

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D' ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

September 3, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a regular session of said Council at the Coeur d'Alene City Library Community Room on September 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

Christie Wood) Members of Council Present
Dan Gookin)
Dan English)
Amy Evans)
Kiki Miller)

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McEvers called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: David Gortner of St. Luke's Episcopal Church led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember English led the pledge of allegiance.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA: MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Wood, to declare an emergency and amend the agenda to recategorize item F – Election of Council President as an action item. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Wood requested to move the discussion on the University zoning to right after Public Comment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMEMBER MCEVERS, SEAT #4, ACCEPTED BY MAYOR HAMMOND, AND SWEARING IN OF WOODY MCEVERS TO FILL THE VACANT MAYOR POSITION.

City Clerk Renata McLeod sworn in Mayor Woody McEvers.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT: MOTION: Motion by Gookin, seconded by Wood, to elect Dan English as Council President.

DISCUSSION: Councilmember Miller stated that the Council President is a person who fills in for the Council and runs the meeting in the absence of the Mayor. She mentioned that the filling of the Council President vacancy, as discussed in the white paper from City Attorney Randy Adams, would be from the nomination by any of the other Council members and then affirmed by the rest of the Council members. She pointed out that in the process of filling the Mayor position, there was no public discussion, but the nomination and selection was made because Councilmember McEvers was the most senior and longest member of the Council. She stated that

if that is the process to be followed, the next most senior is Councilmember Gookin although he stated that he does not want the position, and the next most senior is Councilmember Evans. Councilmember Gookin stated that there is no rule about seniority on being a Council President. He recalled that in the past, that it was Rod Edinger as Council President who was then the most senior, but Mike Kennedy who replaced him was not the most senior but who indicated he wanted the position. He added that when he talked to Councilmember English, he stated that he wants the job as Council President. Councilmember Miller said that, with no disrespect to the person being nominated, she inquired about the process for the nomination and selection of Council President because there was a discussion about having a process and transparency during the last meeting. She explained that she wanted to lean towards consistency since there's been more than one person who expressed interest in the mayoral position as well as Council position and Council President. She stated that for consistency, she likes the old way of selecting the most senior as Council President. Councilmember Wood noted that all Council members are qualified to be Council President. She shared that in her conversation with Councilmember Gookin, they agreed about the need to have a policy that will firmly determine the process, so everyone is treated respectfully, but in the meantime, she stated that she is happy to support Councilmember English who expressed to her his interest to be Council President. She added that Councilmember English has a long history of public service in many different roles. Councilmember Gookin stated that the Council will bring forward a policy that will serve as reference in the future, and he agrees with Councilmember Miller that the Council should be consistent on its process. Councilmember English said that he appreciates the discussion, he is honored of the nomination, and committed to do his very best to fulfill the duties of a Council President.

Motion carried with Miller voting No.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gepetto Nabler, Coeur d'Alene, showed a picture of someone who worked at Rustler Roost restaurant for two years after being arrested and expressed disappointment.

Bill Green, Coeur d'Alene, stated that he is surprised to see the open container alcohol implementation during farmers market event on 5th Street. He asked what prompted the Council to approve the request and agree that the farmers market would be better with alcohol. Based on his career, he noted that alcohol changes thinking, perception, judgement, impulse control, and everything that goes into causing trouble. He added that it would also be a bad example for kids seeing grown-ups with alcohol in a supposed family-friendly event.

Emily Boyd, Coeur d'Alene, noted that based on Council's approval of the open container at the farmers market in the last meeting and pending approval of the Resolution tonight, the Downtown Association is prepared to launch the pilot project tomorrow. They have already booked the security, fencing, and staff will work full-time to watch how it works and to ensure that the goal of having a family friendly environment is maintained. There will be two entities that will be serving their beverages that are brewed in Coeur d'Alene. Ms. Boyd stated that they look forward to reporting back to Council.