



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Adoption of Resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the City Council and Determining the City Council's Intent to Appoint a Qualified Candidate to Serve the Remainder of the Current Electoral Term

**PREPARED BY:** Bill Zenoni, City Manager and Gavin Ralphs, Deputy City Attorney

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Wheatland City Council consider adoption of a resolution declaring a vacancy on the City Council and determining the City Council's intent to appoint a qualified candidate to serve the remainder of the current electoral term.

### 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." The cost of calling a special election to fill a vacancy for a period of approximately seven months would be excessive. The City Attorney has prepared a resolution for City Council consideration which declares that a vacancy on the Wheatland City Council currently exists and that the Council elects to appoint a qualified candidate to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the current term of Councilmember Coe. The resolution also directs the City Manager to work with the City Clerk and City Attorney to establish a process to fill the vacancy and to bring qualified applications to the City Council for consideration.

In order to meet the 60 day statutory requirement for filling this vacancy, the City Council will need to make an appointment by May 20, 2026. Accordingly, it would be staff's intent to have the City Council interview potential candidates at a special meeting to be held during the first week of May, with a resolution appointing the new City Councilmember agendized for consideration at the May 12, 2026 meeting. The City Council vacancy will be posted on the City's website. Councilmembers who know of eligible and potentially interested candidates can direct those individuals to submit a resume and cover letter to the attention of the City Clerk by April 30, 2026.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

### ATTACHMENT:

A. Resolution