

## **Council Minutes – February 5, 2013**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Topeka, Kansas, Tuesday, February 5, 2013. The Councilmembers of the City of Topeka met in regular session at 6:00 P.M., with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Hiller, Ortiz, Everhart, Wolgast, Manspeaker, Gray and Harmon -7. Mayor William W. Bunten presided -1. Council District No. 2 and Council District No. 7 are vacant.

AFTER THE MEETING was called to order, Councilmember Hiller asked for a moment of silent meditation.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present in the chamber.

THE CONSENT AGENDA was presented as follows:

BOARD APPOINTMENT recommending the re-appointment of Shawn Geil to the Topeka Sustainability Advisory Board for a term ending February 28, 2015, was presented.

MINUTES of the regular meeting of January 22, 2013, was presented.

Councilmember Ortiz moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

ORDINANCE NO. 19791 introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, amending City of Topeka Code Section 2.95.020, concerning term limits for Sustainability Advisory Board members and specifically repealing said original section placed on first reading January 22, 2013, was again presented.

Dave Starkey, City Attorney, reported the proposed ordinance would remove the term limit provision and more align the Board with the term limits of other City boards and commissions. He noted a worksheet has been distributed outlining the terms limits of other City boards and commissions.

Councilmember Hiller moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

The ordinance was adopted on roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hiller, Ortiz, Everhart, Wolgast, Manspeaker, Gray and Harmon -7.

SELECTION of Council Members to vacant Council District Position No. 2 and Council District Position No. 7 was presented.

Mayor Bunten recognized Deputy Mayor Wolgast to conduct the interviews of the applicants for the vacant City Council positions and the elections to fill the vacant positions.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast reported the candidates are located in a separate room awaiting their opportunity to answer questions presented by the Governing Body. He explained the interview process would proceed as follows:

- Interviews would begin with the applicants for the vacant Council District 2 position in the order the applications were received by the City Clerk.
- Applicants would have four minutes to make an opening statement and two minutes to answer each submitted questions asked by each member of the Governing Body.
- Follow-up questions may be asked after all submitted questions are answered.
- After all applicants interviewed, members of the Governing Body would vote for their choice on a written ballot and submit the ballot to the City Clerk to read the results of each ballot.
- Balloting ends when an applicant receives five votes.

T.J. Brown, applicant for Council District No. 2 vacancy, provided an opening statement and encouraged the Council to make a wise and informed decision when filling the position. He stated he is interested in the position because he cares deeply about Council District No. 2, and believes the residents of Council District No. 2 deserve the best representation possible.

Jose Martin Munoz, applicant for the Council District No. 2 vacancy, provided an opening statement and noted he is a proud Topeka citizen with rich history living the American dream. He stated he has lived in Council District No. 2 for 32 years and carries a tradition of

hard work and sacrifice and feels indebted to serve the citizens of Topeka. He requested the opportunity to fill the Council District No. 2 vacancy as he is a neighbor, friend and waiter and has no agenda except to serve the city.

John Campos, applicant for the Council District No. 2 vacancy, provided an opening statement and thanked the Council for allowing him to appear and express his views. He stated he has the time, energy and desire to represent the constituents in Council District No. 2 and has collected over 1,000 signatures. He reported the citizens have expressed concern with crime and public safety and asked the Governing Body to conduct a crime summit. He stated his prime concern is for the City to achieve great things and he believes it is possible under the current leadership of the City Manager and Council.

Following each opening statement, each applicant was asked eight separate interview questions. The responses were as follows:

Question No. 1 - Councilmember Everhart asked each applicant to describe their participation in any community activities and how that experience would help them as a community leader.

T.J. Brown stated he is retired from the military and returned to Topeka to become an active member in the community. He noted he currently serves as the Oakland Neighborhood Improvement Association President, is a facilitator of Oakland Neighborhood Watch, and a member of the Safe Streets Coalition, as well as, the Citizen Patrol Coalition. He stated he has a unique set of qualifications developed through his life experiences which have prepared him to serve as a Councilmember.

Jose Martin Munoz stated he has hosted many community activities and taken part in numerous fund raisers to help citizens in need throughout the community. He noted he has

played an active role in the Topeka League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Knights of Columbus, and the Sunflower State games organization, as well as, an active member of his church.

