Five Candidates Seeking Two Medford City Council Positions

Candidate Parade

cerning candidate for state, federal, county and city offices, up for election at the November general election. Today's article includes interviews with those city council candidates who are competing for seats, and does not include those unopposed.

Medford voters Nov. 4 will elect a mayor for two years and four city councilmen for four years each. They will also vote on a city charter amendment concerning sidewalk construction and assessments.

An article on the city charter amendment concerning sidewalks appears on page 2.

The other four councilmen are not up for reelection until 1960.

Mayor John W. Snider, the incumbent, is not opposed. Neither are two of the councilmen now in office. Don Hansen, Ward II, and Robert L. Baccus, Ward III.

Five Candidates

Five candidates are contesting the remaining two council seats. Fred Robinson, incumbent, Roy Wilkes and William Doernbach seek the Ward I seat. George Stacey and Stanley Stark are running for the Ward IV seat.

To obtain the views of the five on certain municipal issues, the Mail Tribune has asked each of them the following questions:

1. Should Medford have a subdivision ordinance? If so, what general qualifications would you place on it?

'Keeney Plan'

2. Do you consider off-street parking to be a real problem, or do you believe the need has been exaggerated? What do you think of the "Keeney Plan" for a downtown parking platform over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks? How should such a facility be financed?

3. Would the city be justified in spending taxpayers' money on beautifying Medford, for example, on landscaping its approaches or areas adjacent to the proposed freeway's off-ramps? Or should making Medford beautiful be strictly up to individual volunteers?

4. How important do you consider city planning to be? Would Medford be justified in enlarging its planning budget, particularly with an eye to hiring a full-time planning administrator or calling in consultants for particular problems?

Planning Operations

5. In carrying out such long-range planning operations as the arterial street program, the city must face from time to time the objections of individual property owners who refuse to relinquish land needed for right of way. Do you draw any particular line on how far the city should go in asserting its "eminent domain" through condemnation proceedings?

6. The council and planning commission are currently considering the possibility of permitting auto wrecking yards in an appropriate zone within the city limits. Do you believe wrecking yards have a rightful place in Medford?

7. A ballot measure this November has the following purpose: "Amend City Charter by authorizing construction of sidewalks on local assessment basis without petition of owners of abutting property." What is your position on this measure?

8. Have you any additional ideas that might be considered part of a platform? In any case, why are you running for city councilman of Medford.

The questions were asked, and answered, orally in interviews either over the telephone or in the Mail Tribune news room.

Fred E. Robinson

The Ward I incumbent, Robinson has served a four-year term on the council. He is 44 years old, has lived in the Rogue valley all his life and in Medford about 25 years. His residence is at 116 Sunrise ave. He is coowner of Robinson Brothers clothing store, 114 East Main st.

Subdivision Ordinance—"I am in favor of a subdivision ordinance. I would like to see stipulations to permit moderate income families to build. There should be room for Indians as well as Chiefs. I don't think all subdivisions in Medford should have to be in the A-1 class, with curbs, gutters, sidewalks and paving required."

Off-Street Parking—"It is considerably more of a problem than people realize.

"In 70 per cent of other cities this size, off-street parking is under the guidance and jurisdiction of the city. There are three very important reasons for this here.

"First, the city can acquire property through condemnation proceedings, while a private group cannot. Second, changes of personnel in a private group could mean that the group would later want to use the land for something else. Third, few property owners in Medford have sufficient blocks of property to invest in a parking area.

"If done by the city, each benefits and pays in proportion. I feel there should be an assessment district, and the downtown area should vote for it. We should never have to fall back on residential areas to pay off bonds.

"Money from the on-street parking fund and from meters in the off-street parking facility should help in the financing.

"Money from the on-street parking fund should not go into the general fund. I think it's morally wrong."

Beautification—"The city in all cases should improve property it owns. I'm not in favor of the city spending money otherwise, in cases of individuals."

City Planning—"I've been one of the earliest ones to favor having a planning consultant come into this area. I think it should be done on a joint city-county basis."

Eminent Domain—"A condemnation should always be a case of extreme necessity, not just to throw the city's weight around. If at the advice of engineers, then we have responsibility to do it."

