

I.F. candidates discuss issues, differences

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Three city incumbents defended and lauded the past municipal administration while two challengers insisted there should be new faces to spark fresh ideas and bring about greater citizen participation at a candidate forum Saturday afternoon.

It was basically the kickoff of the campaign leading to the biennial city election Nov. 3, and the five candidates at the forum covered a wide range of municipal issues, although there appeared few major disagreements on most of them.

On hand at the forum at the County Club Mall were Mayor Thomas V. Campbell and City Councilmen Paul L. Hovey and Ralph M. Wood; and the two challengers, Jan Brown and William C. Lattin. Some 50 heard the presentations, although the crowd changed from time to time during the two-hour period.

Councilman Melvin L. Erickson was not on hand, having notified the sponsoring League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women earlier that his company had sent him on a business trip to New Orleans. Wood attended the last half, explaining he had been delayed while assisting with three funerals at the family funeral home.

Both Campbell and Hovey said the main future problem is getting enough electrical generation to meet the needs of a growing city.

Wood said he looks on the needs for adequate police and fire protection with limited funds as a problem, and added he advocates improving the quality of life.

Miss Brown acknowledged growth could be a problem, but added, "We can bring new faces in the matter of growth problems."

Lattin said the primary problems are the need for safety protection, meaning fire and police, and updating the codes and enforcing them.

Hovey, chairman of the council's finance committee, pointed out only 13-14 percent of the property tax accounts for the \$33 million budget.

"We are dedicated to keeping the city on a sound financial basis. We are operating on a bare-bones budget and we will continue to do so," he said.

About the only sharp exchanges were Lattin's charge of permitting a mall at 17th Street and Hitt Road in opposition to nearby Jennie Lee Addition residents and Wood's observation that he had never seen Miss Brown at any city council meetings or city-sponsored meetings.

The mayor and Hovey responded, however, that it is not the role of the city to determine what businesses are to open, but only to see that city laws are heeded, and they felt this was done in the mall controversy.

Miss Brown said she resented the implication she had not been involved in civic activities. She enumerated her public involvement as a specialist in the national low-level radioactive waste management program, former Silver Sage Girl Scout Council field executive, member of an environmental education training team for the Forest Service and in other environmental activities with other organizations.

Campbell said he appreciated what he described as tremendous support of the residents in replacing the Broadway Bridge, expanding the airport and installing the turbine power plants.

"We also made efforts in updating comprehensive planning laws and fire codes," He said.

Both he and Hovey then mentioned extensive improvements on streets, sewers, parks, water system and modernization of the downtown area.

"We have followed a sound policy of keeping the city in the black and have been conservative with the taxpayers' dollars," said Hovey.

Miss Brown said she saw further need for greater communication by the city with residents and what she called inter-personal and intra-personal efforts.

Lattin said he saw need for updating the fire code, pointing out there had been a large number of destructive home fires from wood stoves. He also said there is a need for hotels, apartments and other such places to have smoke detectors.

In answer to a question, the mayor denied there was a major cost overrun in the power turbine project, explaining a 10 percent contingency fund was used to pay for costs above the original estimates. He insisted the city did well in this, pointing out that nationally project cost overruns were excessive.

Campbell said in answer to another charge that the city would be glad to purchase cheaper power if it could find it outside of the Bonneville Power Administration. He added the BPA is not government subsidized but gets its income from the utilities it serves.

The participants agreed the city would be placed in a dire situation if the INEL were to close or be drastically reduced, but they felt this would not be the case.

They noted agriculture and the INEL are the two main economic bases of this area.

Miss Brown emphasized the need for a solid stable community and advocated more expansion of the tourism industry.



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *Candidates outline positions*

CITY COUNCILMAN Paul Hovey presents the city administration's side at the City Candidate Forum Saturday afternoon at the Country Club Mall, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. Seated from left in back are Mayor Thomas Campbell; Lucy

Ann Cates, moderator; and council challengers Jan Brown and William Lattin. Councilman Ralph Wood appeared later, and Councilman Melvin Erickson was out of town on business.

Lattin said he thought more clean industry should be attracted.

Hovey replied, "We can encourage new industry, but it is not the role of government to do this. This is for the chamber of commerce. Certainly we are not opposed to bringing industry that is compatible with the city."

Hovey also said the proposed Reagan cutbacks will not have much impact on the city's operations, but mostly on capital improvements.

"The city must become more self-reliant," he said. "We may delay some projects."

The mayor said, "The city has used federal funds in the past as fast as possible."

Miss Brown said she believed the city should have made better use of community funds.

Campbell responded the city has not had any block grants for two years but such funds were used previously for building the new senior citizen center, paving of intersections and construction of low-income housing.

In other matters, the incumbents said the matter of traffic light synchronization on Yellowstone and Broadway are under control of the state but that projects are under way or contemplated to correct this; that plans are under way for more parks, but the mayor said he is doing this with the thought the city must not expand beyond its ability to maintain them; and that the present angle-parking system downtown was recommended by the Downtown Merchants Association.

The mayor noted city merchants estimate each downtown parking spot brings \$30,000 of business a year.

Wood said he relied on what he called the four "Ps" in city administration — personnel, participation, planning and policies.

He also felt the city airport future looks rosy.

The mayor said the city will participate in future block grants and expressed pleasure the state would handle this phase of the program under the Reagan administration.

Hovey said he felt that "the people have placed tremendous trusts in the city," pointing out there was not even a single protest at the budget hearings.

The mayor predicted that the downtown district, with the moving of department stores, will become an area of banking, professional offices and small shops.

Much of the discussions were spent on the merits of city projects and policies.

Fran Miguel and Kay Snyder, legislative chairwomen of the LWV and AAUW, respectively, were in charge of arrangements. Lucy Ann Cates served as moderator and Dorothy Mandiloff acted as head page in charge of collecting written questions from the audience.

Ellen Bingham, city-county election clerk, said about 50 inquired as to their eligibility for the city election. She said registration with the city precinct registrars closes Oct. 23. Mrs. Bingham had a computerized registration list but said registration must be made with her office at the Bonneville County Courthouse or with the precinct registrars.