John Campos stated he believes he has demonstrated the ability to serve the citizens of Topeka through his commitment on the Redistricting Committee. He noted his educational background suites him well for public service and having been born and raised in the District, makes him a solid person to represent Council District No. 2.

Question No. 2 - Councilmember Hiller asked each applicant to state the dollar amount of the City's annual operating budget and react to that in terms of the responsibilities of being a City Councilperson.

T.J. Brown stated the City's annual operating budget is approximately \$84 million and speaks to the heart of the public's trust with City government. He stated he believes the responsibility of a Councilmember as it relates to the budget is to be informed of how the dollars would affect the quality of City services and the quality of life for citizens; when making financial decisions a Councilmember must seek the direction of the City Manager and City staff; and help make sure there is proper fiscal discipline within City operations.

Jose Martin Munoz stated the City's annual operating budget is approximately \$238 million. He noted it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to spend tax dollars in the best way possible that will benefit citizens and the city as a whole.

John Campos stated the City's annual budget is approximately \$238 million. He also stated he understands the overwhelming figure; however, he believes he could properly prioritize the wants and needs of City government and reconcile those with the wants and needs of citizens. He stated he is ready to work with Mr. Colson and City staff to balance the City

budget. He noted only 35% of the budget is impacted by the mill levy and 71% of the budget is spent on vital areas of public safety. He stated he believes citizens would accept the concept of tough decisions if their opinions and input are welcome during the deliberation process and the City practices transparency in the decision-making process.

Question No. 3 - Councilmember Ortiz asked each applicant to describe Council District No. 2.

T.J. Brown stated Council District No. 2 is filled with great people, young families and small businesses who want to build the area. He stated volunteers want to make it better; there is a very diverse and proud culture in this District and he is proud to be a part of a great group of people. He stated he is more than willing to listen to those who want to be heard and be a part of the process.

Jose Martin Munoz stated Council District No. 2 includes hard-working, middle class people who are diverse and deserve great representation in local government.

John Campos stated Council District No. 2 constituents are rich in their heritage, culture and pride. He stated there are many festivals and recreation activities, community centers, great small restaurants, the Great Overland Station, North Topeka Arts District; all of which make up a rich cultural part of the city.

Question No. 4 - Mayor Bunten asked each applicant, in reference to the title of the position they are seeking, City Councilman or City Councilwoman, if they feel their primary obligations would be to their constituents who elected them or to the city as a whole?

T.J. Brown referenced the serious need for street, curb and gutter repairs in Council District No. 2; however, before supporting a tax increase to fund the needed repairs, he would

examine the fairness and necessity of the request and would only support an increase if it benefited the entire city as a whole.

Jose Martin Munoz stated all council districts require some repairs and he would have no reservations about supporting improvements to all parts of the city; however, he would expect that Council District No. 2 receive the same consideration for improvements as all parts of the city.

John Campos stated his first priority would be to Council District No. 2 constituents and what is good for them because any improvement as an effect on the entire city as a whole. He noted he believes all issues should be addressed as a collective body insuring the right decisions are being made for the entire community.

Question No. 5 - Councilmember Harmon asked each applicant to complete the sentence, "Leadership is..?"

TJ. Brown stated leadership is having the willingness to serve the greater need of the community by never using judgment based on their own opinion; being open and honest which improves the process of listening and making informed decisions; letting people know what you think because they deserve it; providing opportunities for a better understanding; being dedicated and hardworking and having a track record of involvement in the activity of the community.

Jose Martin Munoz stated leadership is the ability to listen to many diverse opinions and finding a solution to those problems.

John Campos stated leadership comes in all shapes and sizes. He referenced the contrast of great leadership qualities in President Harry S. Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He quoted George Van Valkenburg and stated, "Leadership is doing what is right when no one is

watching.” and noted that he would aspire to have these same great leadership qualities while serving on the City Council.

Question No. 6 - Councilmember Gray asked each applicant, what and how much of a role should local government play in the lives of its citizens?

T.J. Brown stated the role of local government at any level should enrich the lives of its citizens which could include better roads, infrastructure improvements, assisting in a crisis and being adaptive to the citizens. He stated local government should be based on the core functions of the community and be no more intrusive than the core functions mandate.

Jose Martin Munoz stated the role of local government should be to protect citizens through police and fire services, infrastructure improvements, as well as, encourage and allow economic development to enhance the lives of citizens and businesses.

