



MORAGA

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Town Council: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Special Town Council Meeting:
 Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Interim Town Manager approved by council

By Vera Kochan

The Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Mayor Steve Woehleke and Vice Mayor Renata Sos, wasted no time in searching for an interim town manager to temporarily fill current Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg's position beginning in January 2023.

Battenberg issued an Oct. 4 written notice to the town council announcing her plans to resign in December; and on Oct. 26 the council members approved a Professional Services Agreement with Bob Murray & Associates (a recruitment firm) to begin searching for her replacement.

The recruitment process is expected to last at least into the early months of 2023, and the council did not find it prudent to leave the town offices without managerial leadership until then.

Five candidates applied for the position, and after screening them based on their resumes, the Ad Hoc Committee narrowed the field down to three contenders. On Nov. 4, the entire Moraga Town Council conducted interviews

with those remaining candidates in a closed session meeting. Basing their decision on candidate materials, recommendations, interviews and subsequent discussion, the council unanimously selected Moraga resident Brian Dolan as their choice for the interim town manager position.

Dolan has lived in town for over 20 years and has children who went through the local school system, making him very familiar with the community. That wasn't his only qualification for the job. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and received a Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture; followed by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Regional Planning degree in City and Regional Planning. With over 35 years of experience working for local government as a public employee and consultant, he's also had 22 years of city management experience throughout the Bay Area.

As an assistant city manager for Pleasanton, Dolan had direct responsibility for departments such as Finance, Public Works and Planning (where he oversaw the imple-

mentation of five housing elements). Currently retired, he is described as having a calm, respectful and warm demeanor; and his desire to serve as the interim town manager comes from his deep affection for the community.

"I am accustomed to working for communities that demand a high level of transparency in their decision-making process," Dolan stated in his resume. "The Cities of Pleasanton and Palo Alto are two good examples of communities where I have worked that are similar to Moraga in that regard. As a 21-year resident of Moraga, I am also familiar with the particular customer service expectations of fellow residents."

The Interim Town Manager position, according to the Ad Hoc Committee's Nov. 16 staff report, "will be compensated at the rate of \$127.09 per hour and, in accordance with CalPERS regulation, shall not receive any benefits, incentives, compensation in lieu of benefits, or any other forms of compensation in addition to the hourly rate."

Dolan will begin his services as the interim town manager on Jan. 3, 2023.

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Some new faces join town council table come January

By Vera Kochan

There were three slots to fill in the Nov. 8 town council election race – two four-year terms and one two-year term (also referred to as a short term).

With only two candidates vying for the four-year term, incumbent Steve Woehleke and Kerry Hillis ended up running unopposed. As of Nov. 18, Woehleke had captured 51.38% of the votes (5,176); and Hillis garnered the other 48.62% of votes (4,898).

David Shapiro was one of two candidates competing for the short-term seat with the town council. As of Nov. 18 reporting, Shapiro's 72.37% of the votes (4,778) helped him to handily defeat his opponent Kendall Langan who came up with 27.63% of votes (1,824).

"I look forward to continuing to serve all citizens of Moraga, I welcome Kerry Hillis

and David Shapiro joining the Council and thank Mike McCluer and Sona Makker for their service," said Woehleke, in a written statement. "That only Kerry Hillis and I ran for the two open four-year seats concerns me. Moraga's Town Council has less than two years to attract a robust slate of candidates when three seats open in 2024. Handling the wide range of town issues entails applying good and balanced decision making skills. Valuing organizational capability and having some applicable experience are important, and representing diversity is valuable. I get great satisfaction from having a positive impact on Moraga's citizens."

Hillis came close to being on the town council in October 2021, when a seesaw appointment process nearly gave him the edge to fill the seat resigned by former council

member David Stromberg. "Thank you for your support, Moraga," the newly elected Hillis stated. "I'm honored that I will be representing you on the Town Council, and I am looking forward to getting to work."

"I look forward to working with fellow council members on the Town's business, including the new housing element, the budget, and planning for potential increases in traffic," wrote Shapiro. "I also would like to find ways to make participation in Town government more efficient, so that more younger residents, with busy lives, volunteer for Council positions."

Votes are still being tallied. County election officials must report final official results to the Secretary of State by Dec. 9. The Secretary of State will certify the results on Dec. 16.

Moraga School District to seat two new board members and one incumbent

By Vera Kochan

Election results for the Nov. 8 Moraga School District race, while not yet certified, have named Larry Jacobs, Martha White and Kristin Kraetsch as the winners as of Nov. 18. Candidate Hen King came in fourth in the three-seat contest.

Garnering the highest number of votes was appointed incumbent Larry Jacobs with 32.66% (5,315). "I am ecstatic to be continuing on the Moraga School Board and excited to be working with Superintendent Parks, the district leaders, teachers, and employees to provide a top-notch educational experience for our community's students," stated

Jacobs. "I give a big thank you to all who voted and not just that voted for me. Moraga was very fortunate to have four candidates running for the board that all seemed genuine in their interests, honest in their approach, and dedicated to maintaining our district's strong standing in the community. I look forward to serving with our new board members and for an exciting and productive new team."

The second highest vote getter, White, accounted for 28.12% (4,577). "I am looking forward to working with the current and new school board members," she said. "I am humbled by this opportunity and the community's trust in my leadership. Thank you again to all those that voted!"

Next, with 22.22% (3,617) votes, was Kraetsch. "I am extremely honored to have been selected by the voters to represent our community on the governing board for the Moraga School District, and thank the voters and other candidates for their engagement," she stated. "It is a great responsibility to serve as an advocate for Moraga's TK-8 students. I look forward to working closely and collaboratively with the other board members, the superintendent, District staff and the wider community to continue to provide an inclusive and high quality academic and social-emotional education for all of our students."

Candidate King received 16.98% (2,750) votes.



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