



City of Des Moines

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2020

At the February 6, 2020 meeting, the City Council began the interview process to temporarily fill Council seat 3 following the January 23, 2020 resignation of Vic Pennington. Former Deputy Mayor Pennington resigned from the Council due to his appointment as Chief of South King Fire and Rescue.

Applications were solicited from the public between January 24 and February 3. The City received eight applications for the vacant position with seven of those applicants attending the meeting. The applicants in attendance were:

1. David Lee Black
2. Luisa Bangs
3. Meiling Sproger
4. Semeré Melake
5. Harry Steinmetz
6. Tad Doviak
7. Dan Harrington

The applications as submitted are available for public view on the City's website.

The Council followed the previous process used in 2003, 2013 and 2015 to interview applicants for Council vacancies and began by allowing each applicant to speak for 3 minutes. Upon conclusion of the introductory statements, the Council conducted approximately two hours of questioning of the applicants. Following this portion of the meeting, the Council took public comment from those community members in attendance.

The Council heard from 16 members of the public. Ten audience members spoke in support of the appointment of Luisa Bangs. Four audience members spoke in favor of Harry Steinmetz. One individual spoke in favor of Meiling Sproger and one individual spoke in favor of both Tad Doviak and Harry Steinmetz.

Contrary to prior reporting on blogs and social media that occurred earlier in the week, the City Council did not make a selection during the meeting. Given the number of applicants, and the necessity to provide sufficient time for vetting, the Council has scheduled the February 13, 2020 meeting for additional discussion and consideration.

Pursuant to Council Rule 33, the Council is tasked with appointing the most qualified person available to temporarily fill the vacant seat until an election is held, at which point the citizens will elect a candidate to permanently fill the seat.

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The Waterland City