

Laurie Alderman

Written comment: Action on appointing council member process.

I nearly choked on my dinner when I read the following in the agenda packet:

Past vacancies on the Cotati City Council have been successfully filled by appointment, most recently with former Mayor John Moore (appointed in 2013), former Mayor John Dell'Osso (appointed in 2011), and former Mayor Mark Landman (appointed in 2009). All three of these appointed members were subsequently elected to full term City Council seats.

I'd like to give the "real" and truthful evidence of how the appointment process was not "successful" ... The evidence is mostly in the minutes for both the appointment of Mark Landman in 2009 and of John Moore in 2013.

2009 Appointment of Mark Landman:

Jud Snyder described how Mark Landman turned in his application on the day of the council's vote on the appointment. https://www.thecommunityvoice.com/news/new-cotati-council-member-appointed/article_1baf50fb-3da5-50d1-a55e-58171d37540e.html



Mark Landman, seen here tallying the number of missing "yes on recall" signs, was appointed to fill John Guardino's vacant Cotati City Council seat Nov. 18. The appointment lasts through November 2010.
Jud Snyder



The city will see two new council members in the coming months. George Barich will be replaced by Susan Harvey as soon as Tuesday's special election results are verified and now Mark Landman will fill former mayor John Guardino's seat.



The council voted Nov. 18 to appoint Landman, who turned in his application the day of the vote, which was the last of seven days the city was receiving applications.



Guardino abruptly resigned Oct. 23. The council voted Nov. 10 to appoint a replacement in lieu of holding another special election to the tune of about \$20,000. The appointment will last until Guardino's term would have ended in November 2010.



There is visibly an absence of minutes in 2009 of the November 18, 2009 minutes where Mark Landman was appointed:

Meeting Title	Date/Time	Documents
City Council Meeting	Dec 09, 2009 07:01 PM	 Agenda  Minutes
City Council Meeting	Dec 07, 2009 07:00 PM	 Minutes
City Council Meeting	Nov 25, 2009 07:01 PM	 Agenda  Minutes
City Council Meeting	Nov 10, 2009 06:00 PM	 Agenda  Minutes
City Council Meeting	Oct 28, 2009 07:01 PM	 Agenda  Minutes

Yet, the next minutes, for November 25, 2009, has him listed as a council member:

**COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF COTATI
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2009
7:00 PM REGULAR SESSION**

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Barich, Gilardi, Landman and Orchard and Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor.

Staff present: Assistant to the City Manager/Acting Community Development Director Marsha Sue Lustig, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Damien O'Bid, City Attorney Rich Rudnansky, Chief of Police Robert Stewart, Deputy City Clerk Tamara Taylor, City Manager Dianne Thompson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Barich led the pledge of allegiance.

We citizens have no evidence available to us about the appointment process on November 18, 2009, which shows the lack of integrity and transparency of previous council appointments. Audio recordings back that far were purged a few years ago.

John Moore's appointment in 2013:

Again, the evidence of discrimination is in the minutes:

REGULAR AGENDA

6. CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT (City Manager) (Action)

Mayor Landman invited the applicants to the front of the Chamber. Each applicant, in the following order, introduced him/herself to the audience:

John Moore
Eris Weaver
Ashley Veach
Alan Wintermeyer
George Barich
Linell Hardy

Mayor Landman summarized the interview process, noting that the applicants would be sequestered and called out in random order to speak with the Council. Each applicant will have approximately 3 minutes for a statement of qualifications, followed by questions from the Council and finishing up with approximately 2 minutes for final comments. The applicants were interviewed in the following random order:

George Barich
Alan Wintermeyer
John Moore
Eris Weaver
Linell Hardy
Ashley Veach

Mayor Landman called a recess at 9:27 and reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

Mayor Landman opened the floor to public comment. The following individuals addressed the Council regarding this item:

Phaedra Glidden (for Barich)
Ben Ford of Cotati (for Weaver)
Roxann Rodriguez of Cotati (for Barich)
Maria Dominguez of Cotati (for Barich)
Kristina Karakozoff of Cotati (for Barich)
Don Cobb of Sonoma County (for Barich)
Michael Ceremello (for Barich)
Richard Dominquez of Cotati (for Barich)
Cheryl Nixon, Cotati business owner (for Moore)
James Bennett (for Barich)
Gayle Lash (for Weaver)
Neil Hancock of Cotati (for Hardy, Moore and Weaver)
Greg Karraker (for Barich)
Michelle Kralovec (for Barich)
Marge Sorby of Santa Rosa (for Barich)
Annn Durham (for Barich)
Lisa Moore of Cotati (for Moore)

Pamela Borne (for Barich)
Joyce Garcia of Cotati (for Veach)
Jenny Blaker of Cotati (for Hardy and Weaver)
Mark Hinch of Petaluma (for Barich)
Adrienne Lauby of Cotati (for Hardy)
Leslie Warren of Cotati (for Weaver)
Kathryn Wickstrom (for Barich)
Prue Draper of Cotati (against Barich)
Phil Salazar of Cotati (for Council's choice)
Linda Skoko (for Barich)

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Landman closed the public comment period.