John Campos stated the role of local government should be to provide a strong police force, fire and rescue, clean water, proper drainage and infrastructure which he believes are vital to core operations. He stated local government should determine the difference between what the public wants and what they must have to function and should avoid intruding in the private lives of individuals.

Question No. 7 - Councilmember Manspeaker asked each applicant, how the City of Topeka could be more transparent?

T.J. Brown stated transparency must adapt to changing times, as well as, respect tradition. He stated City documents are available for the public’s view online, in addition to the open viewing of public meetings; however, there is always room for improvement. He stated he believes the City is headed in the right direction in seeking new ways to be more transparent.

Jose Martin Munoz stated he has seen much improvement in the transparency of City Government with the hiring of Jim Colson, City Manager; Suzie Gilbert, Communications and Marketing Director; and the new Councilmembers. He also stated transparency has included more access to information regarding the Joint Economic Development Organization and how tax dollars are being spent and the televising of all public meetings.

John Campos commended the City Manager and Council for setting the tone that administration does what it says it will do. He referenced the Topeka Zoo issues; monthly reports; publicizing work sessions, Joint Economic Development Organization meetings, and commissions. He stated citizens deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent and allowing the public to submit their input is fundamental in establishing policy.

Question No. 8 - Deputy Mayor Wolgast asked each applicant what they hope to accomplish as a member of the Topeka City Council.

T.J. Brown stated that he believes this is a historic time for Topeka and he hopes to help the City move in the right direction with a clear vision, stable growth and economic prosperity while staying in touch with the 21<sup>st</sup> century and embracing the City's core values and heritage. He also stated he hopes to provide the quality of life residents deserve while sufficiently funding the Police Department and Fire Department as needed. He noted he understands the Council's work is hard and time-consuming; however, he would strive to work towards a consensus and respect all Councilmembers to achieve a solution.

Jose Martin Munoz stated he would work diligently with the Council in the best interest of the city and help solve problems that have plagued the city for many years.



John Campos stated his goal would be to simply learn as much as he could and create a caring environment that would encourage citizens to count on him by providing them with the necessary resources to have a successful community.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast provided an opportunity for members of the Governing Body to ask follow-up questions.

Councilmember Manspeaker asked John Campos how he would have done things differently while serving on the Redistricting Commission when Oakland residents became upset with the redistricting process.

John Campos stated he would have made certain sufficient communication mechanisms were in place to inform citizens of the process, including distributing information and personally meeting with them to get them involved in the process.

Councilmember Gray asked T.J. Brown if he agrees that local government should take part in the private lives of citizens as a Governing Body.

T.J. Brown stated there are times when government should step in and take care of its citizens if the problem was related to core values or needs of citizens.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast announced the interviews for Council District No. 2 were complete. He asked the Governing Body to cast their votes.

After the tally of votes from Ballot No. 1, the City Clerk announced T.J. Brown received four (4) votes, Jose Martin Munoz received three (3) votes and John Campos received one (1) vote.

After the tally of votes from Ballot No. 2, the City Clerk announced T.J. Brown received four (4) votes, Jose Martin Munoz received three (3) votes and John Campos received one (1) vote.

After the tally of votes from Ballot No. 3, the City Clerk announced T.J. Brown received five (5) votes, Jose Martin Munoz received two (2) votes and John Campos received one (1) vote.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast announced Mr. T.J. Brown would serve as the new representative for Council District No. 2.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast announced the interviewing process for the vacant Council District No. 7 position would be conducted in the same manner as Council District No. 2. The interviews were conducted in the order the applications were received by the City Clerk.

Edward Collazo, applicant for Council District No. 7 vacancy, provided an opening statement and shared his experience while serving in the military, as a law enforcement officer, as an attorney and professor at Washburn University. He stated volunteering has allowed him to understand the community, people and needs of the city as a whole. He stated Topeka is where he lives, works, shops and raises his family.

Elaine Schwartz, applicant for Council District No. 7 vacancy, provided an opening statement and thanked the Governing Body for the opportunity to be considered in serving on the Council. She stated she has served within the Kansas House of Representatives, Kansas House Insurance Committee, Social and Rehabilitation Services Administration and Kansas Department on Aging. She stated she believes she has the vast experience necessary to serve the Topeka community and would devote all her efforts to serving citizens at the local level.

