

Mr. John Ward, the current Municipal Judge, was not able to be present at the forum as he was ill.

When asked about the scope of the position they were running for, the candidates for mayor talked about overseeing the day to day operation of the city, maintaining order in council meetings, managing the council as a team, guide them and inform the council. They also discussed the mayor making a plan for the city and try to detect future problems. As aldermen, candidates talked about the communication needed with the people in their wards and bringing ideas and problems to the council. They also stated that aldermen must also be knowledgeable of the city ordinances that they are guided by. The aldermen must be good representatives for employees and citizens of Dixon.

At this time the moderators addressed questions from the audience to either individual candidates or as a general question to all candidates. In total 24 questions were directed to candidates and answered by them. Those questions directed at an individual or group of candidates, after being addressed by those named, were then opened for answers from other candidates. I will not try to cover all of the questions, as it would probably take a large amount of space but highlight ones that have come up on numerous times on Facebook pages and in conversations relayed to me.

Among the questions asked was what those candidates who previously served as a council member or mayor would do different now. Mr. Kuehl pointed out the

differences that have occurred in the duties of the clerk and the collector. There is more responsibility on the clerk for day to day operations and the city collector no longer collects the property taxes due to the city. He would, as mayor, listen to citizens and come up with plans and provide that information to the council for their action. Ms. Thilges stated that there needs to be more cooperation and working as a team together to solve problems of the city. She also feels that advise needs to be solicited and given to the council so that proper action can be taken.

On the question of priorities and accountability all candidates were in agreement that they could not state any priorities until such time as they are seated and informed of the city's status. All candidates agreed that elected officials and employees must be held accountable and this would start with a proper job description for each position. As it was pointed out, if a person does not know what their job is how can they be held accountable. One of the key components is the city officials and employees working together as a team. It was pointed out that this requires communication between all concerned with a problem and accepting ownership to resolve that problem. These problems need to be discussed by the council and employees involved prior to the meeting to come up with the best resolution. Also brought out was the need for financial statements for each meeting showing what funds came into the city and what expenses need to be addressed at the meeting.

The question of nepotism was asked

to the candidates. It was pointed out by the candidates that it is not allowed by state statute. They understood and stated that in some cases in small cities, such as Dixon, that it can not be avoided. These instances should be taken on a case by case basis as the situation comes up. If the affected individuals can handle themselves and work in a professional manner, then no problem should come up. The candidates correctly pointed out that the city council is the final authority on all decisions to hire an individual. One candidate for mayor, Mr. Mentzer, relayed his experience while in the Army of a married couple working in the same unit. Mr. Mentzer stated that as much as possible it was not the ideal situation but if the individuals were professionals and maintained that professional attitude then it can work.

A question was asked concerning the handling of the different personalities and opinions that arise in a council and meetings held. The candidates pointed out that the council members must maintain a professional attitude and environment in the meetings. This can be accomplished by taking turns in a discussion on a subject and listening to other members opinions and ideas. It was correctly pointed out that this was the means with which to solve problems and come up with the best solutions.

There was more than one question concerning the financial status of the city and how to move forward to have more stability, checks and balances, payment of the debt owed, the general fund and how the city ended up in the financial situation it is in. It was pointed out by Mr. Kuehl that the state audit cost the city \$50,000.00, the

lawsuits against the city cost \$25,000.00, the city had a past lawyer that charged the city \$90,000.00 a year for three years. It was also pointed out by Ms. Fleming that the city was not set up to have the two bonds it now has. The reserve and other accounts required by the bonds were not set up and it was not asked where the funds for the repayment of the bonds were to come from. At present the city has \$37,000.00 in the reserve fund for the payment of the sewer bond due on April 1st which is an amount of approximately \$51,000.00 plus. As for the payment of the regular bills and the amount owed it was suggested that the city pay a small amount on each amount each month, thus letting those the city owes know that it is trying to pay the bills. For the city to have stability and checks and balances it was stated that regular reports of what income has been received by the city and city expenses should be updated frequently and reviewed. This, at this point in time before the election, can not really be discussed by those candidates who are not already a city official. This will need to be an ongoing process and daily learning for those elected to office.

When asked about the annexation of property to the city it was pointed out that property owners do not want to do that. Property owners see the divisiveness in the town and the negativity posted on social media which must be stopped and a

productive exchange of ideas for improvement must be nourished. Ms. Fleming pointed out that Dixon is not the only city with problems of roads, infrastructure and people moving out, it is happening all over the state and the country. Only by coming together and working as a team will the city solve these problems thus giving property owners and businesses a reason to want to become part of the city. Mr. Campbell stated the opinion that any user of city utilities, water and sewer, should be annexed into the city. This would also allow better protection by the local Police Department, instead of the county Sheriff, giving a quicker response time in emergency situations. Mr. Mentzer stated that if put on the ballot for voter approval annexation of property can be accomplished without the owners requesting annexation.

