



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Council Session

Item -1

Approving Appointment of Kent Mann to City Council Ward 1

Mayor Jay Vavricek has submitted the name of Kent Mann for appointment as Councilmember to represent Ward 1. This vacancy was created when Councilmember Bob Niemann's resignation became effective on January 15, 2014. As is required by City Code Section 2-25, "The mayor shall fill by appointment any vacancy which may exist, caused by death, resignation or disability of any elective officer of the City. Such appointment of the mayor shall be subject, however, to approval of the majority of the council." A MOTION is in order.

Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek



PRESS RELEASE

Mayor announces recommendations for vacant city council positions

Grand Island, Neb.— Mayor Jay Vavricek announced the recommendations of Kenton Mann, 1603 Zola Court, to fill the vacant Ward 1 city council position and Mark Stelk, 3117 Brentwood Drive, for the Ward 2 opening.

Mayor Vavricek stated, “Kent Mann and Mark Stelk both are long-time members of the community and their history of contributions, dynamic leadership, and commitment to Grand Island can easily be seen when looking at their chosen career fields and extensive involvement in the community.”

Mann has a wealth of experience and knowledge in the educational field. Mann currently is an associate professor of practice for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to this position, Mann was the Grand Island Public Schools high school principal from 1992-2011, also served as the high school principal for Lexington Public Schools, and was superintendent of schools for Wahoo Public.

In addition to Mann’s extensive career experience, he also has been very engaged in the community through the years. Mann is a graduate of the Community Police Academy and Leadership Tomorrow, has served on the Heartland United Way Board of Directors, was the Cultural Awareness chairperson for the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce, and was honored with the Nebraska Council of School Administrators Distinguished Service Award.

Stelk also demonstrates a steadfast commitment to Grand Island. Stelk owns and manages General Collection in downtown Grand Island and is currently on the board of directors for the Downtown Business Improvement District, Sunrise Rotary, and the Goodwill Foundation. Furthermore, Stelk is also a member of the Citizen Review Committee, past chair of the Third City Community Clinic, and past board member of the Heartland United Way and Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce.

Stelk’s desire to serve the people of Grand Island motivated him to apply to serve as a representative for Ward 2. Stelk stated the priorities of lower taxes, keeping the

Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island, and promoting economic development, as areas of interest if being appointed to the city council.

Vavricek said, “Kent and Mark have an understanding of the ever-changing needs of our community and will no doubt help lead Grand Island to an even bigger and better place than it is today.”

Vavricek went on to say “The selection process used for the city council vacant positions was open, fair, and was a shared process as two citizens groups, comprised of residents and city council members, were formed to interview applicants and provide feedback to me.”

Mayor Vavricek’s recommendations of Mann and Stelk to serve on the Grand Island City Council, will be brought before the city council for action at the regularly scheduled city council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Upon city council approval, Mann’s and Stelk’s three year terms will begin immediately and stretch to December 2016.

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