Lisa D. Stubbs, applicant for Council District No. 7 vacancy, provided an opening statement and stated she could be very effective in the short-term position because she has previous experience in serving as a Councilmember. She noted she did not apply for the permanent seat for Council District No. 7 because of long-term obligations; however, she

continues to remain involved in the community through her neighborhood improvement association, Community Action Board of Directors, Junior Achievement Board of Directors and many other organizations. She stated she has a great level of support within the community and asked the Governing Body to choose the best applicant for the short-term position of Council District No. 7.

Following each opening statement, each applicant was asked eight separate interview questions. The responses were as follows:

Question No. 1 - Councilmember Everhart asked each applicant to describe their participation in any community activities and how that experience would help them as a community leader.

Edward Collazo stated he feels he has a civic duty to give back to the community and does so through serving on the Topeka Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, Fox Ridge Townhouses, Inc., Board of Directors and Bright Circle Preschool Board of Directors. He stated volunteering has taught him a better understanding of public funding, the importance of transparency, and to earn the trust and confidence of the people you serve.

Elaine Schwartz stated she is involved with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Shawnee County, has spoken to many Washburn University groups on aging, public health and legislative issues, as well as, the United Way. She also has been involved in raising funds for research for Alzheimer's disease, March of Dimes, Heart and Cancer funds and Elder Law at Shawnee County Courthouse. She noted she is retired which allows for the time needed to be a community volunteer and determine the issues that concern the community.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated she has held many different positions of leadership within many community organizations; however, she is most proud of the one-on-one contact she has

experienced in teaching at Let's Help and mentoring as a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, as well as, classroom teaching and volunteering with the Junior Achievement program.

Question No. 2 - Councilmember Hiller asked each applicant to state the dollar amount of the City's annual operating budget and react to that in terms of the responsibilities of being a City Councilperson.

Edward Collazo stated the City's annual budget is approximately \$238 million and is clearly a great responsibility that should be taken seriously. He stated as a Councilmember it would be his duty to review and question allocations thoroughly and make sure City operations run efficiently.

Elaine Schwartz stated the City's annual budget is approximately \$233 million. She noted she has vast experience in balancing large budgets including a \$5 billion State of Kansas budget.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated the City's annual budget is approximately \$239 million and is an awesome responsibility which supports many different functions within the City. She stated she believes the budget is the toughest part of being a Councilmember because of the vast amount of information to consume and understand; however, she is a fiscally responsible person and works hard to be conservative.

Question No. 3 - Councilmember Ortiz asked each applicant to describe Council District No. 7.

Edward Collazo explained the physical boundaries of Council District No. 7 and stated it is a healthy, middle-class district primarily made up of thriving neighborhoods, businesses and two school districts.

Elaine Schwartz described Council District No. 7 as a diverse, progressive district that includes safe neighborhoods and successful businesses. She stated as the City grows and broadens the tax base it is very important to facilitate good policy development by further opening up the process and making it more transparent.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated Council District No. 7 is comprised of a wide variety of people who take their right to vote seriously and are almost always the highest voting district in the city. She stated the constituents are known for sharing their thoughts and ideas on issues that matter the most to them.

Question No. 4 - Mayor Bunten asked each applicant, in reference to the title of the position they are seeking, City Councilman or City Councilwoman, if they feel their primary obligations would be to their constituents who elected them or to the city as a whole?

Edward Collazo stated he believes the responsibility would go well beyond Council District No. 7 in order to maintain the best interest of the city.

Elaine Schwartz stated when improvements are made to one part of the city it has a positive effect on the entire city. She stated it is important to remove the realm of politics and ask what is best for the city as a whole.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated when she served on the City Council she always considered her primary responsibility to be to the entire city and not just Council District No. 7. She stated she believed what was best for the district was ultimately best for the city as a whole. She referenced two Parks and Recreation projects that she initiated to be located in Council District No. 7 and after research it was determined the concept of the Rip-On Skate Park and the Betty Phillips Hi-Crest Neighborhood Park would better serve the city in other districts.

Question No. 5 - Councilmember Harmon asked each applicant to complete the sentence, "Leadership is...?"

Edward Collazo stated leadership is someone who is willing and able to adapt and improvise to overcome problems or situations; empowers team members to use skills to their fullest ability and includes each person to get the best overall solution.