The subject of council members discussing closed session items was asked of Mr. Kuehl, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Wiles. All candidates stated that this should not be happening and that subjects discussed in closed session should stay in closed session until officially released. Mr. Kuehl and Ms. Wiles pointed out that most closed session items can be released after 72 hours by doing a Sunshine Law request, though not all closed session subjects can be released. All candidates stated that those members discussing closed session subjects should be

addressed by the mayor and council with a reprimand or removal from office if necessary.

A question whether a policy for the attendance in council meetings by council members was brought up and if there was not a policy now if there needed to be one enacted. As Ms. Thilges stated there must be a minimum of four aldermen present to hold a council meeting. All candidates stated that there are legitimate reasons an alderman might not make a meeting, i.e. sickness etc. Mr. Swanson thought that the current numerous short notice meetings did not allow the proper planning by council members to attend those meetings, NOTE: except for an emergency all council meetings must be posted 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting not including weekends or holidays. Mr. Stevens stated that if a council member does not want to attend the scheduled meetings than that council member should be asked to resign.

This article did not try to cover all questions asked or areas brought up and discussed at this forum. For those that would like to see the forum in its entirety it will be posted on my YouTube page, search for ourtowndixonmo. I hope that those citizens who have questions of their own get in contact with the candidates and question them one on one, you as voters are the ones to decide which candidate will be best for the City of Dixon.

Belle hands Baseball Bulldogs first spring loss, 7-4

A four game winning streak for the Dixon Bulldogs came to an end Monday night at Belle as the Tigers handed the Bulldogs a 7-4 loss. It was Dixon's first loss of the spring as the move to 4-1 overall.

Clayton Sinden started on the mound for Dixon and suffered the loss. He went 1 2/3 innings, allowing four runs on four hits, and walked four. Evan Nickels tossed 3 1/3 innings and gave up three runs (two earned) on three hits, struck out two, and walked five batters. Cyrus Nickels pitched the final inning and struck out one.

The big bat for Dixon was Tyler Morgan who slammed two solo home runs and also singled. Cyrus Nickels singled twice and had two

RBI.
Scoring by Innings: R H E
Dixon 2 0 1 0 0 1 - 4 8 2
Belle 1 3 2 0 1 0 x - 7 7 1
Dixon Pitching Stats:
Clayton Sinden: L (1.2 IP, 4 R (4 ER), 4 H, 0 K, 4 BB)
Evan Nickels: (3.1 IP, 3 R (2 ER), 3 H, 2 K, 5 BB)
Cyrus Nickels: (1.0 IP, 0 R, 0 H, 1 K, 0 BB)
Dixon Hitting Stats:
Tyler Morgan: 3-4 (2 HR, 1B, 2 RBI, 2 R)
Cyrus Nickels: 2-3 (2 1B, 2 RBI, HP)
Jaryn Brown: 1-3 (1B, SB)
Clayton Sinden: 1-4 (1B, R, SB)
C.J. Thiltgen: 1-1 (1B)
Coach Alex Shelton's com-

ments: "This was not one of our finer games. The real story of the night was the 9 walks that we issued from the mound, plus one hit batter, and a couple of errors. That is 12 free bases that we gave to Belle, which is tough to overcome. In spite of this, we managed to hang around all night and were still in the ballgame. Tyler Morgan had a big night offensively for us, going 3-4, including a pair of solo home-runs. The good news is we get another shot at Belle again in 48 hours, for the Championship Game of the Stoutland Spring Classic, which is being made up Wednesday at 5:00."

Dixon JV Beats Belle 7-0
The Dixon junior varsity Bulldogs played their first game of the spring and shut out Belle in a no hitter, 7-0. Three Bulldog pitchers combined to blank the JV Tigers.

