

Council Business Meeting

April 6, 2021

Agenda Item	Confirmation of the Appointment of William E. Schireman as Municipal Judge Pro Tempore	
From	Pamela B. Turner Tina Gray David Lohman	Municipal Court Judge Human Resource Director City Attorney
Contact	Pam.turner@ashland.or.us ; (541) 482-5214 Tina.gray@ashland.or.us ; (541) 552-2101 David.lohman@ashland.or.us ; (541) 552-2091	

SUMMARY

The Ashland Municipal Code states, "With confirmation by the City Council, the Mayor shall appoint a Municipal Judge Pro tempore, who shall serve as Municipal Judge in the absence of the elected City Municipal Judge, or due to the inability of said elected Judge to serve. The Municipal Judge shall have a right to submit recommendations regarding the appointment or dismissal of the Municipal Judge Pro tempore; however, this shall not limit the Mayor's power to appoint or dismiss. The Municipal Judge Pro tempore shall be employed at the City's expense upon such terms as are prescribed by the Council or City Manager".

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

The Council previously approved Pro Tem appointments following procedures outlined in the Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Judge Turner has formally recommended the appointment of William E. Schireman to serve as Judge Pro Tem. Previously appointed Pro Tem Judge James Wickre has retired from practicing law and Governor Brown recently appointed Pro Tem Judge Damian Idiart to serve as Justice Court Judge in Central Point. Larry Parker remains available to serve as Judge Pro Tem. Still, it is in the City's interest to have at least two potential Judges to ensure efficiency of Court operations in the absence of the duly elected Municipal Judge or if she cannot preside due to a conflict of interest.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The City budgets a small amount each year to compensate a Pro Tem Judge as needed, generally less than \$2,500 per year. The decision before the Council does not result in an unanticipated fiscal impact.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve Judge Turner's recommendation and appoint William E. Schireman as Judge Pro Tem to serve in the Municipal Court alongside Attorney Larry Parker.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

- 1) I move to confirm the appointment of William Schireman as Municipal Judge Pro Tem as recommended by Judge Pamela B. Turner.

- 2) I move to postpone the confirmation and appointment of William Schireman as Municipal Judge Pro Tem, pending request and review of additional information.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Letter of Recommendation

Attachment 2: Resume of William E. Schireman

March 22, 2021

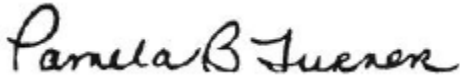
Dear Mayor Akins,

Pursuant to Ashland City Charter section 2.28.200 (attached), I would like to recommend that attorney William Schireman be appointed by you, with confirmation by the City Council, Ashland Municipal Court Judge Pro tempore. I have attached Mr. Schireman's resume.

Both James Wickre and Damian Idiart, who have served as Ashland Municipal Court Judge Pro tempore, are no longer able to do so. Mr. Wickre has retired from the practice of law and Damian Idiart has been appointed by the Governor as the Justice Court Judge in Central Point. Attorney Larry Parker continues to be available.

Having at least two people willing to serve ensures availability when a Judge Pro tempore is needed.

Very Truly Yours,


Pamela B. Turner
Ashland Municipal Judge



2.28.200

Municipal Judge – Pro tempore

The Mayor, with confirmation by the City Council, shall appoint a Municipal Judge Pro tempore, who shall serve as Municipal Judge in the absence from the City of the elected Municipal Judge, or due to the inability of said elected Judge to serve. The Municipal Judge shall have a right to submit recommendations as to the appointment or dismissal of the Municipal Judge Pro tempore, however, this shall not limit the Mayor's power to appoint or dismiss. The Municipal Judge Pro tempore shall be employed at the expense of the City upon such terms as are prescribed by the Council or City Administrator. (Ord. 2268, amended, 1983; Ord. 2266 § 5, amended, 1983; Ord. 1399 § 19, amended, 1965)

Attorney William E. Schireman

I am a native Oregonian, born and raised in Medford. I graduated from Medford Senior High School in 1976, received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 1980, and earned my law degree from Willamette University College of Law in 1983.

I have practiced law for 35 years. I am a member of the Oregon State Bar and the Jackson County Bar Association as well as the Oregon State Bar Family Law, Elder Law and Juvenile Law Sections. I currently serve as a Judge Pro Tem for Medford Municipal Court.

I began my legal career as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force in 1984, and had the opportunity to handle trials throughout the United States and as well as Europe. I worked primarily as a prosecutor, but also completed two years as a criminal defense attorney and two years as a government contracts attorney.

I returned to Medford in 1995 and worked at a large firm for a couple of years before opening my own law office in 1997 where I focused on Family Law, Probate (including Guardianships and Conservatorships), basic Estate Planning, and all types of Arbitration and Mediation. Over the years, I have handled an average of 75 – 100 hearings and trials a year, primarily in Jackson County, but I have also appeared in Josephine, Klamath and Curry counties.

In 2018 I accepted a position with the Jackson County Circuit Court as its Hearings Referee / Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem. During my time with the Court, I presided over approximately 3,700 hearings. In late 2019, the Oregon Legislature defunded my position with the Oregon Judicial Department and I returned to private practice.