Wrecking Yards—"I don't know of any place where one belongs in the city. They certainly will blight a business or residential district."

Sidewalks—"I'm exactly in the middle of the road. The safety of our school children is a concern. I think there should be safeguards. The city council would not abuse the right and order in sidewalks over Medford. The council will always act for the majority, and won't act where local reaction is strong."

Platform, Why Running—"When improvements go in, I want to be sure they're done on a fair and equitable basis.

"I've been civic-minded all my life, putting 20 to 30 per cent of my time into city affairs. I definitely will listen to both sides of any question."

William Doernbach

A Ward 1 candidate, Doernbach is 49 years old and has lived in Medford more than three years. His residence is at 143 Mace rd. He was formerly a captain in the signal corps, U. S. Army.

Subdivision Ordinance—"A subdivision ordinance is something that is required, something with a little teeth in it, but it shouldn't infringe on the small subdivider's right to compete with the big subdivider."

Off-Street Parking—"There is a problem, but I don't believe just a few people know the solution. It cannot be solved the same way here as elsewhere. I have made a survey of my own of the parking problem downtown.

"I think the Sears Roebuck development may alleviate the situation. I see a lot of space that is unused right now along Bear creek.

"I'm almost certain, after looking at the Keeney Plan and discussing it with independent downtown parking lot operators, that it is not a paying proposition in the next 10 years. If it's not a paying deal, we have the question of who is going to pay for it. I don't have the answers."

Beautification — "To me it shouldn't be necessary to put on a program like that. Trying to paint the city from the outside shouldn't be necessary if people take pride in it themselves. It just hides other things.

"I think if the money is to be spent with the people's approval, then it's o.k. I'm very much against ordering it in by council action."

City Planning — "To me a planning commission is absolutely worthless unless it knows what it is doing. I believe that if we're going to get planning we should get good advice. I'm very much against 'on the job' training. I think it's false economy not to spend money on planning."

Eminent Domain — "Whenever anyone tells me it's in the city's best interest, I want to know who decides it is. If it really is a case of public necessity, then the individual should bow. No condemnation proceedings should take place unless it's been proven to be clearly in the public's best interest, not just the city's.

Wrecking Yards — "There are some wrecking yards that are bothering no one and should be allowed to continue until they become a public nuisance. At such time they should be regulated."

Sidewalks—"I don't think the city council should order them in. I think the property owners should decide for themselves."

Platform, Why Running — "I've been taught that once you're a member of a family or community you should not get too derogatory but try to make it more liveable in accordance with the way you think.

"My interest is not a business interest. Someone should be living with the workers, someone outside the 'country club set' who knows the workers' problems. I have more knowledge because I have more time.

"I think some of the city's policies are wrong. I've seen the planning commission go against the legal advice of the city attorney."

Roy P. Wilkes

A Ward I candidate, Wilkes is 38 years old and has lived in Medford four years. His residence is at 1863 Crater Lake ave. He owns the Brookhurst orchard at that address.

Subdivision Ordinance—"I definitely think Medford needs a subdivision ordinance.

"There should not be too many restrictions on the small, two of three lot subdivider. The planning commission should retain the authority for the subdivision ordinance, and any later requests by the city engineer after a subdivision has been approved by the commission should be in writing.

"The ordinance should be drawn up to fit conditions in Medford, and should not cause undue increase in the price of lots."

Off-Street Parking—"It's a definite problem, which has been postponed and will grow worse.

"I think the Keeney Plan has awfully good possibilities. I wouldn't be against the city entering into such an enterprise.

"I would like to see the downtown merchants come to the city council with a plan which would provide for financing by assessment in the downtown area plus a share of parking meter receipts.

"I would be against a millage tax. People pay for the privilege of parking by using parking meters."

Beautification—"Yes, but I think the city would be limited in the amount they'd be justified in spending. More attention should be paid to encouraging individuals to do it on their own."

City Planning—"I strongly feel that planning is essential for Medford, because I think it is just now really in a position to start growing.

