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MAYOR BIETER TO INTERVIEW SEVEN FINALISTS FOR VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT

Mayor David Bieter today announced that in coming weeks he will interview seven finalists for the city council seat left vacant by the retirement of former council member David Eberle.

In all, 31 applications for the position were submitted by the Nov. 21 deadline.

“On behalf of the city council and the residents of Boise, I would like to thank everyone who put their name up for consideration as a council member,” said Mayor Bieter. “The work done by those on the council is extraordinarily important to the future of this great city and I always admire anyone willing to step into such a vital role.”

Under Idaho Code, a council vacancy is filled through appointment by the mayor with consent of the council. The appointee serves until the next general city election (November 2015), at which time the appointee may decide to run for a full term.

Mayor Bieter will interview each of the seven finalists during the month of December with the hope of council consideration of his appointment sometime in early- to mid-January.

The seven finalists for the opening are:

- **Brian Ellsworth** - Owner and president of EKC Construction, Inc.; former member of the Boise City Planning and Zoning Commission; 2006 president and board member of Idaho Food Bank; board member of the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, Boise Friends of the Park and the Saint Alphonsus Foundation.
- **Jeff Gabica** - Realtor with Amherst Madison Legacy Real Estate and Gabica Real Estate; founder and CEO of Jumpin’ Juice & Java, Inc., and Surefire Coffee, a fundraising company for schools and athletic teams.
- **Sylvia Hampel** - CEO of Clearview Cleaning Service, past president of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), board of

directors for the Boise City Chamber of Commerce and Boys and Girls Club of Ada County.

- **Rich Harris** - Owner of Bandanna Running and Walking, and former professional distance runner; active with the Treasure Valley Family YMCA and its Team Idaho, a track and field club for area youth; active with the Downtown Boise Association and as a volunteer with the Boise Police Department.
- **Scot Ludwig** - Founder and managing partner of the law firm Ludwig, Shoufler, Miller, Johnson; real estate developer, board of directors for the Bishop Kelly Foundation.
- **Beth Oppenheimer** - Executive director of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, an early education advocacy organization; board of directors for the Treasure Valley YMCA; member of the vision council for the United Way of Treasure Valley, and the core leadership team of the Treasure Valley Education Partnership.
- **Holli Woodings** - Former member of the Idaho House of Representatives (District 19) and recent candidate for Idaho Secretary of State; co-owner of Metageek, a Boise area software company; founder of the Woodings Group, a community relations consultancy.

“I think the residents of Boise would be well-served by any of these seven individuals,” Bieter said. “I will be looking to each one to tell me how they can best help our city become the most livable city in the country.”

The city council serves as the legislative body for the city, setting the budget, considering ordinances and resolutions and establishing the broad policies for the city. Council members also have a variety of other responsibilities, including meeting with department-level boards and commissions, attending public events and representing the city in regional organizations.

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