

# FINALISTS

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Councilors Lynette Perry, Doni Bruland and Larry Morrison voted against picking McClure as a finalist.

Prior to voting on McClure as a finalist, Perry had this to say: "I would just like to go on record that I did not feel that he would be a good fit for Baker City."

The three men will be brought to Baker City in November for in-person interviews and will meet with various community leaders and others interested in the selection process during that time.

They were chosen from 14 applicants, and were among six paired from that group. One of the six withdrew prior to the online interviews. Councilors interviewed the remaining five via Zoom Oct. 5-6. On Tuesday councilors met first in executive session (closed to the public) to discuss the candidates before convening in open session to choose the finalists.

The two candidates who were not picked as finalists asked that their names not be released unless they

were chosen to continue the process, said Robin Nudd, the city's human resources manager. She did say that one was from Virginia and the other from Missouri.

### Information from their resumes:

McClure most recently served as Canby city administrator. He was employed in the community of 16,950 people from October 2019 to February 2020.

Prior to that he worked as city manager for the city of Monmouth, population 9,890, from January 2007 to October 2019. He also has worked as the city manager at Coos Bay in Oregon and for the city of Brush in Colorado.

He began his career in city government as an intern at Gladstone where he served for 6 months beginning in January of 1989. From there he spent nearly 7 years with the City of Gresham, beginning in July 1989.

McClure earned a master's degree in public administration from Portland State University in 1989. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1986 from Portland

State.

Cannon holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from West Virginia University at Morgantown, West Virginia, with a minor in urban planning.

He has served as city manager of Saluda, North Carolina, a city of about 700, since August 2015. He also serves as the city's zoning administrator, public works director, deputy finance officer and human resources director.

From May 2014 to August 2015 he was the Saluda zoning administrator and prior to that he was the owner of Cannon Works LLC, a gutter construction company, beginning in August 2011.

He worked as a gardener for the Corporation of the President in Bountiful, Utah, from January 2010 to July 2011, and in landscape architecture from March 2008 to January 2010. He was project manager for Luther Smith and Associates P.A. of Hendersonville, North Carolina, from July 2003 to February 2008.

Steve Ashworth also holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. He earned his degree at Iowa State University.

He has been employed as the executive director of Parks and Recreation at Jackson, Wyoming, since November 2009. Other job experience includes planner and assistant director of the Teton County/ Jackson Parks and Recreation from April 2002 to November 2009; and Boise Parks and Recreation planner and project manager from February 1998 to March 2002.

From October 1993 to January 1998 he worked as landscape architect/department manager for Hillside Nursery in Boise. And from October 1990 to September 1993 he was employed as landscape architect for Rosehill Gardens in Kansas City, Missouri.

### Plans for in-person visits

Nudd stated in an email to the Herald Wednesday that the three finalists will be invited to spend 2 days in Baker City.

The visits will happen after the Nov. 3 election. Joseph, the city's mayor, has said that he wants to ensure that newly elected councilors, who won't take office until January 2021, have a chance to meet the finalists. From three to six

new councilors will be elected, the number depending on whether any of the three incumbents on the ballot are re-elected.

"During those 2 days, I would like the candidates to have the opportunity to tour our city facilities/departments and to schedule a 'meet and greet' on one of the nights," Nudd stated.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be an open forum in the selection process as there has been in the past.

Instead, Nudd said she hopes to advertise three meeting locations (City Hall and two other locations to be determined). Each location would allow 10 people to come in and meet the candidates and have candid discussions with them.

After 30 minutes, candidates would move to the next location until they've had a chance to visit all three locations, she said.

Nudd said she hopes to have the dates determined by the end of this week. She added, however, that she would remain flexible and make adjustments or hold multiple meet and greets if not all of the candidates are able to attend at the same time.

# POLICE

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If the council does not approve the policy, which Warner said dates to 1990 with changes made in 1996, the grant for the New Directions Wellness Center could not move forward.

