**City Attorney James Lemon entered the proceedings.**

Hark advised that each candidate would be allotted five minutes to introduce themselves, followed by an additional ten minutes for questions and answers. He said that he would request all candidates to leave the chambers until they were called upon as a courtesy to the other candidates, but stressed that, since this was a public meeting they would not be forced to leave.

Candidates would be heard in the order that their letter of interest was received. The City Clerk would call on them in turn.

**ROBERT SAXBURY**  
**Candidate #1**

Robert Saxbury stated that, over the years, he had served on several City committees, including:

- Board of Adjustment (Joined when only 4 members, because no one else was interested)
- Tree Board (currently serving)
- Historic District Development Commission
- Hannibal Statue and Plaques Committee (past service)
- Chestnut/Hope Street Neighborhood Watch

Saxbury added that in the 5-6 years of serving on these committees, he had only missed one meeting. He is the member of several organizations, such as, the American Legion, the Motorcycle Charity Association, Sons of the American Soldiers and the Kawasaki Riders Charities.

He stated that he was mainly educated locally graduating from Hannibal Senior High in 1974, continuing at Hannibal-LaGrange College (Business focus) and finally Northeast Missouri State with a Master in Arts and Major in History. Saxbury served four years in the U.S. Army, ranking E-5 (Sergeant). Upon his completion of service, he joined the National Guard serving as a Military Police.

He has worked as a Shipping Supervisor for three years, currently laid-off, or semi-retired. He feels that his past and present service on the various committees has readied him for the Council position. He has already experienced what it is like to deal with controversy.

He thinks that it is of utmost importance to do what is best for the City. In his opinion, everyone should serve on a committee before representing the City as a Council Member.

During the time of questions, when asked why he was interested in serving, Saxbury stated that he wanted to be there for the City. Being a past volunteer will help if he is chosen.

When asked regarding his goals and objectives, he responded that he had no agenda, coming in but only wishes to do the best for the City.

Mayor Hark questioned his experience with budgeting and budgeting processes. Saxbury stated that, in addition to home budgeting, he had been in charge of a machine shop budgeting, i.e.: materials and tools. As for personal finances, Mr. Saxbury explained that he had a home and vehicles that were paid for and considered himself conservative in spending.

The Mayor asked Saxbury how he would promote economic development within the City. Saxbury responded that he thought tourism should be promoted more (or better) because that is a large benefit to the City. He stressed that the City should be conservative, still striving to bring in business/industry, yet not 'giving away the farm'.

When Council Member Louderman questioned his availability to constituents, should he be chosen, Saxbury explained that he was prepared to answer his phone, adding that has always had the same number, listed in the phone directory, and that would never change. He also has an answering machine (no caller I.D.). He realizes that the Council position is a thankless job at times, with people thinking their Council representative can do everything, when in fact; there is only so much a representative can do. With that being said, he understands the importance of being available.

Council Member Louderman asked if he would have a problem serving on extra boards or committees. Saxbury's response was that he would have no problem serving on committees and/or boards, reiterating that he did not mind giving time to the City needs.

When Council Member Louderman questioned his reasons for his interest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward seat, Saxbury explained that he genuinely cares about the City and what is going on. Unless you are volunteering your time and are actively involved, you have no right to complain.

## **JACK MOORE** **Candidate #2**

Jack Moore began by saying that he had been a resident of Hannibal since 2002. Moore, a retired Teamster, worked in Quincy, Illinois for 30 years, mostly for Prairie Farms Dairy. He has also been employed by the railroad, as well as, other great companies in the past. Moore said that he has two sons and six grandchildren living in Quincy.

When Mr. Moore retired in 2002, he left Quincy and moved to Hannibal opening a small business, Jack Moore Productions, selling promotional products and services, also doing events and promoting festivals such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration in Louisiana, MO and wine & music events in Hannibal, MO. Moore also resells for Landmarx, his son's business.

In addition to volunteering for various non-for-profit organizations, Moore is a volunteer for the Museum and the Arts Council.

Moore explained that he was actively involved in politics and had been for 30 years, working for Mayoral, State Representative and State Senate candidates on both sides of the Mississippi River. He was active because he believed that it was the right thing to do. He stated that Kyle Wilson had been a good family friend, growing up with his brothers on Rock Street. Moore added that he had discussed his possible involvement in City politics with Kyle in the past. Moore believes that Hannibal is currently on a threshold.

At the present, Moore is involved in helping the programs downtown, as well as, being in favor of street resurfacing and the sidewalk program; but whatever the business owners decide, he will support. In his opinion, he has a very good working relationship with the downtown business owners.

Moore stated that he believes there are some issues in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward that need to be addressed, adding that crime is a very real concern. He recognizes that constituents in that ward have their share of poverty and things occurring with regard to drugs, but he is on-board to do what needs to be done alleviate these situations.