"I personally favor the expenditure of funds to employ a full-time planning consultant to work with the planning commission. I would prefer this to outside experts, since the consultant would get to know Medford's problems."

Eminent Domain—"I think that in the arterial street program there are just certain routes that they can follow. If there is no alternative, then they are almost bound to obtain the property even though it did involve condemnation proceedings."

Wrecking Yards — "Some provision should be made for wrecking yards, even within the city limits, where the city could exercise more control over them."

Sidewalks—"I would be opposed to it. I know there are miles of residential area where there are no sidewalks. I question whether the city council could always decide where to put them in. It should be left up to the property owners."

Platform, Why Running—"I am interested in actively working for improvement and progress in Ward I and in all the city of Medford.

"In Ward I, any remaining unzoned areas should be zoned. There should be more street lighting. Ward I should get at least their share of street improvements. There is a good possibility for another park, perhaps adjacent to the property for the proposed high school.

"Medford's my home. I would like to do anything I can to the extent of my ability to make it a better place in which to live and work."

George E. Stacey

A Ward IV candidate, Stacey is 53 years old and has lived in Medford 11 years. His residence is at 2901 East Fairview dr. He is a certified public accountant with offices at Stacey-Watkins and company, 39 South Central ave.

Subdivision Ordinance—"As long as the subdivision ordinance is for the benefit of the city as a whole I would be for it."

Off-Street Parking—"I believe it's a problem, but has been exaggerated to some extent. Some business people have their cars parked in front of their businesses all day long. They shouldn't complain, since they are using the space themselves.

"The question with the Keeney Plan is how long would it take to get the cost back from the cars that are going to use it.

"If a private parking cooperative would do it I would much rather have that than have the city do it.

"If a bond issue is to be floated, I think it should be a county-wide bond issue. The assessment should be born partly by the downtown businesses and partly by the surrounding area. The residents should pay their share for the convenience, above and beyond what they pay into meters as they park. It should be a happy medium."

Beautification—"I would be in favor of the city beautifying its entrances. Otherwise, individuals should do it."

City Planning—"I do know that the planning of anything is a science. And when you have a scientific problem you have to get scientific help. I'm always in favor of going to an experienced party. You've got to get the best you can. In the long run you save money if you do it right the first time."

Eminent Domain — "The right of the majority of the people is of paramount importance. If it is definitely determined that a street has to go through where a house is, all the city can do is get its eminent domain right. If the individuals concerned don't like it, they can go to court.

Wrecking Yards—"I would not waht to see wrecking yards inside the city unless they were underground. The people who would be near a wrecking yard have certain rights."

Sidewalks — "That would depend on the cost, whether it would be cheaper to put in sidewalks on an individual or multiple property basis."

Platform, Why Running—"The main thing is, I've been here 11 years and Medford has been good to me and my business. I would like to give back to the city of Medford some of my time."

Stanley L. Stark

A Ward IV candidate, Stark is 46 years old and has lived in Medford 26 years. His residence is at 97 Fair Oaks dr. He runs a finance and insurance agency at 2739 North Pacific highway.

Subdivision Ordinance — "I'm in favor of a subdivision ordinance if it is the right one."

Off-Street Parking —"The off-street parking problem is slightly exaggerated. I'm not sure we should spend a lot of money without careful consideration.

"I'm not in favor of a huge project like the Keeney Plan being undertaken by the city itself. It sounds like a very fine thing and would help in beautifying the city, if properly handled. But it should be undertaken by the merchants or the shoppers."

Beautification — "Within economic reasons I'm very much in favor of some programs not just to control weeds but to actively beautify the city along the highways. A very bad feature is that the present freeway setup doesn't seem to take anything like that into consideration. I favor a program to beautify the freeway with trees and park areas."

City Planning — "I am very definitely interested in city planning. I feel we think it's overdone because it's come on us so suddenly. We went a long time without it. I do think we should temper planning ideas.

I don't feel an enlarged budget is justified. We have sufficient talent here on a voluntary basis.

Eminent Domain — "I think we've got to help the majority. If there's no reasonable alternative, if it has to be done a certain way, then the city should go ahead and condemn."

