



City Council Meeting Staff Report

Meeting Date: May 12 , 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration and Adoption of Resolution Making an Appointment to Fill City Council Vacancy

PREPARED BY: Bill Zenoni, City Manager and Jennifer Buckman, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Wheatland City Council conduct interviews of the two Wheatland citizens who submitted applications for the vacant City Council seat and consider adoption of a resolution appointing one of the candidates to fill the vacant seat on the Wheatland City Council.

DISCUSSION:

As a result of the unexpected death of Mayor Robert Coe, a vacancy now exists on the Wheatland City Council. Mr. Coe's electoral term will end upon the certification of the results of the November 2026 election. The California Government Code (section 36512) states "if a vacancy occurs in an elective office, the council shall, within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either fill the vacancy by appointment or call a special election to fill the vacancy." That 60-day period expires on May 20, 2026.

The City Council, on April 14, 2026, adopted Resolution No. 26-16, declaring a vacancy on the Wheatland City Council and determining the City Council's intent to appoint a qualified candidate to serve the remainder of Mr. Coe's current electoral term. Notice of the City Council vacancy was posted on the City website and an article discussing the vacancy was published in the Appeal-Democrat on April 22, 2026. Two applications were received by the May 4, 2026 due date. Both applicants meet the required legal qualifications (must be at least 18 years of age, be a U.S. citizen, be a Wheatland resident and be registered to vote in the City of Wheatland).

Both applicants have been requested to appear before the City Council at the May 12th meeting. At that meeting, the City Council will conduct interviews of the two applicants. It is suggested that the same questions be asked of each candidate and that each interview be limited to approximately 10 minutes. At the conclusion of the interviews, staff recommends that a motion be made to adopt a resolution appointing one of the two individuals to fill the vacant City Council seat. Upon adoption of the resolution, the City Clerk will officially swear in the new City Councilmember and we will proceed to the next item of business on the agenda.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution w/Exhibit