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Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Samuel Crawford; Michael Jones; City Council
Subject: Council concerns

The process for the appointment of new Council members raises questions regarding vetting of candidates. Presently, you must live in the Ward where the vacancy exists and be a registered voter. Based on the information Jon Sitkin provided the Council, there are situations that can and did disqualify a candidate. Spouse was employed by the City. There maybe other factors that would disqualify a candidate as well.

In fairness to candidates, the Council needs to update the present policy to include factors that would prevent a candidate from serving on the Council. In August 2019, the primary for three Council position will take place. New vetting rules should be in place prior to the primary.

There are two questions I am continually asked regarding absences by Council members for the bi-monthly Council meetings:

1. Why do the seating members vote to excuse absent member(s)? Their thoughts are if you are not present it speaks for itself.
2. Do absent Council members receive compensation for the meeting they miss? If so, why?

It might be a good time to review the importance of time commitment by Council members. Deciding important issues for the citizens of Blaine should be done by all seven Council members. When only a minimum of four are present there is concern that the position on the Council may not be of prime importance.

Finally, Sam Crawford did a good job of publicizing the names of the candidates for the vacant Council position. There should be, however, included with the name a means for citizens to contact the candidates.

Dennis