



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

A message from our Mayor:

I and my fellow council members accepted the resignation of Prior Lake City Councilmember Cheri Dornbush Monday, Dec. 3 with mixed feelings. We are pleased for the new and exciting opportunities ahead for Cheri and her family; on the other hand, her absence diminishes the council significantly.

It was only a year ago that Cheri swept into office as the top vote-getter in 2005 election, running on the platform of carefully preserving the city's natural environment and wisely spending the city's precious tax dollars.

As popular as she was as a candidate, Cheri was even more effective as a councilmember. She quickly became a wonderful addition and carried herself like a veteran policy maker. In only one year she made good on her pledge to watch over our open spaces, she served on the Tree Preservation Task Force that created a new ordinance protecting the city's trees, and she served on both the Heritage Farmstead and Water Treatment Facility committees. On each she has left a positive legacy for the Prior Lake Community.

While the city became the benefactors of her energy, objectivity and passion, we as a council became benefactors of her honesty, intelligence and friendship. At our last meeting we all expressed what a privilege and honor it was to serve with her. She will be hard to replace when her resignation becomes effective at the end of the year. The city council is now charged with finding an individual to fill this fifth councilmember position for calendar year 2007.

In recognition and appreciation of Cheri's contributions as a councilmember in Prior Lake, there will be an open house Monday, Jan. 2 from 5 to 6 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1 at 16776 Fish Point Rd. S.E. in the council chambers.

Finding a person to fill Cheri's shoes will not be easy. The responsibilities and time requirements of a councilmember are substantial. Members are responsible for adopting and enforcing ordinances, establishing public and administrative policies, creating boards and commissions, overseeing the city's financial operations other city business, attending numerous committee meetings monthly and much, much more. Furthermore, our system of government relies heavily on volunteers, and that is basically what a councilmember is, a volunteer who receives only a small stipend relative to the work and dedication they must contribute.

At our last meeting, we approved the process and timeline for filling the vacancy on the council and a notice is posted in this edition of the paper, on our website at cityofpriorlake.com and at city hall. The related application and interview question sheet is also available at city hall and on the website.

The applications will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 22, after which candidates will be advised of their upcoming televised interviews and presentations on Jan. 2, 2007. The council will discuss the candidates and make an appointment at their meeting that night. There will be a swearing-in ceremony for the new councilmember at regular council meeting Jan. 16, 2007, and the new member will participate in council business.

The council is looking for candidates who compliment the four current members and add special talents and understanding which may not be presently represented. It is also vital that this person become intimately familiar with our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan and have a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Prior Lake. We encourage everyone interested to apply.

To learn more about the responsibilities of being a councilmember, reach out to me or one the city's current council members. Our contact information is available on the city's website at www.cityofpriorlake.com. The website also has City Council applications and more information about this exciting opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor Jack Haugen