

MINUTES OF A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COEUR D' ALENE, IDAHO,
HELD AT CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM #6

October 7, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Coeur d'Alene met in a continued meeting of said Council at the City Hall Conference Room #6 on October 7, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., there being present the following members:

Woody McEvers, Mayor

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

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

COUNCIL INTERVIEWS AND DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR VACANT COUNCIL SEAT#4:

Mayor McEvers stated that the purpose of the meeting is for Council to interview and discuss candidates for Council Seat #4, in accordance with the Human Resources policies. The following questions were asked by each councilmember as follows: 1-3 Councilmember English; 4-6 Councilmember Evans; 7-8 Councilmember Wood; and 9-10 Councilmember Gookin.

1. How long have you lived in CDA and why do you want to be on the City Council?
2. What is your understanding of the role of a Councilmember?
3. What unique skills or perspectives would you bring to the position of Councilmember?
4. What community/public services or activities in Coeur d'Alene have you been involved in?
5. What leadership roles have you held?
6. All of us may have areas of the city government or public issues, due to our experience or other factors, that are of particular interest to us. How would you separate that special interest from decisions that you need to make on behalf of the whole city, including all citizens, businesses, and city employees?
7. Do you have any experience that gives you a particular understanding of Idaho city governance, finance, and authority? Explain.
8. If you were engaged in strategic planning, what services do you believe the Council and Mayor should be focused on for city residents in the next 5 years?
9. What is your experience with public budgets, public policy, and City, State, and Federal laws that pertain to Municipal Government?
10. Do you have any questions for us or anything else you would like to share with us?

Additional questions include their views on transparency, public safety, reaction to the observation that the City Council don't have its own policy, how they could make the city more business-friendly, and how they would improve the City budgeting process.

KENNETH GABRIEL: Mr. Gabriel stated that he lived in Coeur d'Alene for 43 years and he wants to be on the City Council to continue doing what he loves, which is to serve the community. He narrated that he spent his entire life in public service starting as a volunteer in the Fire Department and did a lot of coaching at the Little League and in church, which morphed into being in the fire service when he became an adult. Before he was promoted to Fire Chief, he was a public information officer for the Fire Department where he was able to build a relationship with the community. He was also a member of several Boards and Committees such as the Salvation Army Kroc Center Board, North Idaho College Vocational Technical Education Advisory Board, Coeur d'Alene American Legion Board, and Idaho Youth Ranch Programs Committee, to name a few. He was a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul and the Food Bank. He was also a member of the City of Coeur d'Alene Legislative Committee and Chairman of the Idaho State Fire Chief's Association Legislative Committee. Mr. Gabriel expressed that his long-time passion was working on the legislative side to get things done. For him, a Councilmember performs a collaborative role and represents the City in meetings and on different events. He sees himself as a Councilmember working with a cohesive team to ensure what is best for the community. He thinks that while each department has a policy manual, the City, as a whole, should also have a policy manual. Mr. Gabriel stated that, in applying for the Councilmember position, he brings with him his working knowledge of what is required of the position as he has attended and participated in literally hundreds of City Council meetings and budget hearings. He has a good understanding of the State of Idaho's governance, finance, and authority and with 19 years of experience preparing the Fire Department's budget. He also brings with him the desire to build relationships and bring forward what he has done in the past. When asked about the City's budget process, he commented that everyone is doing a great job. In terms of leadership roles, he stated that from being a firefighter, he became the City's Fire Chief. He was President of the Idaho State Fire Chief's Association and served four terms as North Idaho Fire Chief's President. He conveyed that he tried to elevate himself into these leadership roles because it is the best way to represent the City of Coeur d'Alene. Despite these background, Mr. Gabriel expressed that should he be appointed as Councilmember, he would not be a politician nor be a lobbyist for the Fire Department, but instead, he will always look at the bigger picture taking into consideration serving the community and not just one group. If he would be approached with something that concerns the Fire Department, he would respond by saying that they should bring it up with their Fire Chief. Nonetheless, he believes that public safety should be a top priority. He believes that the Mayor and Council should continue to focus on how to continue providing public safety services as the City continues to grow in population as part of its strategic planning for the next five years. He stated that the Council should have a keen understanding of the public budget, public policy, and City, State and Federal laws that pertain to Municipal Government, and he was lucky enough to be immersed in all these and gained a good understanding over the years. He believes that a Councilmember should be an advocate for both staff and the community and also understand the views of the Mayor and the administration. When asked about his thoughts about transparency in government, Mr. Gabriel replied that there should be transparency with the people having an understanding where their money is going. In terms of being pro-business, he said that he cannot think of a situation where the Council was not really pro-business, and he thinks that it has to be pro-business. In closing, Mr. Gabriel stated that he