

The ties that bind

DETROIT & KEIZER

Story By **ERIC A. HOWALD** *Of the Keizertimes* | Design by **ANDREW JACKSON**

Prominent Keizer names and faces, as well as the Keizer Civic Center, are popping up frequently in an unusual space: Detroit City Council meetings.

In recent months, the husband of one Keizer city councilor was appointed to the Detroit council, another Keizer city councilor was retained as the pro bono city attorney, and the city council opted to meet at the Keizer Civic Center despite closer venues. On April 19, the Marion County hired former Keizer city manager Chris Eppley as the temporary Detroit city manager.

Marion County Commissioner Danielle Bethell, a resident of Keizer and former director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, made the announcement regarding Eppley at a meeting of the Detroit City Council.

Bethell made the announcement shortly after discussing the millions of dollars that may be flowing to the community for the rebuilding efforts. Bethell said county officials secured a temporary city manager in Eppley, but made no mention of Eppley discharging a gun in his Keizer

Civic Center office or how it led to his resignation less than a month ago.

“He will also be working for the council in other capacities, but his

Trett to appoint Eppley as temporary city manager. According to his LinkedIn social media profile, Eppley was hired as a temporary community development manager with Marion County.

Trett is a long-time Keizerite himself and retired Keizer Fire District employee. His time on the Detroit city council predates recent developments by years.

Eppley was hired as a temporary employee of the county making \$54.95 per hour, said Jolene Kelley, public information officer for Marion County.

“Marion County applied for and received two grants that are funding long term disaster recovery in the Santiam Canyon. This includes hiring a disaster recovery manager to coordinate wildfire recovery efforts in the Santiam

The commissioners were not directly involved in the hiring of temporary wildfire recovery staff for the cities of Gates and Detroit.

— **JOLENE KELLEY**

Public information officer, Marion County

primary focus, at your approval, will be working with the city of Detroit,” Bethell said. She said Eppley was hired the previous day.

The council did not vote on Eppley’s appointment. Instead, it was accepted through consensus on a motion permitting Mayor Jim

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