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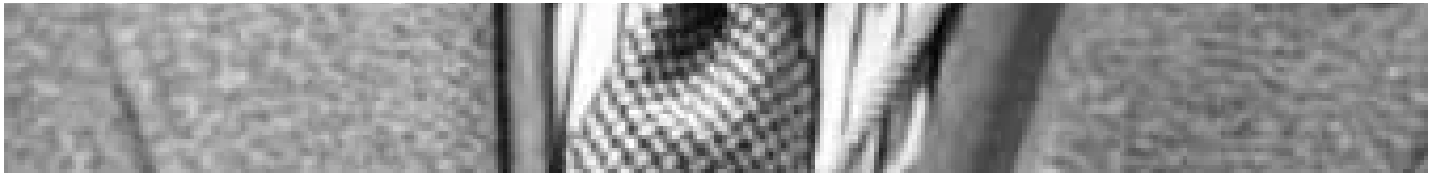
Deadwood special election set for Dec. 2

By Sara Morgan Black Hills Pioneer
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Courtesy photo

DEADWOOD — Deadwood city commissioners set a special election date for Dec. 2 at Monday's special meeting following a petition to recall Commissioner Blake Joseph.

Residents of Deadwood who wish to run against Joseph for his office can begin circulating petitions today and must return their completed petitions by Nov. 12.

The voter registration deadline is Nov. 17, the same day absentee voting is scheduled to begin. Election Day is scheduled to take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

City Attorney Quentin Riggins attended the meeting via Zoom.

Riggins said the commission was able to set the election date and timeline after Joseph's temporary restraining order against City Finance Officer Jessica McKeown and the city of Deadwood was dissolved at a court hearing Thursday. Joseph's motion for a temporary injunction against the city was also denied.

Riggins explained that a hearing has been scheduled for Friday where Joseph will be able to bring concerns of a "lack of due process" and claims of "irreparable harm" before the court. The judge's ruling on Friday is expected to determine if the petition was filed correctly and whether the city can continue with the special election.

A petition for Joseph's recall was submitted Sept. 30 to McKeown, who verified Oct. 6. that the petition had 170 valid signatures, 24 more than the minimum 15 percent of registered voters at the last general election mandated by South Dakota Codified Law 9-13-30. The finance office reported that McKeown and two other staff members verified the signatures.

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