

News

Administrator

CONTINUED FROM 1

cooperatively to achieve and implement the goals and objectives of the city. I participated in the city council meeting on Dec. 14 and was impressed with the variety of agenda items and the level of interest, discussion and effectiveness in the city leadership in addressing these items.

Do you have any goals/hopes for the community in the future?

Absolutely, I'll be an effective communicator, a good listener and a liaison and facilitator,

working with city staff, volunteers, city leadership and the affiliated organizations to address the community's needs and goals.

I will assist the city's leadership in areas where I'm needed including, assisting with implementing the city's Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan items. I will also be working with city leadership and others on new public building and facility projects, attracting future housing options, addressing street and utility improvements, supporting existing businesses, attracting needed businesses, and assisting with the orderly planned growth of

the City.

What are your overall thoughts on the state of the city/city government right now and how do you look to integrate into/improve them moving forward?

Prairie City is a nice family oriented community with a decent base of businesses and a strong and active city leadership.

The position has many duties and responsibilities and my primary focus will be assisting the city leadership, city staff, the affiliated organizations, developers and others in many areas including, attracting additional housing types,

maintaining and planning for future street and utility improvements and attracting other needed businesses.

What most excites you about taking this position?

The variety of the duties and responsibilities, serving the city leadership, and working with city staff, volunteers, consultants, the affiliated organizations and others to meet and exceed expectations in implementing the items and goals of the city.

What are some areas you are looking to address to make Prairie City the best it can be?

Attracting additional hous-

ing types, continual street and utility improvements, planning for future growth and business attraction.

I plan to build effective relationships with city staff, volunteers, city leadership, affiliated organizations, consultants and others. I'll also evaluate the effectiveness of current levels of service delivery in all areas I'm responsible for and work with city staff to exceed the community's expectations.

I'm also a mentor to ISU, Community and Regional Planning (CRP) students, and I'll be instructing a studio class of ISU CRP students this Spring.

Vacancy

CONTINUED FROM 1

"They don't automatically serve two years. And they do not serve four years of Denny Carpenter's term. The maximum they can serve is until 2024."

Countywide elections can be anything from a special election to a bond issue vote held in March or September; the supervisor position would be on the ballot.

By appointing a person to the supervisor seat, they will immediately be sworn in and go to work. If the public decides they want a special election, they must gather more than 1,500 signatures and turn the petition into the auditor's office. Citizens would have 14 days after the appointment is made to get signatures.

COUNTY OFFICIALS EXPLAIN THEIR REASONING

After giving it a lot of thought, Parrott said he was in favor of appointing someone to the board. Although he did not want to call it the popular choice, it is typically what happens throughout the state as opposed to a special election, he added. Allan, too, gave it a lot of thought and believed an appointment was best.

Initially, Bishop was in favor of holding a special election, but at the time of the special meeting he had a change of heart.

"We've already been two months without a supervisor. I mean, let's be honest," Bishop said, referencing Carpenter's frequent absences at supervisors meetings. Although Carpenter would eventually take time away from board meetings, he did attend virtually through Zoom after recovering from a fall in his home.

Trying to conduct county business as a two-person board "puts a huge onus" on supervisors Doug Cupples and Brandon Talsma, Bishop continued. If the county forgoes an appointment and holds a special election, the treasurer estimated it would mean another two months with only two supervisors making decisions.



Denny Carpenter, a Republican member of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, died in the afternoon of Dec. 10 at Newton Village. Carpenter's seat is likely to be filled by appointment. Christopher Braunschweig/PCM Explorer

Which could be difficult if either one disagrees with the other on a particular matter. Motions resulting in a 1-1 vote would automatically fail.

"We have business to conduct still, regardless of how an election is going to turn out. It isn't fair to put all of that on two people," Bishop said. "So my thought was ... let's go with somebody neutral to get us through the interim, who can hit the ground running and there would be no learning curve."

However, no potential appointees were named by any county official. They will decide at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 27 who to appoint and when he or she could be appointed.

AUDITOR VACANCY COULD SPEED UP PROCESS

Parrott's retirement at the end of the year leaves another vacancy. Supervisors have already voted in favor of filling the position by appointment, but Bishop told his fellow officials the board could still call for a special election. Or the public could gather enough signatures and let the parties pick candidates.

If supervisors decide to change their minds about the vacant auditor's position — or if citizens have anything to say about it — the supervisor position would also be on that ballot.

If the county officials decided to vote for a special election to fill the supervisor seat, Parrott the auditor's office would need at least 30 days to get ready for the election. Political parties would also have to select their nominees, leaving about 32 days to campaign. If elected, they will carry out the full four-year term.

Either way, the elected officials are already coming to grips with the fact that no matter which decision they chose or how everything will play out, it is not going to please everybody in Jasper County.

Monroe Council

CONTINUED FROM 1

The Mustang Diner closed four years ago after serving customers for eight years at its corner location. Prior to the diner opening, the location was a Maid-Rite for many years.

The lot at 702 N. Main St. sits on a corner and is two lots available for new construction of possible multi-residential housing. It is also sold as-is at a price of \$7,500.

"It wouldn't be a bad lot. People will have to bring some dirt in and get rid of some trees but it would be a nice place for a walk-out home," city administrator Kim Thomas said. "I already know a few people that are interested in it."

Those interested must include the proposed use of the property and must build and maintain the property according to Monroe City Code standards.

Bid for both properties are due to the city by 4 p.m. Jan. 9. The properties are subject to development agreements and minimum assessment agreements along with a projected completion date.

The city has the right to reject any or all proposals for the property. For more information about the two spaces, contact Monroe City Hall.

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Christmas and New Year's Service Schedule 2022-2023

ATTENTION: City of Monroe

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 26th, 2022 Closed			Wednesday Collection		
January 2nd, 2023 Closed			Wednesday Collection		

We will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022, and Monday, January 2, 2023. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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