

Process to replace Smith approved by city council

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

A timeline to replace one Keizer City Councilor has been set, while another has been granted a leave of absence.

Councilors on Monday established the procedure for selecting the person who will fill out the remainder of Brandon Smith's term. Smith resigned at the previous council meeting, due to moving to Salem. Smith returned to the council by winning his election in 2014, meaning the person appointed to his seat will be in the position until January 2019.

Meanwhile, councilors granted a leave of absence to Dennis Koho, who has been recovering from a Feb. 6 heart attack. Koho is scheduled to be released from the hospital this week, according to posts on Facebook by wife Lori.

The last time a councilor was appointed to fill a vacancy was in the summer of 2013, following Ken LeDuc's abrupt resignation. In an interesting twist, LeDuc had defeated Smith in the 2012 election. Current councilor Kim Freeman was appointed to the vacancy, while fellow current councilor Roland Herrera also applied for the opening. Herrera joined the council by winning his election in 2014.

With the vacancy formally declared on Monday, an announcement soliciting letters of interest was sent out Tuesday. The letters of interest and resumes must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, March 28 to city hall.

Questions to be asked of candidates by current councilors are to be submitted by April 4, with all candidacies invited to make presentations at a 7:15 p.m. meeting on Monday, April 11.

Candidates will have five minutes each for presentations that night.

The successful candidate will be sworn in at the start of the April 18 council meeting. The timeline was approved unanimously on Monday.

Herrera and Freeman both expressed satisfaction with how the process went last time.

"Since I was the last recipient of this wonderful process, I honestly hope you look at this and consider applying," Freeman told audience members in the room and on TV.

Mayor Cathy Clark gave an ode to Smith.

"I am going to miss councilor Smith very much," Clark said. "He had tremendous talents serving the community. I wish he and his family well. I'm thankful for the time he has given to the community."

As far as Koho's leave of absence, it was necessary since he'd been absent from the city for 30 days.

"I didn't want to disturb him during his absence," city attorney Shannon Johnson said. "The 30 days is temporary and we then can request additional time. Roland was at the hospital with Dennis and received an e-mail from Dennis that this was fine and seemed like it was a good idea to him. He's in favor of the leave of absence."

While Koho was in the Intensive Care Unit for several days, his health has continued to improve since then.

"I'm delighted we can have the conversation," Clark said.

Herrera had visited Koho a couple of days earlier.

"He looked great," Herrera said. "It was great talking to him. He is all for this."

In other business March 7:

- Mark Caillier, president of the Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association, gave his association's annual report and reviewed what had happened at each meeting in the past year. One item Caillier mentioned was the GGNA garage sale being on the same weekend as the bigger and longstanding McNary Estates Garage Sale.

"It was good for us," Caillier said. "One of the reasons they have a great one is they can only have one a year. It will probably stay the same this year, staying with McNary. Ours won't ever be as big or coordinated, but we'll stay on the first weekend of August."

- Caillier is also in charge of the annual clean-up event at Keizer Civic Center going on this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Pruning will be done Friday, with clean-up on Saturday. Highway Fuel Co. is once again donating a truckload of bark.

"We need lots of help," Caillier said.

- Matt Lawyer was confirmed to the Keizer Parks and Advisory Board, bringing that board back up to nine members. Lawyer's first Parks Board meeting was on Tuesday.

obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

Thomas Dale Jeffries

December 10, 1936 – February 20, 2016

Thomas Dale Jeffries was born in Salem, Oregon on December 10, 1936 to Dale Jeffries and Dorothy (Judson) Jeffries. Tom attended Auburn Elementary, Leslie Junior High, and South Salem High Schools. Tom was a shy, reserved child, but excelled in school. He was chosen for the National Honor Society his senior year in high school (1955).



T. Jeffries

Tom's lifelong love of music started at an early age. While in grade school he learned to play the accordion, performing in a group and solo (and was once broadcast on the radio). Choir class was always his favorite in school, with shop class a close second.

During Tom's senior year he was invited to sing in a choir of the new Methodist Church in the Four Corners area of Salem; that was where he met the love of his life, Dena (Kleen). They dated for several years while Tom attended OSC (Oregon State) for a year and joined the National Guard, and Dena studied and graduated from OCE (Western Oregon). Tom and Dena were married in 1959.

Tom worked part-time and summers during high school at Judson's. In June 1956 he became a full-time employee.

At Judson's, he started by working in the warehouse, earning his plumbing license, becoming a plumbing estimator, and finally becoming an owner.

Tom continued to work at Judson's until his retirement in 2010.

Tom was talented at many things and had many interests. He liked to draw and paint, build miniature bird houses, golf, fish, and of course sing. Tom sang in the choir at Trinity United Methodist where he was a member. Tom also sang in the Just For Fun Singers and The Noteables singing groups.

Tom and Dena were married for 45 years until Dena's passing in 2004. They were always proud of their three children: Mark Jeffries, Brian Jeffries, and Susan Harris. They also were blessed with two awesome grandsons, Rennick Clark Jeffries and Adam Beringer Jeffries.

In the summer of 2007, Tom heard a voice in his heart say, "Call Ann Albritton...", which he did. After many dinner dates and hours of talking, he realized he was being blessed with two loves in his life. Tom and Ann were married in 2008 and they called their lives together an "adventure of a lifetime." They loved doing everything together: singing,

talking, going for rides, playing pinochle, enjoying nature, walking on the beach, and watching old movies, especially musicals.

Tom Jeffries passed from this life on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife Ann; his children Mark Jeffries (spouse Chris Beringer) of Sherwood, Brian Jeffries (spouse Deborah) of Keizer, and Susan Harris (spouse Dennis) of Milwaukie; his two grandsons Rennick and Adam; his sister Marilyn Thompson (spouse Don) of Bend; his step-brothers Art Hearing of Medford and Jerry Hearing of LaPine; his stepsons Todd Todane (spouse Andrea) of Hawaii, and J. Scott Albritton of Salem; and many, many friends.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 2 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 590 Elma Avenue SE, Salem OR. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Just For Fun Singers (scholarship fund) at R. Hohnbaum, 6916 Wheatland Lane N., Keizer OR 97303. Assisting the family is Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.

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