

CITY . . .

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“We’ve got a lot to do here,” he said. “There are other people on the council who are up for it, and so am I.”

Next up were candidates for council position 2, incumbent Margaret Miller and challenger Lindsey Gillette. Miller, who describes herself as “a family lady,” has served on the council since 2003. She said of her time on the council, “I make decisions on the basis of what is going to improve our town and the livability here.” Challenger Gillette wants to be involved with City Council because she wants to be a part of shaping the future of Cave Junction. “I think that I can be a great leader of the creative problem-solving process,” she said.

The first question asked of the candidates was what they will do if the public safety levy fails and the sheriff’s department can no longer offer contract deputy services to the city of Cave Junction. Miller responded, “As a citizenry, we will need to pull together and continue our neighborhood watches.” She also suggested that the discontinuation of contract deputy services would free up some city funds and the council could then look into hiring a private security company to do some patrols. “We still need to continue to see what kind of revenue sources we can find out there,” she said, but then acknowledged that many in the area are wary of the word “tax.” Gillette believes that the public safety issue will not be solved by a single agency. “It has to be a collaborative effort between Department of Justice, between state police, the county, the city, as well as citizens,” she said. She voiced support for neighborhood watch groups and CJ Patrol, but said that they are not a permanent solution.

Position 2 candidates were also asked how

they would propose to regulate the panhandlers and “trimigrants” who descend on Cave Junction this time of year. Gillette suggested reaching out to the people who are hiring these out-of-towners to see what could be done. Miller acknowledged that the problem is caused by a lack of other economic opportunity in the area, and then admitted that she did not have a ready solution.

When asked what the city could do to embrace and mold the budding cannabis economy within the city, Miller responded, “That’s a difficult one.” She expressed her worry that taking any action on cannabis now could negatively impact city residents by jeopardizing vital federal funding, since the city relies on federal loans and grants for the water treatment grant. Gillette suggested networking with other Oregon cities that have embraced cannabis to see how they have dealt with the issue. “The first step is networking,” she said. “The next step is embracing the cannabis industry.” Miller rebutted that, as a councilor, she works to uphold the letter of the law and tries not to get her personal opinions involved. Once the current lawsuit is decided, she said, the city can move forward on cannabis.

In closing, Gillette implored the citizenry to get involved with the community and let them know that, even if she does not get elected, she will still be out volunteering, working towards a stronger community. Miller expressed her happiness at having served the city for the last 13 years and said, “When you have different viewpoints that come together, you can really make a difference.”

Candidates for Cave Junction Mayor wrapped up the evening. Don Moore, former mayor, though not the incumbent, is running against Daniel Dalegowski, who is currently serving his second term as a Cave Junction City Councilor. Moore is running for mayor again

because, as he said, “We absolutely need to change the direction we are going.” One of his goals is to re-form a Cave Junction City Police Department, starting with a code enforcement officer. He is researching different options to make that happen. “If we don’t have a safe community, we don’t have much of anything. If you don’t feel safe to go to the store, then we have lost this battle,” he said. Dalegowski, who grew up in Josephine County, spoke of his love for the area, which is what compelled him to get involved in city politics. He is currently motivated by a desire to positively shape the community during this time of transition.

When asked how he planned to address the issue of marijuana and the economy, Moore pointed out that, in the face of the mill closing, the only reason that the city has not collapsed is because of the cannabis industry. “I think it’s time that we changed our perspective on the cannabis,” Moore said. “Let’s tax it. Let’s let it pay for our bills.” Dalegowski agreed, “It is here. It is a reality. And the city has been in strict opposition to that for a while now. I think that we can usefully allow cannabis-based businesses in our community. I think that we can do a specially constructed business license tax that pulls revenue from those businesses. It’s not going to be everything that we need, but we can pull some revenue from it.” Moore rebutted that there is a delicate balance when it comes to taxation. “Is it going to destroy the goose that laid the golden egg,” he asked.

Moore had previously promised to reveal a plan to fund the local library. When asked about his plan, he said that he does not support the way that the city currently supports the library and he proposed to spend one-third of a hypothetical cannabis sales tax on library funding. “I look at the library as more than a library,” said Moore. “It’s not just a place of learning, but a place of safety.” Dalegowski

expressed pleasure and pride that the city budget committee has regularly voted to contribute state revenue sharing funds, which are derived from alcohol taxes, to the I.V. Library. Though not everyone agrees with it, Dalegowski believes that the library is an essential service to the community. “I’m proud that we support it,” he said.

Dalegowski expressed his interest in ending the marijuana lawsuit that the city is currently involved in. “I am certainly opposed to not moving forward with capturing income from the marijuana industry,” said Dalegowski. Moore agreed. He pointed out that there is no precedent for the fear that the federal government will call in our loans for not following federal law.

When asked what they will do when the public safety levy fails and the contract deputy services are ended, Moore joked, “We’re doomed.” On a more serious note, he said, “We’ll have to be more inventive.” Dalegowski replied that one solution would be to take the money saved by not paying for a deputy and put it toward establishing a city police department. This would require additional revenue, but city residents may be willing to pay for police services and grants may be available, according to Dalegowski. “Looking at passing a levy,” he said, “would have to be a discussion with an awful lot of citizens.” In talking to citizens for this election, Dalegowski has encountered many who say that they would be willing to pay more in taxes if they knew that the money would be dedicated to law enforcement.

Mayoral candidates closed by thanking citizens for attending. Dalegowski said that the key thing that he will strive for as mayor is sustainable law enforcement funding. “That is really the fundamental thing that our community needs,” he said. “We can do a lot of things once that happens.” Moore reiterated the need for public safety in Cave Junction and how achieving this goal will bring economic benefit to the city. “We both have the best interest of the city at heart,” he said. “We care about his city very much.”

O&C . . .

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The county has also moved to join the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) lawsuit. The AFRC represents the timber industry.

All three lawsuits are being heard in the U.S. District Court for Washington D.C. According to Hicks, that court venue is more favorable to us than the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees Oregon and a number of other western states.

“This is a fascinating legal battle with large stakes for our economy and our governmental revenue,” added Hicks.



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Lindsey Gillette (left) looks on as Margaret Miller gives her closing statement Tuesday, Oct. 11. The ladies are facing off for position 2 on the Cave Junction City Council.



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