

Council appoints Barry to fill vacancy

By Jeanne Davant

Manitou Springs City Council is once again back to its full, seven-member strength.

Council on Tuesday night appointed former mayoral candidate Rick Barry to the at-large seat left vacant when Councilwoman Aimee Cox was elected Mayor Pro Tern. Barry and software developer Clint Lewis applied for the position.

Council's first vote on the appointment ended in a 3-3 tie. After hearing comments from spectators and talking among themselves, Council voted 4-2 to appoint Barry. He will be sworn in and seated at the Feb. 9 meeting.

"I think it is critical we look at the future," Barry said. "The Rainbow Plan is almost 20 years old and needs to be updated. We need to know where we'll be in 10 years."

Asked what he thought was the most important issue facing Manitou, and how he would address it, Barry cited the city's economic challenges.

"I don't have a silver bullet," he said, "but we have a tremendous amount of brilliant people. We're not going to bring in big box stores, big factories, big anything. I'm not a proponent of having tons of meetings where you just sit and do nothing. We need to rebuild our vision for the future."

Barry said he would bring extensive training in finance, human resources, building a business on Manitou Avenue and working with communities and people to the Council job. He said his work with the Economic Development Council during a time when it was laying the groundwork for the downtown improvement project was his most significant and rewarding contribution to Manitou.

Barry was president of the EDC from 2000 to 2005. He was involved in citizen efforts to pass the Manitou Springs School District 14 ballot bond question in 1999. A retired elementary school principal, he has been a partner in a Harley-Davidson retail store in Manitou Springs.

Barry received about 45 percent of the vote in Manitou's recent mayoral election, which was won by Marc Snyder.

Lewis, the owner of four historic properties, frequently attends Council, Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission meetings and in 2002 led a citizen initiative effort aimed at restoring the Historic District opt-out clause. He supervised tool deployment during construction of the Playpark. His father, Russ Lewis, served two terms as Manitou mayor.

Parking lot plan OK'd

Council also unanimously approved a demolition permit and redevelopment plan for a new parking lot on west Manitou Avenue.

The Metropolitan Parking District purchased the two-story industrial building at 1134 Manitou Ave. After razing the building, the Metro District plans to construct a 42-space public parking lot.

A cost analysis found no feasible uses for the building, which once was an auto garage, said Chad Kuzbek of WestWorks Engineering. The HPC recommended demolition and approved the Metro District's plan.

The site plan includes a 3-foot-high, decorative rock wall topped by a wrought-iron fence, which would continue along Fountain Creek. Several new trees and landscaping would shade cars and screen views of the lot. The plan also includes lighting and new sidewalks, curbs and gutters along the street.

Council agreed to Metro District president Dave Symonds' request not to impose a requirement that a power line be undergrounded, at a cost of about \$6,500.

"We're trying to solve one of Manitou's biggest problems," Symonds said. "We want to get (the lot) open before Memorial Day so we can help solve some of these problems."

Local residents would be allowed to purchase parking permits to use the lot.

In other business, Council...

- Approved on second reading an ordinance changing the zoning of a commercial parcel on Higinbotham Flats to allow a community garden. The garden is being developed by Save the Flats, Manitou Springs Community Garden Organization and the city.

- Approved contract terms for consultant services by Kimley-Horn and Associates regarding four parking kiosks and handheld enforcement devices.

- Accepted a new sculpture, "The Ingenious Hidalgo don Quixote de la Mancha," by Jim Geary, which the Manitou Springs Arts Council will place on the south side of the 900 block of Manitou Avenue.

- Voted 5-1 to waive a \$400 use fee and \$300 damage deposit for the Pinewood Derby, to be held by Cub Scout Pack 18 on April 2-3 in Memorial Hall. Councilman Matt Carpenter dissented. Dulcimer Shop owner Bud Ford offered to cover the damage deposit for the event.

[Return to Article Index](#)