The two-paragraph, 64-word policy is aimed at ensuring that the city's police officers do not use excessive force against people participating in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations. The policy left the councilors divided, and led them to postpone a decision Tuesday.

The policy states: "It is the policy of the City of Baker City that

1. Its law enforcement personnel shall not use excessive force against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations, and  
2. Applicable state and local laws that prohibit physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction shall be enforced."

Councilor Doni Bruland was the first to speak against accepting the policy.

"I am adamantly opposed to this policy," Bruland said. "I do not believe a state bureaucratic agency should dictate to a community what laws or policies we need to do."

She said that all of the two dozen people she had talked to about the policy earlier Tuesday were opposed to it.

Bruland called the requirement to place the proposed wording in Baker City's policies

regarding conduct of its police department as being "close to extortion — if you don't do this you do not get your money."

Bruland cited ongoing demonstrations in Portland over the past five months to make her point.

"We have honestly seen what they consider nonviolent protest in Portland and I do not want Portland in Baker City," she said. "This is huge and needs to either be taken up with the full community that knows that it's coming on the agenda ... or we need to turn it down now. And I'd prefer we turn it down now."

Councilor Lynette Perry agreed with Bruland.

"This terrifies me," Perry said. "Our state laws are changing on a dime and I'm really in fear that if we pass this we would really be putting our populace in danger."

Police Chief Ray Duman told the council, however, that in his view the policy would not affect the way his officers do their jobs.

"We are there to enforce the laws uniformly," Duman said. "We took an oath to uphold the laws of the State of Oregon and so that's what we're governed by."

"To me this is more of a language — and granted it might be forced upon us — but it doesn't change the way the police in this community would handle any event," he said.

Perry said she supports the police department, but she is concerned about the state being involved in setting city policies.

"I want to support the police department," she said. "I want you to have the ability to do what you need to do and I want the citizens of our community to be safe and I just think that when we tie into some of the mentality of the state, we're opening ourselves up to danger."

Bruland's motion to postpone a decision on the policy was approved by a 4-3 vote. Bruland, Perry and councilors Arvid Andersen and Larry Morrison voted in favor of the postponement. Mayor Loran Joseph and councilors Randy Schiewe and Jason Spriet were opposed.

"I think we have time to allow the public to weigh in on this," Warner said. "We'll put together a much better packet and talk, hopefully at the next meeting."

"If this is the only thing that holds up that million-dollar grant to help our most vulnerable population that would be unfortunate," he said.

In other business Tuesday, the Council agreed to seek more community involvement in its continuing discussion of the best way to enforce the city's property maintenance ordinance, and in particular properties that have been identified as violating the ordinance.

Of the six possible solutions presented for their consideration, councilors found that the most palatable would be to form a committee to look at the underlying issues that result in nuisance complaints.

"There are just not a lot of easy answers in this realm,"

Duman told the council. "It's going to take more than a code enforcement officer and the abatement process."

Duman said there are many reasons for accumulation of garbage and lack of care for problem properties.

They range from drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness to the belief by some residents that they can do whatever they want with their private property.

The city has worked with some people to provide a Dumpster for their use if they agree to do the necessary cleanup, he said.

Other property owners have been offered help multiple times and continue to be a problem, he said.

In some cases the residents cannot afford to do the cleanup on their own or in the case of others, their health doesn't allow them to do the work needed to bring their property into compliance with city ordinances.

"This is a community issue and it's going to take a community solution," Duman said.

Members of the committee will include representatives of City Council, the police department, justice court, the district attorney's office, community residents, mental health and alcohol and drug services, the school district, the Department of Human Services and other groups and organizations.

"I think it would be a good conversation for the com-

munity to have," Duman said Wednesday.

In other business, the Council:

- Approved a 5-year lease agreement for management of the city-owned Quail Ridge Golf Course at 2801 Indiana

Ave. with Quail Ridge Golf Management.

The agreement calls for the managers to pay the city \$5,500 per year for the first 5 years of the lease, with the amount to increase every 5 years, beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

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