

RENTON CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Special Meeting

January 22, 2008
Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Council Chambers
Renton City Hall

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Marcie Palmer called the meeting of the Renton City Council's Committee of the Whole to order.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCILMEMBERS

MARCIE PALMER, Council President; RANDY CORMAN; GREG TAYLOR; TERRI BRIERE; KING PARKER; DON PERSSON.

CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

LAWRENCE J. WARREN, City Attorney; BONNIE WALTON, City Clerk.

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL POSITION #2

Council President Palmer explained that the purpose of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting was to interview the individuals who submitted letters of interest and associated materials for City Council Position No. 2, vacated as of 1/1/2008 by Dan Clawson. The eleven Renton residents expressing a desire to be appointed to the vacant Council position were:

1. Aaron Belenky
2. Ruth E. Gibbs
3. Raymond A. Giometti
4. Cheryl Haskins
5. Roxanna Johnson
6. Mark Martinez
7. Michael J. O'Halloran
8. Larry L. Sleeth
9. Elizabeth Stevens
10. Kimberly Unti
11. Rich Zwicker

Council President Palmer explained that a drawing would be held to determine the sequence for responses to each of the eight pre-determined and distributed interview questions. She also acknowledged Council's receipt of written remarks and interview question responses filed by Kimberly Unti, who was not able to be present in person.

As each name was drawn, candidates were first allotted up to five minutes for opening remarks to Council. Following these introductions, the Council asked eight pre-determined questions of each of the ten candidates present, with the respondent given two minutes to answer each question when their name was drawn and called. The questions were:

1. What do you believe Renton's priorities for services should be? In what areas do you think Renton should provide more or better services than are being provided now?
2. You have been provided a copy of the City of Renton's current 2008-2013 Business Plan (also included on the City's website). Please tell us what portions of the plan you would emphasize, any portions of the plan you might change, and why.
3. One of the opportunities a Councilmember has is participating in regional groups that attempt to influence public policy, spending, and legislation in areas such as regional utility systems, road and transit systems and services,

land use, salmon recovery and other environmental issues, and providing human services and solid waste services. Are there areas in which you would like to participate at a regional level and do you bring any special expertise that might benefit Renton?

4. One of the adopted 2008-2013 Business Plan goals is to “manage Growth through sound urban planning.” What ideas do you have regarding growth and annexations? What concerns do you have?

RECESS

The Council declared a recess at 7:47 p.m., after completion of responses to question number 4. The meeting reconvened at 7:59 p.m., with all Councilmembers present.

INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL POSITION #2 (continued)

5. If you were a Councilmember, how would you handle this situation? A citizen calls you at home and complains about the condition of a house in their neighborhood. The house has junk in the yard and tall grass that “has never been cut.” The citizen also thinks “there must be something illegal going on there” as they have called the owner but never get a response. The citizen also complains that their neighbors have called about this nuisance before, but no one ever seems to do anything about it. They ask, “So, what are you going to do?”
6. In your opinion, what are the most critical challenges Renton will face in the next five years?
7. If selected, will you run for election in the fall of 2009 (the end of the unexpired term of this office)?
8. Any final comments?

Upon completion of all responses to the questions, Council President Palmer explained that the Council would meet to deliberate and make a selection for filling the vacant position at the next regular Council meeting on 1/28/2008.

Councilmembers each thanked the candidates for their participation and interest in the vacant Council position, remarking that with all of their individual talents, education and strengths, the selection of only one individual would not be an easy decision. Candidates were encouraged to continue their involvement and volunteer efforts in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Palmer declared the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Bonnie I. Walton, City Clerk

Recorder: Bonnie Walton
January 22, 2008