

Seat *from A1*

regarding Cottage Grove issues.

An executive administrative assistant and property manager, Savage is the only candidate to have recently run for a council seat, challenging Councilor Kenneth Roberts for the Councilor-at-Large position last fall.

Though she lost that race, Savage was appointed to the city's budget committee in January and serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Savage stated she hopes to bring her budgeting skills to the council and focus on bringing transparency to the local water bills.

Borgioli, a local meteorologist who regularly provides the community with weather-related updates through social media, submitted that he would provide a "voice of reason" to the council and work to increase community pride.

Roads, infrastructure and supporting local businesses were listed as his top concerns in Cottage Grove, issues he proposes to address through community input.

Taddei, a union steward representing locomotive engineers on the Union Pacific Railroad in Eugene and Oakridge, served on the city's Budget Committee from 2017 to 2020. He also cites an array of volunteer work and community affiliations in Cottage Grove.

Taddei stated that he could bring balance to the city council and work to see Ward 1 constituents' needs addressed. By instilling greater transparency, he hopes to focus on roads, crime, utility costs and a "failing infrastructure."

One of the founders of local exchange group Pay It Forward, Crosby currently works as an administrative assistant.

She hopes to bring her close ties with the community to the council and intends to focus on supporting the safe reopening of local businesses while bringing greater community inclusion in the city's decision-making process.

Rust is a retired resident currently serving his second term on the

city's Budget Committee. He includes work on the Swinging Bridge project and vice presidency on a nonprofit in his resume.

Rust submitted that he will bring more than 30 years of successfully working with citizens, government and business to the council and listed citizens' and businesses' lives being turned upside down as his main concern.

He proposes that the council listen, be responsible with tax dollars, keep city services as close to regular levels as possible and remain accessible to citizens.

Lastly, Reed is a street outreach worker who works with at-risk youth and marginalized citizens and has been affiliated with such organizations as Looking Glass, AmeriCorps and the Special Olympics.

He hopes to bring his experience with marginalized groups to the council and in particular focus on solutions for the unhoused.

The applicants will be interviewed from a list of questions compiled from councilor suggestions.

During a Feb. 22 city council meeting, councilors Greg Ervin and Jon Stinnett raised con-

cerns that the existing question list might not accurately reflect public interest and should be open to more input.

"They may not represent what people care about the most," said Ervin of the questions.

In conducting past appointments, councilors have been presented with a list of about 14 questions just prior to the interviews, at which time councilors could decide whether to propose changes.

"We've done it four or five times since I've been on council that way and it's worked fine," said Mayor Jeff Gowing.

Ervin countered that even though his own position was earned in this manner, he saw a need to address a lack of public input in the process.

"I'd like to try to change that if possible, or accommodate more input from the people so that they do feel more represented," he said.

Stinnett voiced support for Ervin's sentiment and took issue with a question list being presented to councilors only minutes before interviews begin.

"I want the public to buy into our choice for Ward 1 council repre-

sentative," he contended.

As a result, councilors will be presenting a list of potential interview questions at the council's agenda session on Friday morning (March 5).

Councilors may collect questions from their constituents to present during Friday's agenda session.

The questions will then be compiled with the existing list to be used during Monday's interviews.

Each councilor may select two questions from the list to ask to applicants.

Friday's agenda session is open to the public. A link will be made available on the city's website after *The Sentinel's* press time.

Those interested in submitting questions to be considered may contact Mayor Gowing or their relevant city councilor with suggestions. Appointment to the Ward 1 councilor term expires Dec. 31, 2022 and will be open for public vote in the general election in November 2022.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 541-942-5501.

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