Moore concluded by saying that you can't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands, you have to be prepared to 'throw something back'. He would like that opportunity.

When asked why he was interested in representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, Moore responded that he had seen more progress in the past 5 years than in a long time. Working for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward people would be good for the City, as well. He is interested in retaining businesses, as well as, starting up new businesses. He is in favor of small business incubators, similar to what is done in Quincy, IL. As a Council Member he promises to stand behind those ideas and to vote positive.

Moore was questioned, regarding his goals and objectives as representative to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. Moore responded that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward is a mix of households and income levels, but with cooperation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, he would assist in making it a better place to live.

With reference to his experience in budgets, Moore explained that he had worked with small business budgets or 501C3 budgets, disbursements of funds, considering the best way to build an organization. Obviously, not formerly an elected official, he had not had the opportunity to be involved in the full budget process; however, he looked forward to being a part of that.

When questioned, regarding how he would promote economic development within the City, Moore stated that Hannibal needs to become a 'destination' again. An effort should be made to allow this to happen. Residents should strive to bring the people back to Hannibal that have not been here since the flood in 1993. Small business start-ups are the key to this new economy that we are currently experiencing, in Moore's opinion.

Council Member Louderman asked Moore if he was prepared to answer the phone to constituents. He responded that he does have a part-time business, which is mainly seasonal, active in the summer months. Since he is semi-retired, he is available and accessible most of the time.

In response to Louderman's question regarding service on committees and boards, Moore stated that he would be happy to serve on these.

Since Moore seems to have a focus on tourism in regard to economic development in Hannibal, Louderman questioned whether or not Moore thought this was a sustainable strategy. Moore responded that tourism was not the only means; however, for many years tourism has been a sustainable base for Hannibal. Tourism does not consist of Mark Twain aspect alone, but encompasses other aspects, such as the new theatre, the ball park, the Mark Twain Hotel, the Art

Council and the downtown historic district. With all of these in mind, he does think that the tourism is sustainable strategy. Promotionally, tourism should be at the top of the list. With that being said, Moore emphasized that Hannibal's future, in his opinion, rested in new small business start-ups, with the current economy. The incubator program in Quincy, IL has an 80% rate of success.

**LOUIS "LOU" BARTA**  
**Candidate #3**

Lou Barta, the third candidate, introduced himself at this time, stating that he is the "new guy in town" residing at 1238 Bird Street. Barta gave a brief understanding of why he was interested and where he was originally from. He explained that, during his first visit to Hannibal in 2001, he fell in love with the time period, history and architecture. During this visit, he saw evidence of improvements, renovation of businesses and homes, which is always a positive sign. He remembered what he had seen and returned in 2005 with his new wife, Jenny. Jenny, felt the same about the area, so they decided to purchase a home for renovation. Later, he joined the staff of John Wood Community College, as the Director of their Physical Plant.

Barta explained that, over the past few years, he has watched a growing list of continuing improvements within Hannibal, which has impressed him. He added that, with so much occurring in such a short period of time, he is thrilled to make Hannibal his home and plans to stay through his retirement.

With his employment background, being Director of the Physical Plant (or facilities) places him in charge of the buildings, grounds, maintenance, all properties and construction aspects, as well as, real estate issues. He stated that he had been in the facilities business in excess of twenty years, being blessed to be active in a variety of types of businesses: some family owned, some big corporations, presently a college. In Barta's opinion, having that variety has given him a unique perspective, allowing him to observe things more objectively and facing issues at hand with a problem-solving approach, looking for the best solutions.

The facilities management business is not a one-person job, as well as running the department; he oversees 15 full-time staff members and several temporary employees. He added that his background, with business management, planning, budget control, and a proven track-record of team leadership, would be a benefit to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward. He feels that he could offer an objective and balanced perspective and stated that he works extremely well in groups, as evidenced by his multiple committee activities and chairmanships at John Wood. He concluded by stating that he would be honored to serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward.

Mayor Hark pointed out that Barta had already explained the reason for his interest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council seat. Barta stated that he views himself as a 'clean slate', watching what is growing and what is happening and making an effort to see that positive growth continues. As for Barta's goals and objectives, he stated that he would like to see a few things move forward over time, among these would be the historic areas, which he would like to continue the path they are on currently,

having residents reinvest in these valuable areas. Another area of interest for Barta is recycling options, pointing out that this is a long-term challenge.

In the area of budgeting, Barta explained that he is currently working with a new zero-based budgeting process that was begun last January at John Wood. This was started from the ground up, instead of building on the previous year's numbers. In the past, Barta was also responsible for the budgets at the various racetracks and at the Intertrek Partners sites, as well as, facilities management work with Toys-R-Us Corporation.

