



# City of Aumsville



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## **AUMSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING August 27, 2018**

Mayor Baugh called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Chester Bridges Memorial Community Center, 555 Main Street, Aumsville, Oregon. Council present were Mayor Robert Baugh, Jr., Councilors Gabe Clayton, Brian Czarnik, and Della Seney. City Administrator Ron Harding (CA Harding), and Executive Assistant (EA Hofmann) were also present.

Following the flag salute there was a moment of silence in recognition of Senator John McCain.

Councilor Seney made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to change the order, making Visitors #3, Consent Agenda #4, Council Vacancies #5. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clayton. Voting in favor of the motion were Mayor Baugh, Councilors Czarnik, Clayton, and Seney. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PRESENTATIONS: NONE**

### **COUNCIL VACANCIES:**

Mayor Baugh explained that there would be no comments from the audience during the candidate interviews. He took a roll call and there were two applicants that were absent and two whom had withdrawn their application resulting in six applicants for three vacant positions. Mayor Baugh then asked the candidates if they had a preference for the order of interview or would like to just follow the order of roll call. Consensus of applicants was to be interviewed in the order of roll call. Mayor Baugh expressed to council that this evening they would have the opportunity to hear from the applicants and if desired, make their choices to fill the vacancies. The candidates will then be sworn in at the beginning of the next meeting to allow their families an opportunity to witness the swearing in and take pictures.

**Gus Bedwell** – He addressed the audience and Council giving the reasons for applying now and his qualifications to serve. He is currently an Aumsville Planning Commissioner and took that position because he wanted to know more about city government, with the idea of taking more responsibility and leadership in the future. He said that he decided to throw his name into the ring now because he wants to see the community move forward and heal following the recent recall and while we may not all agree, we can come out on the other side a unified community. He gave the number of years he has lived in Aumsville and talked about his family and their commitment to Aumsville. He talked about the job of being a councilor and following the rules and orders while still being open to community concerns. He has been a community servant for 24 years, interpreting rules, resolutions and orders as well as assisting and mentoring others. He is an advocate for veterans in his day job and described himself as an active listener who wants to utilize his skills for the continued betterment of Aumsville.

**Nico Casarez** – Mr. Casarez welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being involved in the process, whatever their political views. He hopes the recall inspires more people to be involved. He described his involvement with the city as beginning when he was about 7 years old, when he and his dad came to city hall because they wanted to start a snow cone business. He described himself as a shy youngster and said he got to know his neighbors by mowing their yards. He praised his parents for encouraging him to put aside his shyness and meet others. He described himself as involved in city activities and council, including the past Corn Festivals. He talked about his prior time on council from 2009 to 2016. The city needs people that are willing to be involved. He considers himself a well-rounded candidate. He said he has been involved with non-profits and worked in the private sector, including making payroll and using advertisement for the businesses for which he has been employed. He is passionate about the community, has a vision for the city, and said that everyone should feel included and part of the process. It is not the government that makes Aumsville great, it's the people. He noted that he is on the Aumsville Fire Department's support team and their budget committee. It has given him more experience in understanding the governmental unit. He said he is certified in municipal budgeting. He loves the community and wants to make it a better place. He described his availability as being open and he would be able to make the meetings.

**Angelica Ceja-Ochoa** – She feels that city council should be representative of its community, having both home-owners and renters. It should have local business owners and be diverse, having people of different economic statuses and ethnicities. It should consist of people with good moral character and make decisions with the betterment of the community in mind. They should listen to the people that they represent with dignity. She described the recent recall as being an emotional process for all involved. She said she has no political experience and described herself as a soccer mom, volunteering in community-based programs in various ways for the past 22 years, beginning at the age of 16 as a police cadet; she's been an advocate for victims in the District Attorney's office as well as DHS, a classroom volunteer for 16 years, and most recently volunteering at the newest Aumsville Clothing Closet. She said she has worked the past 10 years at the state hospital. She talked about the experience she has gained in working with others – she likes to help people. She wants to help people now; there is a population that is not being reached. She said there are 500 people or more that are not being reached because of language barriers. Mrs. Ceja-Ochoa shared a story about a woman who could not speak English and that she was able to share information about resources available to her. She said she also wants to make Aumsville more aesthetically pleasing. She thinks there needs to be a chamber of commerce. There needs to be a better partnership with the school, local businesses and the city. The community needs to be more involved and the city needs to look at the reasons that all of this has come about. She said there needs to be passionate people selling what the city needs to have happen. She indicated that 2000 people recently voted, which brought about the current situation. She asked, what needs to be done to bring more people out to be involved? It's the responsibility of leaders to reach out and motivate.

