

City Clerk Staff

From: Bob Campbell <campbellformissoula@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2022 11:17 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Mayor Appointment

To the Missoula City Council:

First and foremost my condolences to the Council on the loss of our Mayor, and your colleague, John Engen. Not far into my law enforcement career I was assigned to take then-candidate Engen on a ride-along. He quickly turned a somewhat nerve-racking assignment into great conversation about one-another's backgrounds and my concerns as a law enforcement officer, and what I thought at the time were the needs of my agency. I honestly felt he listened, and of course, we all learned through the years that's one of the many things he excelled at. Political differences aside, Mayor Engen leaves behind a legacy that will be felt here in Missoula for generations.

Needless to say the Mayor you appoint will have a tough act to follow- A Mayor that must be able to get to work immediately, not simply "fill the void" until the next election cycle. The appointee must have a strong connection to the community, possess executive experience, and be able to have a vision that motivates the Council, and community at large, to tackle pressing issues yet to be addressed.

Housing is still on the forefront of concerns here in Missoula. We need more housing development and of varying densities, to include multi-family. Of course, to simply say we "need" isn't a plan. From my vantage point, some on Council seem to believe the only answer is to throw taxpayer money at the problem, abolish private property, and create a city-sponsored housing system that would inevitably collapse under its own weight. The appointed Mayor must understand the limits of what will and will not work from a public sector standpoint, and embrace common-sense, free-market forces of supply and demand. The appointed Mayor must work diligently with CDPI to get updated zoning enacted, get developers the tools they need to support growth, ensure the responsible City agencies reviewing development proposals do so in streamlined fashion, thereby increasing housing availability and ultimately bringing housing costs down.

Among the candidates for appointment there is only one I see with the above qualities that can step in and address the issue of housing straightaway: Mike Nugent. My only concern is whether he can step aside from his private business and take on this enormous task. During interviews, Council must require each candidate to address this issue.

When deliberations are completed, I believe Mike Nugent should be nominated, and a vote taken confirming his appointment as Mayor. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
Bob Campbell
Citizen, Ward 5