Mayor Hark asked how Barta would promote economic development within the City. In response, Barta noted a combination of avenues, explaining that, in his opinion, tax increment financing districts are important, also, using unadvertised historic credits that residents have not previously taken advantage of. He loves the fact that US 36 is now joining US 61 and is becoming four-lane. In dealing with businesses that transport produce, etc. across the country, calling attention to the advances that Northeast Missouri has made in recent years in relation to transportation and looking into the possibility of bringing in a distribution center or processing plant in the vicinity of this intersection.

Council Member Louderman questioned whether he would be accessible residents of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and/or City. Barta's response was, "certainly, always", adding that his number was listed and he had a cell phone, as well.

Barta also assured Council Member Louderman, when asked, that he would be very willing to serve on various boards and/or commissions, if needed. He added that this is satisfying.

### **MONICA WILLIAMS** **Candidate #4**

Ms. Monica Williams, the fourth candidate, introduced herself, stating that she had been a resident of Hannibal her entire life, currently residing at 2109 Spruce Street. The various boards that she is a member include:

- Douglas Community Center
- Pyrfeect
- Committee for Community Betterment (cleaning up Robinson Cemetery)

When the need arises, Williams stated that she volunteers to teach fitness classes at the YMCA

Ms. Williams explained that her reason for interest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council position was to improve the residential neighborhoods within this area. She added that the conditions of these neighborhoods was deteriorating and this was not acceptable. She concluded by stating that if you wanted to make a situation better, you need to participate.

When asked by Mayor Hark why she was interested in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council seat, Williams reiterated that she wished to make things better.

In response to a question by the Mayor regarding her goals, again Williams stressed the need for improvement of conditions within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, as well as the city, in general. She added that it was no longer safe to allow her children outside to play alone.

Mayor Hark questioned her experience with budgets, to which she responded by saying that she did, indeed have experience in budgeting, since she lived in a house, raising two children, money must be available to pay the bills, otherwise, you better make some more.

The Mayor asked what her process for promoting economic development would be, if she were to be chosen. Williams explained that businesses need to be attracted, because people need jobs. Write grants in order to get businesses in Hannibal. She believes that this process could be beneficial for the recycling program.

In response to Council Member Louderman's question regarding accountability. Williams stated that it doesn't hurt to listen, even though you may not like what you hear. She said that she had no problem serving on boards/commissions because that was something that needed to be done, to handle business.

Council Member Louderman explained that officials must be prepared to voice and promote their opinions and asked Williams if she was ready to do this. She responded that she had no problem doing this.

Council Member again asked Ms. Williams about her interest in the position, to which she responded that her interest was to improve living conditions within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and the City. She added that if you look around, kids are out of control and neighborhoods are out of control. She stated that she has thoughts to improve situations and feels very strongly about this issue.

Council Member Janes questioned if Williams had a specific way to improve Hannibal. Williams answered that the City had implemented a program regarding rental properties, a current problem in her neighborhood. She is in favor of taking properties that repeatedly house drug abusers, as allowed for in the City Code. She would like to see additional criminal checks being done, to dissuade this type of person from moving into the neighborhoods.

### **WESLEY KNAPP** **Candidate #4**

Wesley Knapp began his presentation by stating that he had moved to Hannibal from Galveston, TX approximately two years ago. Knapp explained that he had planned to move to Hannibal, prior to securing employment with the Downtown Hannibal Development as their Executive Director. Accomplishments include:

- Second-term President - Fraternal Order of Eagles, Hannibal area
- Board Member – Board of Directors, Northeast Missouri Foundation
- Board Member – Board of Directors, Hannibal Community Betterment Association

Other accomplishments include:

- US Airforce – 14 year tour (disabled veteran)
- B.S. in business administration (while enlisted)
- Masters in computer science (while enlisted)
- Director of Research and Development for two separate technology corporations

Knapp continued by saying that he retired when he was 42 and moved to Galveston, TX. Eventually he started 8 different businesses and restored several Victorian homes in that area. Mr. Knapp considers himself a preservationist, although not as militant as others in the Hannibal community. He noted that, as the Director of Downtown Hannibal Development, he had tried very hard having been involved in saving some historic buildings as part of the future revitalization of Broadway and trying to get businesses to move to downtown Hannibal.

He and his wife, Rhonda currently own several properties in Hannibal.

During the time of questions, when asked why he was interested in serving, Knapp explained that, since he lives in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, he is interested in improving it and feels there is much room for improvement where the City can assist. He stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward is the most densely populated, hence the smallest district, mostly residential, with very little retail

When asked regarding his goals and objectives, he responded that he would like to see the expansion of industrial development and all efforts where industrial development is concerned. He quoted City Manager by saying, “Retail Happens”.

