

Lane appointed to city council



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Ethan Lane at the Cave Junction City Council meeting July 12 before he was sworn in for council position #1 to replace Councilor Dan Bosch.

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There's a new voice on the Cave Junction City Council, a new member that's ready to bring a fresh perspective on the issues facing the people of Cave Junction.

That's Ethan Lane, owner-operator of Grocery Outlet, who was appointed to position 1 via a unanimous decision made during the opening minutes of last Monday's evening meeting,

filling out the void left by former councilor Dan Bosch.

Bosch served for over six years before tendering a heartfelt resignation speech during a preceding city council meeting held over Zoom June 14, citing ongoing health problems that were continuing to reduce the time he had available to dedicate to public service.

Lane has never held public office — but that's not unusual, and not exactly a stumbling block for most that take up the role, considering

the position is unpaid.

"It's something I've always been interested in, and when I was approached by the mayor with the proposition of being part of something bigger than myself, I couldn't turn it down," Lane said.

Cave Junction's Grocery Outlet opened in December 2018, bringing Lane along with it. He has become known to many during his short tenure here primarily because of his role at one of the most traveled stores in town.

Aside from his semi-regular attendance of city council meetings, he has yet to be caught up to speed on the specifics of issues facing the city at this time.

Lane will serve out the remainder of Bosch's term, through December 2022, then he can choose to run as an incumbent for the seat during a regularly held election.

"I have a lot of respect for Bosch, he's always been very detail oriented and everything I've seen come off of his plate has been really dedicated to making sure that nothing is going to change to the detriment of the community," Lane said. "He would often see things that others could not."

Lane said that he has been in Josephine County for most of his life, with significant family ties in Hugo, but that he grew up in Crescent City, where he graduated high school in 1999.

He spent four years in the Navy before moving back to Josephine County in 2004, shortly thereafter starting a lengthy career at the Grocery Outlet in Grants Pass, eventually rising to the rank of location manager.

When the opportunity arose to land a location to call his own in Cave Junction, he took it and made the move.

"I want to help the community, that's the big picture," Lane said. "I want to provide another perspective and make sure that Cave Junction is taken care of."

Mayor Meadow Martell said that there were a handful of applications that were considered before the decision was made to appoint Lane, but that Lane was the most obvious choice, considering his standing in the community, and his community-minded spirit.

She said he was chosen because he had the longest running level of serious interest in civic service, and that voters can decide on him, or someone else, when the time comes.

"He had expressed interest in the past, and he had been attending meetings fairly regularly even before anyone knew that a position was going to become available," Martell said. "So he was the natural choice."

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