

August 27, 2020 – Mayor Vacancy

Attendance: Julio Tapia, Shelith Jacobson, Stuart Smith and Larry Woodcox. Rod Hansen participated remotely.

Presiding: Mayor Willard Wood

Timer: Paula Peckham

Agenda: Questions and answers for the Candidates

Candidates: Abby Ivory, Jerime Ivory, Ron Ivory, Scott Collard, Mark Coombs, Zoe Cook and Clint Hansen.

Mayor Wood explains to the audience that this meeting is scheduled to interview the Candidates and then allow the Council to vote. No audience comments will be taken.

All candidates answered the following:

1. Introduction of themselves.
 - a. Why are you interested in filling this vacancy at this time?
 - b. Can you commit to fulfilling the Mayor's duties (one of being in attendance to all Council meetings) for the next 14 months?
2. How do you feel about the growth related changes we are seeing in Fountain Green?
3. What do you feel are the two largest issues facing the citizens of Fountain Green?
4. What are your feelings on allowing individuals who live outside of city limits to serve on our volunteer fire department as well as other civic organizations?

**See attachment for all of the Candidates answers.

Each of the Council was provided a ballot (Rod had an emailed copy) with their name and the names of each Candidate. Mayor Wood asked them to vote and give their ballots to Michelle. Rod is to take a picture of his ballot and text it to the Mayor.

Results:

Larry Woodcox votes Scott Collard

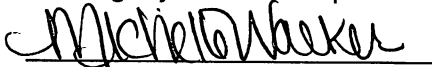
Stuart Smith votes Scott Collard

Shelith Jacobson votes Scott Collard

Julio Tapia votes Mark Coombs

Rod Hansen votes Mark Coombs.

Meeting adjourns at 8:15 p.m.



Michelle Walker, City Recorder



Three part question:

1. Introduction of themselves.

- a. Why are you interested in filling this vacancy at this time?
- b. Can you commit to fulfilling the Mayor's duties (one of being in attendance to all Council meetings) for the next 14 months?

Abby –

18 yr. resident of Fountain Green

Reason to run – love of town and its people.

If you want to love someone you serve them.

Service – Director of the Miss Lamb Day Pageant, Lamb Day Committee, selling T-shirts and setting up the Ipads to run credit cards.

Wants to bring everyone together; Try to find resolutions that will bring both sides of the fence together.

Own her own company; have employees to cover for her when needed.

Serve on: Sanpete County Commissioners meetings, President of Nephi Chamber of Commerce working with them to find a solution to tax increase.

Can make the commitment and being a problem solver to make things better.

Clint –

Lifelong resident of Fountain Green

Retired Nat'l Guard

Several years have been asked to run for a city office, but could not because of profession

Now would like to serve and has the volunteer service to offer.

Small Communities have limited resources and they need to be managed for the mutual benefit of the community.

Occasionally works part-time, but will be able to fulfill the Mayor's duties.

Because this community is small people tend to get emotional about things.

Quote from book; expresses his opinion.

We are assembled again to transact business of mutual benefit do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish citizenship and loyalty to our community and the government of the United States of America.

Mindset could be expressed in all of us. Feels like he can help do that.

Jerime –

Lifelong resident of Fountain Green.

Put up/shut up

Volunteers on Lions Club, Lamb Day, Fire Dept. Enjoys serving

Reason why running; put up or shut up.

Wants to help bring transparency could help clear the water

Confusion over Lamb Day committee.

We are focusing on the weeds; should be focusing on the beautiful place in the place we live.

Known as a hot head, but is passionate for the City. Love for home which does include the people.

Can fulfill position. Understands the obligation and responsibilities. Would be able to attend all meetings.

Mark –

Lifelong resident of Fountain Green.

Serve and if you commit, commit fully.

Has served on the City Council and helped with writing the Ordinances as well as with the water and sewer projects.

Served as the Fire Chief Assistant and helped start the County Fire District. Was in charge of writing the grants for the fire department.

Has also served on Boards in connection with his profession.

Must follow the rules; if you don't like the rules you work together to get them changed.

Council and Committees can work together.

Ron –

Lifelong citizen of Fountain Green.

Oldest one running, but with age comes knowledge

Served as Mayor Judge, City Recorder, Treasurer for Moroni, and Lions Club

Able to attend all meetings and would enjoy having something to do.

Attend all Mayors & Commissioner's mtgs.

Highlights of accomplishments as previous Mayors: Main street project, Restrooms/Concession bldg. at the park. Old Fire Station during his first time as Mayor.

Scott –

Doesn't matter how long you've lived here...Live where you are/serve where you live.

Reasons: Past few years the city has been pulled apart by the seams. With the COVID issues the City needs someone who knows how to be Mayor.

He served 3 terms as Mayor and 12 years on the City Council. Knows what needs to be done. In order bring unity to our community we need to pull together in the same direction. Can't survive if we are splintered into groups. When times are tough we need our community

Can fulfill the Mayor's obligations. Duties at work have changed; can work from home, able to work around the Council meetings.

Manage one of the divisions that includes budgeting. Knows how to get the most out of our limited resources.

Main Goal – Unity

Zoe –

Lived here 3 years. Family is from here. Spent summers here

Wrote articles about surrounding cities focusing on renewable energy and became interested in Fountain Greens'.

Does need more unity even from my perspective as a younger member. Even though there is somewhat of a split, there is still some unity.

Transparency – not real accessible, would like to make it more.

Is currently going to school and has a job, but will prioritize to work around Mayor's duties.

Feels like it's Important to serve and to be involved. Good to get younger generation to get involved because they will be the ones that will eventually be in charge.

2nd Question: How do you feel about the growth related changes we are seeing in Fountain Green?