Elaine Schwartz stated leadership is a person who knows how to motivate and encourage goals, demonstrates courage, creativity and energy, continue to learn and grow and remain open to change. She stated leadership as a Councilmember is making the hard decisions that would benefit the city as a whole and taking the necessary steps to ensure an effective and cohesive team.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated leadership is the ability to motivate and guide people to accomplish a common purpose that must be inclusive and not exclusive. She stated a leader must create an environment that empowers people to make our community a greater place to live, a vision for new thinking, energy and enthusiasm to solve old problems.

Question No. 6 - Councilmember Gray asked each applicant, what and how much of a role should local government play in the lives of its citizens?

Edward Collazo stated the government's role in the lives of citizens should be cautious, and laws should be created with the intent of understanding not over-bearing or overwhelming.

Elaine Schwartz stated one of her efforts would be to get more people to vote in city elections so they have more of a role in local government. She stated the role of government is to protect its citizens without infringing upon their rights, by supporting strong law enforcement and fire departments for first response, to provide safe roads, water, bikeways and parks. She also stated a government should set budgets, look for appropriate sources of funding, establish

strategic accountability and develop a comprehensive plan. She noted the importance of local government is its ability to generate a sense of belonging, safety and satisfaction among its populace.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated local government has a very important role to play in our community. She stated many critical areas are covered by our government such as police and fire protection, utilities and infrastructure and equitable distribution of services like parks and recreation for all areas. She stated local government should allow citizens the decision on major directives such as local sales taxes for economic development and improvements to roadways.

Question No. 7 - Councilmember Manspeaker asked each applicant, how the City of Topeka could be more transparent?

Edward Collazo stated he believes the City does a great job in regards to transparency by providing the public with information online. He suggested conducting one Council meeting per month in each Council District to allow the local community to take part in the process.

Elaine Schwartz stated transparency promotes accountability and provides citizens with information about the government's performance. She stated she believe the City's website is user friendly and makes citizens feel welcome and informed. She suggested the City allow more community involvement in the agenda by including citizen sponsored agenda items, as well as, more citizen input in how tax dollars are spent which could be accomplished through online surveys, town hall meetings and small gatherings such as "Coffees and Commentaries." She stated she also believes consolidation of services would provide cost savings to the community and reduce duplication.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated she believes transparency is built on a foundation of trust, an issue that comes up frequently when people are giving feedback about the City. She stated we first

understand the areas that are lacking transparency to become more transparent. She suggested a consensus of the Council to draft a plan of action that would include steps to gather citizen input on areas they believe are lacking, possibly forming a committee of citizens to review the concerns and report back to the Council. She also suggested developing a proactive way to receive input on future concerns to implement the effectiveness of transparency.

Question No. 8 - Deputy Mayor Wolgast asked each applicant what they hope to accomplish as a member of the Topeka City Council.

Edward Collazo stated he hopes to accomplish a sense of continuity and stated he is impressed with the direction the Governing Body is headed. He stated he agrees with the downtown revitalization plan and increasing the Police Department budget to fully staff the department and invest in the infrastructure, all improving the quality of life for citizens.

Elaine Schwartz stated she would continue to promote cooperative interaction in a very civil and professional manner, work to expand citizens role in public policy and support the decisions decided upon by the majority of the Council.

Lisa D. Stubbs stated she hopes to accomplish a seamless transition for our residents to the newly elected Councilmember in April. She stated she would maintain a policy of open communication where constituents would feel comfortable asking questions and receiving answers in a timely manner and build trust as it relates to City government. She would work closely with fellow Councilmembers to help advance issues that are before the City.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast provided an opportunity for members of the Governing Body to ask follow-up questions.

Councilmember Manspeaker asked Elaine Schwartz to provide her opinion on the State's current budget situation and the affect it will have on the City's budget.



Elaine Schwartz stated in her opinion the State's current budget crisis will have a negative effect on the City's budget; however, State Legislature could change their minds if they are supplied with the correct information.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast announced the interviews for Council District No. 7 were complete. He asked the Governing Body to cast their votes.

After the tally of votes from Ballot No. 1, the City Clerk announced Edward Collazo received five (5) votes, Elaine Schwartz received two (2) votes and Lisa D. Stubbs received one (1) vote.

