Eau Claire council selecting new member Tuesday

By Andrew Dowd
Leader-Telegram staff

Ranging from businessmen to retirees to others who've already become engaged in local politics, 10 people will vie this week for the open seat on Eau Claire's City Council.

All candidates submitted applications, but council President Kerry Kincaid said their five-minute speeches and fielding questions from council members at Monday night's meeting holds more weight.

"To see how someone interacts in the public setting and conducts themselves is extremely important," she said.

The City Council will interview applicants Monday and appoint one of them during Tuesday's legislative meeting.

The candidates are:

— John Bast IV, 1245 Blueberry Drive, is a co-owner of EverGreen Services, an Eau Claire-based landscaping business established in 1984.

In his letter, Bast stated that his business experience would help with budgeting and working within fiscal constraints.

— Catherine Emmanuelle, 130 Hudson St., is a single mother and community activist focused on minority, poverty and women's issues.

She ran in April 2010 for City Council, but came in sixth in the race for five at-large seats.

— Charles Gable, 1132 Pershing St., is a landowner who previously worked as a financial expert in both the public and private sectors.

In the past few years, he agreed to sell land to Eau Claire County for employee parking and another parcel to the city for its West Bank Redevelopment District.
— Eric Getten, 2214 Deblene Lane, a 25-year employee with Walgreens, currently manages the pharmacy chain's Hastings Way store and supervises five other western Wisconsin locations.

His father and grandfather both worked as Eau Claire firemen and his uncle served on the police force.

— Jason Illg, 4525 Havenwood Lane, said his work as a senior analyst and programmer at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire gives him analytical skills that would be valuable for working on problems the city faces.

Being a father of four, including an autistic son, gives him empathy for addressing public concerns, he stated in his application.

— Dennis Mattson, 2910 Quail Ridge Road, retired in February after almost 39 years in the railroad industry, most of it as a locomotive engineer on what's now the Union Pacific Railroad.

He credits that background, including positions involving management and union representation, for developing his leadership skills, according to his letter.

— Timothy Santine, 823 Main St., works for the Social Security Administration as a social insurance specialist.

That job has required him to build partnerships with county government and other organizations to get benefits for disabled people.

— Marcus Schultz, 2944 Jupiter Ave., worked for 10 years in supervisor and manager roles at Cray Research before spending 18 years in the state government, aiding people going on unemployment.

In his application letter, Schultz specifically mentioned his feeling that downtown Eau Claire development should focus on housing first, then businesses.

— David Strobel, 1210 Barland St., has served on the city's Plan Commission since June 2011, currently as its vice chairman.

He and his wife, Lisa, bought the former Associated Bank building, 130 S. Barstow St., and rehabilitated it into an office building currently housing seven businesses.

— Joshua Winberg, 4033 Paula Place, graduated from UW-Stout in 2008 with a business degree and now works as a buyer for SGI.
His letter credits his understanding of business finances as qualifications to serve on the City Council.

The person selected will be sworn in Sept. 24 and serve a term that ends with the April election.

The seat has been vacant since Dana Wachs resigned on Aug. 3. Wachs is running unopposed as a Democrat for the state's 91st Assembly District.

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The Eau Claire City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday and 4 p.m. Tuesday in the council chamber at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell St.