Mayor Landman called a recess at 10:51 p.m. and reconvened at 11:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued, with Council noting that many applicants were qualified so this would not be an easy decision. Council expressed appreciation to the applicants for their efforts and encouraged them to look at other opportunities to serve on a commission or committee. Council initially narrowed the applicants to Wintermeyer, Moore, Veach, Hardy and Weaver, then further narrowed to Moore and Weaver. After additional discussion regarding the high qualifications of both applicants, Council concurred in support of John Moore.

Moved by Vice Mayor Dell'Osso, seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to nominate John Moore to fill the City Council vacancy for the remainder of the term resulting from the resignation of Pat Gilardi.

Moved by Vice Mayor Dell'Osso, seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2013-12 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI APPOINTING JOHN MOORE TO FILL THE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM RESULTING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER PAT GILARDI

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS *(Discussion)*

Despite being the one who was most supported after the interviews in front of the council, George Barich was eliminated in the first round. In fact, he was the only applicant eliminated out of the six applicants that had just been interviewed. Despite being one of the least supported applicants after the interview, John Moore went on to two more rounds and was appointed.

Leaving the replacement of Kay Rivers in the city council hands one more time is not fair to the citizens of Cotati. We need it to be by a vote of the citizens. You should appoint George Barich, as he was the next in line in the most recent election as far as votes. Or you should hold a special election to ensure that the filling of the council vacancy is done in a fair process, based on the will of the citizens of Cotati and not on the council due to these past "fishy" appointments.

OUSTED MAYOR TRIES FOR VACANT COUNCIL POSITION:COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE REPLACEMENT TONIGHT FOR COLEMAN-SENGHOR

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seat, which was vacated when Councilman Robert Coleman-Senghor died of a torn aorta April 9. Councilman Mark Landman, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, in 2009, called it "one of the most important decisions" facing the council. The candidates are:

JEREMY HAY/ THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

BY JEREMY HAY/ THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

May 25, 2011

1 minute read

A math professor, a former mayor and a once-recalled council member are among five applicants for a vacant Cotati Council seat.

The two others are a self-employed business consultant and a former planning commission chairwoman.

The council is poised to act tonight to fill its empty fifth seat, which was vacated when Councilman Robert Coleman-Senghor died of a torn aorta April 9.

Councilman Mark Landman, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, in 2009, called it "one of the most important decisions" facing the council. The candidates are:

- * Ben Ford, a Sonoma State University math professor and a city planning commissioner.
- * John Dell'Osso, a park ranger and former Cotati mayor.
- * George Barich, who was recalled from the council in 2009 after a year dominated by controversy.

* Linnel Hardy, a former planning commissioner and 2009 council candidate.

* William Strickland, a consultant.

Hardy ran unsuccessfully for the council in 2009 to replace Barich. In January, the state ordered her and former mayor John Guardino to pay \$9,000 in fines for their role in channeling an illegal donation by Barich into Guardino's campaign.

Hardy, who was campaign treasurer at the time, and

Guardino termed the violation "a good faith" mistake. They investigated the matter and reported the violation when it came to light, they said.

Whoever is appointed will join the council during a period of relative calm compared to 2009, when Landman took his seat in the aftermath of the Barich recall and as the city prepared to launch a campaign for a controversial city sales tax measure.

The city, with the worst of its financial crisis behind it, is updating its general plan, a roadmap of its priorities for the next 20 years, and starting to focus on revitalizing its downtown.

"It's important," Vice-Mayor Susan Harvey said of the appointment, "because we're on our way."

The council clearly has indicated it wants to make an appointment. But it does have the option to call for a special election, which would be held in November.

A city report said the election would cost \$22,400. Whoever fills the seat must run for election in November, when Coleman-Senghor's term would have ended.

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COTATI COUNCIL TO APPOINT NEW MEMBER: REPLACEMENT TO SERVE OUT LATE

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The Cotati City Council decided Wednesday to invite applications from residents to fill the seat made vacant by Robert Coleman-Senghor's April 9 death. Three people in the audience urged that a special election be held instead, including former councilman George Barich, who was recalled in 2009. The council voted 4-0 to appoint a new member. Interested candidates have until May 12 to apply. The new councilmember would serve out Coleman-Senghor's term, which ends November 2012. They could then run for election.

JEREMY HAY / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

BY JEREMY HAY / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

April 28, 2011

1 minute read

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The new councilmember would serve out Coleman-Senghor's term, which ends November 2012. They could then run for election.

The last councilmember to be appointed was Mark Landman, who in 2009 was placed in the seat of former mayor John Guardino, who had resigned. Landman ran successfully for election in 2010.

Coleman-Senghor died from a torn aorta. He was elected to the council in 2008 and was mayor for a year starting in early 2009.

His time on the council was marked with controversy and he was a favorite target of critics upset at how the city government was run.

Barich, who has often accused the City Council of practicing insider politics, called for a special election and said "the people's voice needs to be heard."

He said: "It would be unfair on the community to simply appoint one of your friends, one of your associates, one of your campaign supporters."

Councilwoman Pat Gilardi said, "I don't see where friends and cronies were appointed" and said it was "prudent" to appoint someone for the next 18 months. You can reach Staff Writer Jeremy Hay at 521-5212 or jeremy.hay@pressdemocrat.com.

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