Wrecking Yards — "I think we've got them now. It's better to have them inside the city under proper control than outside the city where they cannot be controlled."

Sidewalks — "I'm in favor of it. It needs to be done in a community this size. I do think it's being properly handled by being taken to the people"

Platform, Why Running — "Economy for the city is my underlying interest.

"I was involved in city affairs for three years, on the budget committee. The third year I was chairman. I was interested in the consolidation of city departments, some steps toward which have already been taken.

"I became very interested in city affairs. My running for councilman is the retainment of an obligation."

GOP Rally Has Blackout

Lakeland, Fla. – (UPI) – Authorities are still in the dark as to who stole lightbulbs from a downtown park and blacked out a Republican rally.

Florida's top-ranking GOP candidates and their supporters were all set for a round of outdoor speechmaking Thursday night. They finished a $3-a-plate fund-raising dinner at a cafeteria and headed for the park.

But when the switch was thrown, the lights failed to go on. All the bulbs had been snatched.

The crowd of about 250 trooped back to the cafeteria, where the candidates drew up and issued a statement describing the bulb-snatching as a "supreme and outstanding example of the one-party system actively at work."

The Lakeland-Polk county area is traditionally a Democratic stronghold.

Boy Scouts

Den 11, Pack 8

Den 11 of pack 8, Jackson school, met Tuesday, Oct. 21.

At this meeting Mike Clark was elected denner; Steven Wilcox, assistant denner; Gary Custance, in charge of refreshments, and John Lynch, reporter.

The Scouts made table mats from popsickle sticks and wooden beads.

Other handcraft was shown at the pack meeting Thursday, Oct. 23, at Jackson school.

The town of Peace River, 320 miles northwest of Edmonton, Alberta, was an early center for the fur trade.

Three Denver Doctors Elected New Officers

Portland –(UPI)– Dr. William F. Stanek, Denver, yesterday was elected president of the Western Orthopedic association which is in convention here. Drs. J. Sims Norman and Alba Glasburn, also of Denver, were named vice president and historian, respectively.

Burns of Reed College Named Fund Executive

Portland–(UPI)–Dr. Gerald P. Burns, vice president of Reed college here, was named executive director of the Independent College Funds of America, Inc., at a board meeting of the organization Thursday in Chicago.

He will assume the new elective post at the agency's headquarters in New York, Dec. 1.

Mrs. Boyd Nominated For Society President

Cave Junction — Mrs. Earl Boyd has been nominated for president of the Josephine Historical Society.

Other nominees are William J. McLean for vicepresident; Mrs. Kenneth Hamilton for secretary-treasurer; and Don Barnes, Jack Sutton and Sherman Smith of Grants Pass; Dr. A. N. Collman and John Valen of Illinois valley, for directors.

Cemetery Group Sets Fall Clean-Up Date

The Logtown Cemetery association has announced that a fall clean-up day for the pioneer cemetery near Ruch will be held Sunday, Nov. 9.

All members and other interested persons have been urged to attend, and asked to bring sack lunches. Coffee will be furnished by the committee, according to Marguerite W. Black, clerk for the association.

Pension Based Solely on Age Authorized for Vets

No veterans' pension based solely on age is authorized for veterans of World War I, World War II, or the Korean conflict, S. T. Brannock, officer in charge, Medford Veterans administration office, has replied in answer to numerous queries.

However, Brannock said, pensions may be granted veterans of World War I, World War II, or the Korean conflict who are permanently and totally disabled from nonservice-connected causes, not due to their own misconduct.

Brannock pointed out that these veterans must have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions after having served at least 90 days or more. However, service of 90 days is not required if the veteran was discharged for disability incurred in line of duty.

"Nonservice-connected disability pension to a World War I, World War II, or a Korea veteran," Brannock emphasized, "is payable only if the veteran's other income does not exceed $1,400 if single, or $2,500 if he has a wife or minor child."

The monthly pension rate is $66.15. The rate is increased to $78.75 after 10 years receipt, or when the permanently and totally disabled veteran reaches the age of 65, Brannock added.

The Tachien Dam in Taiwan, Formosa will rise higher than the Hoover Dam.

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