

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Called Meeting
May 15, 2023 5:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. Call to Order - Mayor Tom Watson

2. Roll Call - City Clerk Beth Davis

Present:

Mayor Tom Watson

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Castlen

Commissioner Bob Glenn

Commissioner Pam Smith-Wright

3. Explanation of Vacancy Procedure Process – City Manager Pagan explained that the meeting was called to begin the process of filling the vacant Commissioner seat on the Board of Commissioners. State law provides thirty (30) days for the remaining members to fill the vacancy. The new Commissioner selected in the process will serve through the rest of 2023. A special election will be held in conjunction with the general election in November in which city voters will elect a candidate to serve for 2024, which is the second year of a two (2) year term. The filing deadline for the special election has previously been reported as June 6.

Other than providing a thirty (30) day window, state law is silent about the process for filling a vacancy. By providing for an open application period and conducting public interviews of all applicants, the designed process is open, fair, and as objective as possible. The City received thirty (30) applications, far more than expected. It's great to see so many residents interested in serving the City.

The City received so many applications the interviews had to be split over two (2) meetings. Eighteen (18) interviews are scheduled for this evening and twelve (12) interviews were scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm tomorrow, however, two (2) applicants have withdrawn. Both today and tomorrow, interviews are open to the public and shared live on the City's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The interviews will consist of four (4) questions: you'll be asked to provide an introductory statement, to discuss your community involvement, what you think the City's priorities should be, and if you plan to run in the special election for the second year of the term.

The order of interviews for today and tomorrow was assigned randomly in an excel spreadsheet. Up to two (2) minutes will be allotted for your response to each question, and there will be a clock on the screens that resets with each question, allowing everyone to track the time.

Both today and tomorrow, a closed session is planned to follow the interviews so the Board of Commissioners can discuss applicants while fresh in their minds. Today, the public portion of the meeting will end when the closed session begins. Tomorrow, however, after the closed session, the Board of Commissioners will reconvene in open session to vote to select a Commissioner to fill the vacancy.

While the vacancy will be filled on Tuesday, it is difficult to predict the time as it will depend on when a consensus becomes clear. Those interviewed today are welcome to attend in person or watch online tomorrow. If the person selected is in attendance tomorrow, they can be sworn in at that time. If the person is not in attendance, a time can be scheduled to administer the Oath of Office on Wednesday or as soon as possible.

4. The applicants listed below were interviewed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners. The following questions were asked of each applicant with up to two (2) minutes to answer:

1. Please take 2 minutes to introduce yourself to members of the public and Board of Commissioners.
2. Please describe your involvement and/or experience in working with local community issues and organizations.
3. Based on your knowledge of Owensboro's city government, what do you see as top priorities for the city and for you as a member of the Board of Commissioners?
4. If selected to fill the vacancy, will you commit to running in the special-election to fill the remainder of the term?

Jared Revlett	David Fleischmann
Deborah Fillman	Gregory Baize Sr.
Rafe Buckner	Tyler Goad
Jeremy Camron	Curtis Maglinger
Jeff Sanford	Michael Johnson
Paul Puckett	Jim Glenn
DeMarcus Curry	Tyler Sagardoy
Ronald "Jay" Velotta	Reggie Helm (withdrew at the start of the interview to support Rafe Buckner)
Andrea "Nikie" Walker	Thomas Troost

5. Following the interviews, the Board of Commissioners went into closed session under KRS 61.810(1) (f) to hold discussions which might lead to the appointment of a member upon motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Glenn; motion carried unanimously.

6. The Board of Commissioners returned to open session by motion of Commissioner Smith-Wright and a second by Commissioner Glenn; motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Castlen and a second by Commissioner Smith-Wright; motion carried unanimously.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beth Davis, City Clerk