Mayor Hark questioned Knapp’s budget experience. Knapp explained that, as the Director of Research and Development, it was his task to speak with the software developers to estimate the cost of projects and then to put together a budget for completion. According to Knapp, in the past, while working with Cisco, he had a budget of \$4.8 million for a single project.

The Mayor asked Knapp how he would promote economic development within the City. Knapp responded that the airport terminal is a current topic and a positive direction. He believes the airport is extremely important to industrial development or to get any major corporation involvement in Hannibal. He supports the improvements to the airport terminal and the runway expansion project, or whatever is required to make these improvements.

When Council Member Louderman questioned his availability to constituents, should he be chosen, Knapp responded that he would absolutely be available, adding that he already had a website.

Council Member Louderman asked if he would have a problem serving on extra boards or committees. Knapp’s response was that he would have no problem serving on committees and/or boards.

**DONALD SAGAR**  
**Candidate #6**

Donald Sagar explained that he was a resident of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward had resided in Hannibal for eight years. Upon moving to Hannibal, Mr. Sagar purchased a historical home, to be renovated. He stated that he had the privileged to accompany Mr. Charles Anton and Mr. Frank Salter to Jefferson City Missouri in order to speak with the commissioners regarding application for the historical district, now known as Maple Avenue Historic District. According to Sagar, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward was one of the original wards in the oldest part of Hannibal.

Sagar explained that, in his opinion, Hannibal must have strong code enforcement. He believes in on-site maintenance, in other words, a property owner, although it is not necessary for him to live in the structure, must live within the area in order to maintain and correct problems should they arise.

He continued by saying that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward was home to many rental properties, which should be maintained and repaired for the safety of our citizens. Safety codes are in place and should be adhered to in order to make properties safe for their residents. The City should keep a very close eye on this issue. Hiring a new code enforcement officer will help this, in Sagar's opinion. He said that Hannibal is a historic city, the citizen's 'bread and butter', and as such, should be maintained.

Also, an important issue is street maintenance. He noted the recent snow storm, adding that the Street Department did a fine job at that time.

Sagar explained the reason for his interest in the Council seat, stating that he was interested in being a part of the decisions being made for the future of Hannibal.

Many projects are in process or have been completed, including Grand Avenue, the theater and the flood wall.

Hannibal's current tax base is reasonable and, in Sagar's opinion, should stay that way.

He emphasized that it would be an honor to serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and the City of Hannibal if he is chosen.

During the time of questions, when Mayor Hark asked why he was interested in serving on Council, Mr. Sagar stated that he had been in the construction business all of his life, familiar with code enforcement. He wants to be sure the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, a historical district has a say, along with the remaining wards.

When he was asked about his goals and objectives, he answered that he would like to see Hannibal make its own electricity. The deals that we make, in the regard, are not always helpful to the City. He would like to see Hannibal produce its own electricity and possibly have an excess to supply electricity to another town.

Mayor Hark questioned his experience with budgeting and budgeting processes. Sagar explained that the only budgeting experience that he had was developed as the owner of a business in Chicago, IL for 35 years.

The Mayor asked Sagar how he would promote economic development within the City. Sagar responded that he thought the Chamber of Commerce was currently promoting Hannibal and doing a good job; however, advertisement is a key factor in promoting economic development. Keeping the city clean for tourists brings in more tourism and also keeps Mark Twain alive. Hannibal is a tourist town and should remain that way.

When Council Member Louderman questioned his availability to constituents, should he be chosen, Sagar responded that accessibility would not be a problem and added that he always carries a cell phone.

Council Member Behymer questioned Sagar regarding his stance on economic development. He noted that some industry had been lost, such as Dura and Nabisco. The City should strive to attract more factories, adding that officials should look around to bring in industry while keeping the City's budget in place, not taking away from something else.

**ROY Q. FERRELL**  
**Candidate #7**

Mr. Ferrell was not present, due to an unexpected illness in the family.

During the time of discussion following candidate interviews, a question arose regarding votes, whether Council Members would be allowed to vote multiple times or whether they would be allowed to vote only one time. Council Member Lyng made a motion to allow Council Members only one vote apiece, with Mayor Hark breaking any ties that occurred. Council Member Louderman seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Council Member Lyng withdrew his original motion, making an amended motion to allow the floor to be open to nominations and allowing Council Members the option of casting multiple 'yes' and 'no' votes with a run-off vote to be held in the event of a tie. Motion was seconded by Council Member Louderman.

**Roll Call**

**Yes:** Council Members Knickerbocker, Janes, Mayor Hark, Council Member Louderman and Council Member Lyng – 5

**No:** Mayor Pro Tem Behymer - 1

Motion carried.

Mayor Hark thanked all the candidates who participated in the forum and made a request that they attend the January 5, 2010 Council meeting. It is the intent of Council to make an appointment at that time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.