

**CITY OF KALAMA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2019**

COUNCIL POSITION #1 INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENT

1. OPENING

Mayor Mike Reuter opened the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present were Sandra Macias, Mike Dennis Langham, Rosemary Brinson Siipola, and Mary Putka. City staff present were City Administrator Adam Smee, Director of Public Works Kelly Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Coni McMaster, and Police Chief Ralph Herrera. City Attorney Sam Satterfield was also present. Members of the public present are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Attorney Sam Satterfield explained the process and ground rules for how the meeting would proceed. No public comments will be allowed and the audience was asked to be respectful of the two candidates. Attorney Satterfield drew a name to select the first interviewee which was Jon Stanfill. The Mayor and Council asked each candidate the following five questions:

1. Why do you want to be on City Council and what qualifications will make you an effective Councilmember?
2. Councilmembers are asked to make decisions in the best interest of the City. How will you make or handle making a decision that would not be popular, may not be what you are hearing as being supported by the public, but based on the information is necessary to the functioning of the City or taking no action would be detrimental to the City and all its citizens?
3. What do you see as the city's greatest opportunities? the city's greatest challenges?
4. Explain your understanding of the city's role and its partnership with the Port of Kalama, Kalama School District, CFD No. 5, as well as the other cities in the County and the County itself?
5. Are you currently or have you in the past served the Kalama Community and are you prepared for the commitment this position requires?

Mayor Reuter asked the first question and each Councilmember asked the questions which corresponded to their position on the Council.

2. INTERVIEWS

1. Jon Stanfill -

1. Kalama has always been special in his life having visited often while he was growing up. Once he got the chance he moved here and he and his wife are committed to staying in Kalama. He has always wanted to serve the community where he lives, but his graduate studies have had him moving too often to allow him to. Once in Kalama he was looking at how to serve the community, talking with friends, who encouraged him to run for Council. He entered the election and also put in an application for the vacant seat because he wants to serve. He is well prepared to roll up his sleeves and do the work. He explained he is a professor and historian which has taught him to process information, follow the evidence, bring in ideas, communicate and work collaboratively which will allow him to make contributions to the Council. As he prepared for serving on the Council, he has toured the City's infrastructure, met with staff, met with Port and their staff and attended the Chamber and Joint Entity meetings last month to learn about the current issues. He gave three examples of how he is ready to serve on the Council. He has extensively studied documents on the issues that have been before the Council such as the recent permit for Haydu Park, he has reviewed City documents including recent budgets, and the water/sewer rate study and he has read all the material on the annexation that will be on the agenda at the next Council meeting.
2. He has thought a lot about decision making, recognizing that this Council has had to make some tough calls in the last few years. It is the Council's job to represent the citizens, which is not simple as citizens have a wide range of perspectives. As a teacher/professor he has to weigh the issues when developing class work so the he teaches the whole body including those on the margins. He is not coming in with an agenda. He believes the job is to pursue the answers. This includes being able to recognize when you are wrong, and be able to change your mind or willing to adjust your thinking so decisions are for the betterment of the committee for the whole community.
3. He believes the Council and City need to find a way for better communications with the public, so they can better understand the decisions that are made. Citizens don't always know why or understand the reasons. He is willing to meet with citizens one on one to provide information and to get feedback. He believes the City needs to train and prepare staff to better facilitate a social media presence. The City has wonderful room for economic development and he supports the downtown business plan. He would like to a resource center in the library. There are so many people that don't know about the opportunities that are out there. The City needs to address the infrastructure needs including addressing the flooding issues. Another water/sewer rate study needs to be done to update the five-year old study. Other projects would be to map the infrastructure, seeking grant funds to cover costs and addressing the City's future water rights, being more aggressive in reserving our water rights for the future.

4. The City needs to have good relations with all the entities, and the interlocal agreement with Kelso and other cities for prosecutorial services on the upcoming agenda is an example of how the City can use shared resources. He has been attending both Council and Port meetings. The Port is a helpful partner and both entities can benefit each other, recognizing that each have certain responsibilities and roles. At the recent Joint Entity meeting the information on the Fire district was interesting that they are needing funds for a new site, just like the school and City. We need to partner and work better together. He believes that politics is human relations endeavor.
5. Yes! I am prepared to serve even though I have only been here three years. He has been attending meetings and events to support the community, and trying to listen to what the public has to say. Running in the primary, he has been walking, going out meeting people and hearing their concerns. Kalama is a small town and he loves it. It will always be a small town due to the location and geographic constraints. He has run into people a lot and been tested by heated discussions. He believes through his service they would be able to overcome the view that those that disagree are the enemy.

Closing Statement: Mr. Stanfill noted he is amazed at how much work the Council takes, but he has seen it and is ready to serve. He has the time and is committed to doing the work and has been doing it already. The public does not realize how little or how much the Council can do. This is an opportunity to contribute to the legacy of the town. The remodel of his holder home is an example of his ideas - strike a balance with the heritage of Kalama and the present to provide a quality of life for all those that live here. He is ready to do what he can to have Kalama realize its potential.

2. Wendy Conradi

1. A few years ago she went to several Council meetings regarding the police station and the park issues which had her ask herself when do people get involved. She found herself wanting to get involved and is still interested. She was born and raised in Kalama and cares about the town. She has moved away and come back home. She doesn't believe that a person should only be complaining without being involved. This will be her first public office. She has a long history in health care field and been involved with many committees. She will use those skills and work to find answers or ask questions, so she can make informed decisions.
2. Communication is needed. No everyone will agree on every issue, but the Council needs to let them give their opinion and respect their opinion. The Council needs to let the public know what they are talking about, let the public voice concerns and explain the decisions. They can respectfully disagree, but they need represent the people that elected you. She will make decisions based on that.
3. Our location being close to the airport, close to I5, and the river make this a great area. She would like to see growth downtown and in the area, but still keep it a bedroom

community. It nice to be able to walk out of the Mexican restaurant and run in to people you know on the street.

4. All those agencies work for the same goals, what is good for the community. We all want good schools, excellent fire and emergency services, and the wonderful parks at the port. The City should work well with them.
5. She has served with the Fire Department auxiliary and as a soccer coach when she was living here previously and in other locations. Most of her services has been job related in the health care field including the nursing governance Council.

Closing Statement: Ms. Conradi noted she cares about the community, knows a lot of people, and that it is a friendly town. People like that it's small. The City needs to manage growth and encourage new business. They need to address the flooding issues downtown to that end. She would like to keep it small. It nice to be able to visit with everyone. It's a friendly place. A great little town and she would work to maintain that and be part of the development in the future.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Reuter thanked the candidates. The Council went into executive session at 7:38 pm for 15 minutes to discuss the qualifications of the candidates, with the City Clerk asked to attend. The meeting resumed at 7:49 pm.

3. APPOINTMENT & ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Reuter on behalf of himself and the Council thanked the candidates once again, noting the time and energy they have put into it. Both are great candidates. It was good to hear what each person has for concerns and their ideas for the future.

Councilmember Mike Langham made a motion the City Council appoint Jon Stanfill to the fill Council Position No. 1. Councilmember Sandra Macias seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous vote. City Clerk/Treasurer administered the Oath of Office to Jon Stanfill.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reuter adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m. These minutes are not verbatim. A copy of the recording for this meeting is available for review upon request.



Mike Reuter - Mayor



Coni McMaster - Clerk/Treasurer