Deputy Mayor Wolgast announced Mr. Edward Collazo would serve as the new representative for Council District No. 7.

A SWEARING IN CEREMONY for newly elected Council District No. 2 representative T.J. Brown and newly elected Council District No. 7 representative Edward Collazo was conducted by Victor Miller, Topeka Municipal Court Administrative Judge.

NO Retail Cereal Malt Beverage or Scrap Metal Dealer License applications were presented.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, relating to the vacation of a public utility easement on property extending from NW Topeka Boulevard to NW Harrison Street and located between properties at 1106 and 1114 NW Topeka Boulevard, City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, authorizing Improvement Project No. T-291023.00 for secondary digester lid replacements at the Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant, approving cost estimates of the proposed improvements, and doing all other things necessary and incidental thereto, and authorizing the use of utility operation funds,

authorizing the publication of the Notice of Intention of the governing body of the City of Topeka, Kansas, to issue and sell revenue bonds of said City to make such improvements which constitutes improvements to the municipally owned water, water pollution control, and stormwater utility system of the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, pursuant to K.S.A. 10-101 and 10-1201 et seq., and all amendments thereto, authorizing issuance of general obligation bonds to pay the costs of the project which further constitutes a general improvement to the City's sanitary and/or stormwater and sewage disposal system pursuant to City of Topeka Code Section A12-1, and authorizing the borrowing of funds from the KDHE SRF Loan to pay the cost thereof was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, authorizing Improvement Project No. T-281039.01 for the rehabilitation of flood protection relief wells approving cost estimates of the proposed improvements, and doing all other things necessary and incidental thereto, and authorizing the use of utility operation funds, authorizing the publication of the Notice of Intention of the governing body of the City of Topeka, Kansas, to issue and sell revenue bonds of said City to make such improvements which constitutes improvements to the municipally owned water, water pollution control, and stormwater utility system of the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, pursuant to K.S.A. 10-101 and 10-1201, et seq., and all amendments thereto, authorizing issuance of general obligation bonds to pay the costs of the project which further constitutes a general improvement to the City's sanitary and/or stormwater and sewage disposal system pursuant to City of Topeka Code Section A12-1 was presented for first reading.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE CITY MANAGER, MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;

Jim Colson, City Manager, commended the Governing Body on a smooth selection process for new Councilmembers T.J. Brown and Edward Collazo. He thanked Mr. Brown and Mr. Collazo for serving the community.

Councilmember Hiller thanked all applicants and expressed her appreciation to the public for their interest in the selection process. She commented on the great caliber of candidates that applied for the Council District vacancies and commended them for their commitment to the community.

Councilmember Brown thanked the Council on behalf of all applicants for the smooth process and preparing challenging interview questions.

Councilmember Ortiz thanked all the applicants for their interest in serving the community. She welcomed Councilmember Brown and Councilmember Collazo to the City Council.

Councilmember Everhart thanked the applicants for participating in the process and welcomed T.J. Brown and Edward Collazo to the City Council.

Councilmember Wolgast welcomed Councilmembers Brown and Collazo to the City Council. He acknowledged that the vacancy process went smoothly, and thanked all applicants for their interest in serving the community. He reported as a result of attending various neighborhood improvement association meetings throughout the city, he has become aware of the issues citizens are most concerned with including crime, economic development and deteriorating infrastructure. He asked the City Manager to consider new ways to address the neighborhoods concerns. He stated he believes the Governing Body establishes an annual budget with good intention; however, as the year moves forward, the Governing Body needs to continue to take action to help resolve the most pressing issues of the city.

Councilmember Manspeaker welcomed new Councilmembers Brown and Collazo.

Councilmember Collazo expressed his appreciation to the Council, City Manager and City staff and stated he is looking forward to serving the community.

Councilmember Gray welcomed the new Councilmembers and stated he looks forward to working with them.

Councilmember Harmon welcomed the new Councilmembers and stated he believes the dynamics of the Governing Body will change with the new additions. He thanked the applicants for their interest in City government and noted he was impressed with the qualifications of all the applicants which speak highly of City government and the Council. He asked if an orientation would be provided to the new Councilmembers.

Jim Colson reported staff would contact the new Councilmembers on February 6, 2013, to schedule orientation.

Winston Michael Ray appeared to speak under public comment.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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Brenda Younger  
City Clerk