Clint –

Have talked to lot of people about growth.

People are moving back because of affordability. Not because of the amenities.

All like the small community.

No stopping the growth, but management of growth is critical.

Rules to follow – My rights stop where your rights start. Everyone counts

Mark –

Growth is going to happen; people want what we have.

Plan for growth. Need to have a 5 – 10 yr. plan.

Plan ahead for water, land, and ordinances

Make sure we protect the rights of those who are already here.

City Council's job is to manage growth; Needs to get input from the city; Get people involved. Our job as citizens is to keep what we like.

Ron –

Growth inevitable; no way to stop it.

Plan to manage growth; Control growth through Planning Commission and Council

Growth is good, but needs to be managed

Jerime –

Going to happen. We need sustainable growth. The infrastructure is unable to handle too much growth coming too fast, but too slow the community will die.

City does need a 5-10 year plan.

If you don't plan for it, it might happen where you don't want it.

Most surrounding cities have multiple businesses, but Fountain Green struggled to keep Shep's alive.
Would like to pursue the reasoning/question. Find out why Fountain Green businesses don't flourish?

Scott –

The community has to grow or die.

More tax base so that we don't have to raise water, sewer, or property taxes.

Need a 5 – 10 yr. plan.

Good annexation plan, know which direction the City can go.

New ideas to mesh with the old

Work together

Must continually change or become stagnate.

Control yet also welcoming to new people.

Abby –

Scary. Nephi is booming and they will be coming this way.

Serve on the Chamber of Commerce for Juab Economic Development

Growth enough for residential and business

Concern/promote small town businesses

Not too fast, enough water for new homes, make sure we have enough to protect what we have.

New people bring

Include everyone

Zoe –

Got others opinions

Keep it this way, but can't stop it

Support small town businesses, try to keep money local.

Unity – new people bring a lot in, important that they feel welcome.

Everyone needs to feel like they have a say.

Transparency can make growth positive, comfortable and supportive.

Third Question – What do you feel are the two largest issues facing the citizens of Fountain Green?

Mark –

1. Disconnect/subgroups. Not acting like a community, don't have each other's backs
2. Help afford to live here, provide services needed. How to fund those services?

Ron -

1. Finances. Many things the City needs, but not enough money to cover the needs. Find something to help fund.
2. Infrastructure. Roads – will have to catch up.

Jerime –

1. Infrastructure which does depend on growth.
2. Division/Separation. Come together. Remind what a good place this is. People are looking for weeds. Transparency, all voices heard, social media for younger generation.

Scott –

1. Unity. Community needs to come together. City Council needs to act like a City Council. Citizens need to accept the decisions of the City Council and get behind them.
2. Growth brings challenges to the infrastructure and affordability. We need small businesses in the community for tax revenue that stays in town.

Abby –

1. Division that we have. Needs to listen to both sides. Talk and find solutions. Small changes that lead to bigger changes
2. Information getting out to community. Example last week's meeting – more information out there will get rid of rumors. Minutes on website.

Zoe –

1. Division. Causing lack of unity, brought by lack of access to correct information
2. Where are we putting our resources? Look to the future. Plan for the future.

Clint –

1. Funding. Tight Budget. Critical to get the best out of the funding we have. Balancing act as the city grows. Put funding towards future growth, but need to have enough for businesses.
2. Fractured as a community. City Council needs to be respected, transparency in all capacities, actions as a representative should be held to a higher standard. Respect is earned.

Fourth Question – What are your feelings on allowing individuals who live outside of the city limits to serve on our volunteer fire department as well as other civic organizations.

Ron –

Always have allowed anyone to volunteer to come and help. Welcome to serve.

Fire Department currently has volunteer firefighters outside of city limits.

Jerime –

Why is it such a hot topic? Quoting Abby – “If you want to love someone, you serve them.

Dr. Sues teaches that we are all the same.

Scott –

With growth, why not extend ourselves and welcome the people who want to come. Not to just serve, but to participate. Why would we want to exclude?

Come together and grow, not exclude.

The question states the biggest problem.

As long as we exclude who we want to participate, not doing the right thing.

If we continue not to listen to the City Council’s decisions, we’re not respecting them.

Get everyone included.

When we truly love everyone we will grow as a community.

Abby –

Have been thinking about the Statue of Liberty – “Bring your tired, your hungry, your whole masses.”

We’re founded on people being welcoming.

No one will say we don’t want outsiders coming in to help us.

Everyone chipping into help is what makes Fountain Green, Sanpete, Utah, America great.

Religions/Towns – help each other.

We need to respect and love the people who are coming in and helping us; are we going to love them as much as we love our neighbors?

Respect all who come to help; are we going to give them the same benefits as we want?

Zoe –

Not enough transparency. Encourage unity.

Decisions are being made that are not involving the community.

People should be welcome.

Having community being involved in decisions, people would be more willing to accept it.

Clint –

Many outside city limits are serving in a volunteer capacity. They are an asset that we should use.

Elephant in the room – softball.

There is a cap on it, the cap is there. If it needs to be addressed, do it openly, state the reasons why? Let people know; don’t let be a division. Not everyone can be happy, but if they don’t get their way they should respect being told, “We’ve made the decision and this is why.” We hope that you’re okay with it, we’re sorry, don’t take it personally.”

Again...”Transact business of mutual benefit. Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations.”

If we want to make changes on the planning and zoning, inclusions or exclusions, let’s do it openly and come up with a solution that will benefit everyone.

Mark –

Why does anyone want to serve? Make the organization better and give what they have to offer. Just because you don't live here doesn't mean you can't serve here. We won't be able to access the information that other people have to help us be a better community.