

Public Testimony May 13, 2021

#1

Esteemed Councilors,

I am writing tonight in support of at least the MINIMUM qualifications for candidates for the position of city manager as approved on 2/16/21, and preferably a higher standard, if possible. Please agree on that and move forward with the recruitment process. There must be no diminution of those qualifications. They are appropriate as written.

This hire will be one of the most consequential in the history of the city. As we embark on this new system of government, we must have a candidate who has impeccable qualifications and experience. Make no mistake, to err at this juncture could be disastrous to the future of our city.

Regarding the code of conduct, I urge you to censure Councilor Stephen Jensen in response to egregious and inappropriate comments in the local press attempting to discourage citizens from attempting to contribute to the public discourse.

"AMC Section 2.04.080 (D) The Mayor and Council members should strive not to criticize any person in a public meeting or in public electronic mail messages."

This must be interpreted as criticism of any person, whether that person is named or not, including the public in general, and to include an opinion essay in our local news outlets.

Councilor Jensen is a public official, and as such he MUST be willing to accept input from his constituents. To not do so is undemocratic, and a dereliction of his responsibilities as a Councilor.

He can express those opinions as a private citizen in any private venue, but not in his role as councilor in public. He has violated the code of conduct.

Since I will be unable to present this testimony in person, please instruct the Recorder to read this submission aloud at the meeting so that it will become an aural part of the public record to be included in the video record.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dean Silver
Ashland

#2

I would like to voice my support for Mayor Akins, and Counselors DuQuenne and Moran. I want to thank them for staying true to their pre-election statements and commitments, the reason many of us voted for them. I appreciate that they take their oath of office seriously.

Regarding the minimum qualifications for the City Manager position, I thought the direction given to HR staff was very clear and in keeping with what constituents wanted when they voted overwhelmingly for the change in the charter.

Christine Dodson

#3

Full Name: **Nancy K Boyer**

Phone: **5414882989**

Email: boyerbeware@yahoo.com

Subject: **Special Mtng May 13-2021**

Message: **We are going thru difficult times ,from many fronts both.Nationally and locally .**

Citizens are more aware, ..more then ever the structural deficit we are facing ,repeated requests for more money, without means to repay!! This is causing some anger ,confusion among all of us esp with social media and the avenues some appear to have via Sneak Previews and DailyTidings/MailTribune.. ! FYI in OCT of 2007, the paper " City of Ashland will spend \$37,000 for a therapist , in order for councilors to learn to work together and restore some civility to their interactions, The Medford Mail Tribune, reports. A divided, combative Ashland City Council... This has since been deleted from the papers files , but not from the minds of we Ashlanders who paid the 37k.!! I'm hoping this mtng is not being held to censure some. without censuring all. as I feell at this time the social media too, has has become combative and divided, and to do so at this time would deter further o ur goals of having a City Council to look up to, and help in a way to remove us from this huge deficit that looms over all of us !! Respectfully ,Nancy K Boyer