**Larry Purdy** – He thanked the mayor and council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting and wanted to clarify that he is not part of any organized group, nor does he have any agenda coming in, other than to serve the city of Aumsville. He said he is not a career politician, just a citizen who lives in Aumsville and wants to offer the skills and abilities he has to serve the citizens of Aumsville. He's lived in Aumsville for 10 years and his parents and grandparents are

from this area. He said he has a vested interest in the community. He has worked for the State of Oregon for the past 30 years; the first 20 as a state trooper. The last 10 years he has been employed with Driver and Motor Vehicle Services as an investigator and manager and said he has witnessed many parts of government and how it works. He has significant experience in HR hiring and firing. He has also volunteered at multiple non-profits over the years and has served on several boards as director and controller. He is currently serving his church on their Stewardship Committee overseeing finances. He said what led him to step up was a discussion he was having at home with his wife about the turmoil in Aumsville and his daughter, in overhearing the conversation, suggested he had the skills needed to help and asked why he didn't volunteer. He said he gave it some thought, prayed about it a bit, and decided he would offer his name. He said he likes to help people, he considers himself a good listener and believes he makes informed decisions, based on the information available. He said sometimes that information changes and he does not have a problem saying that something has changed, he may have made the wrong decision and it needs to be looked at again. He believes, overall, that Council has been doing a great job and part of the reason he and his family moved here 10 years ago is because Aumsville is a great place to live. He wants to keep it that way. He wants his friends and neighbors enjoying the place that they live. He wants to enjoy it also.

**Jim Case** – He said he was born in central California, right out of Fresno. He gave his educational background which included graduating from Fresno State. He has done many things in his lifetime, from beginning to work in the fields picking grapes and driving tractors when he was 10 or 12, obtaining his pilot's license when he was 14, to driving truck during the summers while he attended college and school bus in the winter. In 1972 he started working for Fresno County as an appraiser and tax auditor. He has two children – a daughter who is a school teacher and a son who is a Fresno County Sheriff. After six years with Fresno County he returned to the family trucking business because he was needed. He eventually went out on his own as a farmer of grapes, oranges, cattle and such and he bought a retail liquor store. In 1998 he sold the store, leased out his farming operation and went a different way again – he became the finance officer for a manufacturing company. He decided to take some tax classes and his personal accountant asked Mr. Case to come to work for him, which he did. He was encouraged to get his CPA license and he passed the test when he was 60 years old, so he now is a CPA. He gave his background in various service clubs, including Rotary. He raced stock cars for 10 years and has a background of boating. He likes to fish and golf. He came to Oregon because he was tired of the heat in California. He knew he wanted to live between Eugene and Portland in an outlying area. After looking for six months, he came to Aumsville to look at a house, and within days had found a place he liked, made a deal and had a home built here. He said he became interested in applying for the open position after talking with his neighbor and best friend, Ted Cupp. He said he likes a small town and described Aumsville as being very similar to the place he grew up. Aumsville is a bit smaller, but he likes the people, the fact that they are so friendly, and it is such a great place for families and everybody else. It's close to the ocean; he feels like he is in the mountains all of the time, it has lots of trees and you don't have to go anywhere else. He believes his education and experience would be of value to Aumsville in keeping it a great place to be.

**Walter Wick** – He said he has lived in Aumsville since 2005 and he came to Aumsville not knowing a lot about it. He was looking elsewhere, but the right house came open and they bought it. He said he has fallen in love with Aumsville and has wanted to be on city council for

a while. He has watched the videos of the Salem City Council and Marion County and believes he has a decent understanding of what a board can and cannot do. He wants to help the council take care of the citizens of Aumsville and said there are a lot of important decisions to make. There needs to be some rule books discussion and some clear, concise understanding of some of the issues so that a clear informed decision can be made for the good of the city. That is what he is offering to Council. He said he has been doing a lot of volunteering lately and getting into his community and thinks he could do a good job for the citizens of Aumsville. He is not there to talk about policies or decisions that have been made; he wants to come in and make good decisions with the council starting now.

Mayor Baugh addressed the candidates and said regardless of the decision made tonight all six candidates have done an excellent job of indicating who they are and saying nice things about the community. All six are worthy of being on council and he appreciates their willingness to serve. He noted Angelica's love of service to others and said her passion is inspiring. He encouraged CA Harding to send a letter to those two who did not attend and thank them for putting their name forward.

He then asked the councilors if they had a list of their top three and CA Harding gave a couple of options Council could follow, including just making a motion and seeing if there is a second. Mayor Baugh said he wants discussion first and then motions. Council was encouraged to throw out one of their top three names and said he doesn't want to be the one that puts forth the names. CA Harding said that one name could be put out at a time.

Mayor Baugh said it is hard to say exactly what a qualification is, but he has an idea of what he would like to see, and he wants to know what the candidates have offered to their community already. He asked Larry Purdy to give a bit more information about his volunteering – Mr. Purdy said his family members have been good volunteers, and while he is a good volunteer, he hasn't done as much in the city of Aumsville – he has been focused on taking care of his family and some personal issues. He has volunteered extensively at church and talked about his commitment to service.