Scoring by Innings: R H E
Dixon JV 3 0 1 3 - 7 4 2
Belle JV 0 0 0 0 - 0 0 4
Dixon JV Pitching Stats:
David Jones: W (2.2 IP, 0 R, 0 H, 4 K, 2 BB)
Jaryn Brown: (0.1 IP, 0 R, 0 H, 0 K, 0 BB)
Randon Mahurin: (1.0 IP, 0 R, 0 H, 2 K, 1 BB)
Dixon JV Hitting Stats:
Jacob Cross: 1-2 (1B, 2 RBI)
Randon Mahurin: 1-1 (1B, SAC, 2 RBI, R, BB, SB)
Clayton Sinden: 1-2 (1B, R, 2 SB)
Shannon Kampeter: 1-1 (1B)

Upcoming: After completing action in the Stoutland Classic Wednesday, Dixon will travel to Eldon to play the Lakers on Thursday, March 29 at 5:00. They will then go to Crocker on Monday, April 1 for a 5:00 Frisco League baseball contest.


Consumer Service Representative Position

Gascosage Electric Cooperative in Dixon, MO has an opening for a Consumer Services Representative to join our experienced and dedicated team. Candidates should have strong time management and organizational skills; proficiency in Microsoft functions, including Outlook, Word, and Excel; good interpersonal skills; effective oral and written communication skills; sensitivity to working with consumer matters; flexibility and willingness to adapt to changing environment and priorities; positive attitude and integrity; and attention to detail and accuracy.

Gascosage Electric Cooperative offers a comprehensive benefit package and a competitive wage commensurate with qualifications.

Interested parties may obtain an application and job description at the Gascosage Electric office on 803 South Ellen in Dixon, MO or from our website www.gascosage.coop. All applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 05, 2019. Gascosage Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity employer.

#13-21c



VOTE Allan Kuehl VOTE

Mayor of Dixon


April 2nd, 2019

1. Get the code book up to date with the help of Sullivan's Publishing.
2. Get the utility billing back on track, running correctly, and check on availability to pay your bill on line.
3. Make sure that Bond payments are made in a timely manner and try to set aside money for an additional Bond payment in the year.
4. Make sure that the city bills with local vendors are paid quickly and promptly, request an invoice for every expenditure.
5. Make sure our contract with the Well Service for maintenance of the city wells and towers are in good standing and in compliance with their rules and regulations.
6. Require a city audit to be done as soon as possible by an independent firm.
7. As a result this financial statement can be used to acquire monies from agencies in order to update the sewer plant.
8. Require the maintenance department to have a plan for improving the city streets and alleyway along with waterway maintenance and periodic hydrant flushing to ensure proper pressure for the fire department.
9. Review all personnel in Maintenance and the Administrative departments for job performance.
10. Reevaluate the present City lawyers position with our city.
11. Check on possible solutions for the dog pound situation.

These are the points that I would press the council to address if elected.

I would appreciate your vote. Thank you

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE - ALLAN KUEHL



VOTE BETTY THILGES

Alderman for Ward 1

My name is Betty Thilges your Alderwoman for Ward One. My husband is John Thilges, a former councilman and Mayor of Dixon. We have lived here for over 30 years where we both operated businesses. John is currently retired but I am still operating my business, Betty's Carousel Salon, which I have for over 25 years. I have also been a member of the Dixon American Legion Auxiliary for many years and on the board of the Pulaski County Special Services for the Handicapped for four years.


I have been privileged to serve as Alderman of Ward One for four terms and have also been elected to preside as Mayor pro Tem during the last two terms of the council. I have a record of 99% attendance at council meetings. It would take a lot of space to list all the projects I have been involved in during my years working for your community. I have worked hard to improve the appearance of our town. Years of work on the ordinance to force removal of eyesores around the community are finally beginning to show results. We have worked hard to improve the police department with the resources we have available to provide your public safety. We have almost completed the street improvements project, paving 80% of the portions authorized by the bond issue so far. We improved and succeeded in keeping the library open with the help of many wonderful citizens. I'm especially proud of our flagpole that greets people coming into town by the high school. We have accomplished a lot, but there's a lot more to be done, and a lot of hard work before us.

This city has been in a bad spot, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. We have a mountain to climb and it's going to take the cooperation of all our citizens and our city government to get us back on top again. We need a little positive attitude and a little more of Dixon's old home town spirit. This was always a great little town at it's heart and I'm sure it is going to be again. None of us can do this alone. I ask for your vote and your support, not just for me but for all the people working to make our city a better place for all of us.

The election is upon us. I can only promise to continue to work hard for you, to concentrate on bringing us back to a solid financial position, to keep working on cleaning up the appearance of our community, and to continue to strengthen our utilities structure. I will remain a solid member of the council who will never back down a challenge. I will continue to bring common sense values to the board and always base my decisions in the best interests of ALL Ward One citizens.


I would GREATLY appreciate your vote on April 2, 2019.
Betty Thilges, Alderman, Ward 1


Paid for by the Candidate, Betty Thilges. #13-11p




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