

Council and Mayor,

You face an important decision Tuesday, filling a vacancy on Salida City Council. How do you select among so many candidates?

I believe longtime locals are underrepresented on council, especially someone to represent older citizens who have lived in Salida their entire lives. Years ago, it seemed like everyone on council was old and retired. Now all the current council members are still working. Where are they supposed to find the time to digest meeting packets that can be 300 pages long? More than ever, Council needs at least one member who is older, wiser, and retired. Ideally, this person would also have the time, talent and drive to fully study all the information that comes before Council.

I love sports. My friends would say too much. When drafting team personnel, there are two major philosophies.

First, draft the best available athlete. Find the person with the greatest upside, regardless of the position they play.

Second, draft for need. Select the best person that addresses the greatest positional weakness on your team.

With the current opening, Salida City Council is fortunate. Jackie Berndt is the most experienced candidate while simultaneously filling the greatest void in council demographics. The choice is clear. Please appoint Jackie Berndt to Salida City Council. Don't select someone else, and force this armchair quarterback to compare your lousy draft choices to the Denver Broncos.

Luke Parker, Salida