Councilor Czarnik asked Angelica Ceja-Ochoa about a response on her application about the people that are allowed to vote on city issues. She said she has done research and now understands that there are city limits and just having an Aumsville address does not mean you get to vote on city issues. Mayor Baugh used the example of Ted Cupp who lived "in" Aumsville for years, but whose property was outside of city limits, so he was unable to vote on city measures or candidates. Mrs. Ceja-Ochoa said it would be nice if properties in the Urban Growth Boundary would have the ability to vote on city issues.

Mayor Baugh said that of all of the candidates, Gus Bedwell came most prepared for the meeting and submitted a great application. He said Mr. Bedwell is his first choice. CA Harding said listing candidates by first choice and such is not necessary. He suggested that a name be put forward and then see what the other councilors have to say. Councilor Czarnik indicated that Mr. Bedwell was on his list of top candidates. Councilors Seney and Clayton agreed.

Councilor Czarnik made a motion to appoint Gus Bedwell to the open city council seat. Councilor Clayton seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Clayton, Czarnik, Seney, and Mayor Baugh. The motion passed unanimously. The crowd applauded.

Councilor Seney suggested Larry Purdy and said he has some good qualifications and attributes that could be very helpful to council. Mayor Baugh said he was impressed with the qualifications of one of the people who withdrew, but he is good with Mr. Purdy. Councilor Czarnik said that Mr. Purdy's experience in testifying in court and being part of an HR team makes him a good candidate. Councilor Seney made a motion to appoint Larry Purdy to fill the open city council seat. Councilor Czarnik seconded. Councilor Clayton recused himself because he lives two houses away from Mr. Purdy. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Czarnik, Seney, and Mayor Baugh. The motion passed. The crowd applauded.

Mayor Baugh asked Walter Wick a question about his reference to transparency and asked for Mr. Wick's definition. Mr. Wick said that he thinks everyone needs to know what is going on -- if you are going to do a motion, you need to put it out, discuss it and the public should know. It shouldn't be hidden as to what it is. It needs to be on the up and up and do the right thing for the community. It needs to come out and let the public know; making sure that there is clarity and giving a good explanation, communicating all thoughts and getting any objections out and discussed. It's about communication.

Mayor Baugh had a question for Angelica Ceja-Ochoa. He asked about her volunteering in different community programs, including Aumsville PTC. She said her children have moved up to the upper grades. She loves volunteering at the clothing closet and shared some information about it. She stopped volunteering as a police reserve 13 years ago, when she became pregnant.

Councilor Clayton said he has a final name -- he likes Jim Case because of all his experience in life. Mayor Baugh said he appreciates Mr. Case's seniority in age and his choice of best friend, Ted Cupp, whom Mayor Baugh considers to be a model for a good citizen. Councilor Clayton made a motion to appoint Jim Case to the last position on Council. Councilor Seney seconded. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Clayton, Czarnik, Seney, and Mayor Baugh. The motion passed unanimously. The crowd applauded.

Mayor Baugh encouraged those not chosen and noted that they are running for office and is glad the city has such good choices. Mayor Baugh brought up the League of Oregon Cities conference and council training happening the fourth week of September and encouraged the newest selections to attend and asked them to let the city know if they would be able to go.

CA Harding noted that Mid-Willamette Valley Council member Sean O' Day has agreed to come and give an in-house training for the new councilors. He will contact them in the next few days to get this scheduled.

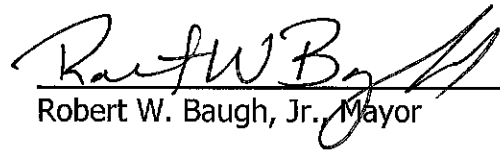
**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Council reports -- Councilor Clayton talked about his first Corn Festival as a leader and how they were undermanned. He said they really missed Hot Wire Robotics and their volunteering. He said he thought the layout was good, and it was really fun. Attendance was up from last year, but not as good as other years. Mayor Baugh talked about the volunteers that came in to clean on Sunday and what a good job they did. The mayor asked Councilor Czarnik about the CERT presence at the Corn Festival. Councilor Czarnik indicated he was disappointed and that they had very few visitors. He thinks it had to do with the fact there was no fire truck or ambulance there this year. Mayor Baugh noted that

there were power problems with some of the vendors at the festival and that will be addressed next year.

CA Harding gave kudos to the Exchange Club for their support at the parade. He commended Dotte Hass and Becky Tilden for the work they did helping the city get the parks ready. Mayor Baugh said that he really wants to commend Mona Hudson and what a wonderful job she did. She doesn't like a lot of attention, but she made a commendable effort behind the scenes. Ron said the only complaint he received was about the loud fire trucks. People from the audience said, "what did people expect – it was a parade."

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

The meeting adjourned without objection at 9:38 PM.



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Robert W. Baugh, Jr. Mayor



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Ron Harding, City Administrator