



# City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 27 , 2022 ~ 2:00 P.M.

Jeryl Hoover, Mayor  
Emily Kirchner, Councilmember  
Vacant, Councilmember

Tony Klein, Councilmember  
Bobby Watson, Councilmember  
Clinton Bailey, City Manager

## WRITTEN COMMENT

Comment Form #	Name	Address
1	Ed Smith	
2	Sylvia Hicks	
3	Cass Phillips	
4	George Studor	
5	Jett Burns	
6	Todd Plunks	
7	Annette Bennett	
8	Timothy Riley	

**From:** [Ed Smith](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Council vacancy  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:52:03 PM

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The public has spoken with three conservative people being elected to the council and mayoral posts. James McDonald is the clear choice to fill the vacant seat.

Ed Smith

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Sylvia Hicks](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for Special City Council Meeting May 27, 2022  
**Date:** Thursday, May 26, 2022 5:39:35 PM

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I urge the mayor and city council to choose JAMES MCDONALD to replace Kathy O'Neil's city council seat. It has been stated that the council is attentive to the people's voice and I am adding my voice to Citizen Comments. I vote JAMES MCDONALD for city council. He was next in line with the people's vote on election day.

Sylvia Hicks

**From:** [Cass Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Board replacement  
**Date:** Thursday, May 26, 2022 9:43:25 PM

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To whom it may concern, we would like to suggest that James McDonald be added to the board in Kathy ONiells place. He is well qualified and had the next highest number of votes in the recent elections. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Cass and Cindy Phillips

**From:** [George Studor](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Select the new councilmember based on the Vote  
**Date:** Friday, May 27, 2022 9:04:36 AM

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I am writing to implore you to fill the new vacancy in the Fredericksburg city council seat based on the May 7th election results. I believe you have 30 days to fill the vacancy after Kathy O'Neill's unanticipated resignation on May 9th, but there should be little deliberation as to what to do. I believe you should **make your choice based on "our" (the voters) voice. There is no doubt that the voters have declared James McDonald as 3rd councilmember with their vote.** James McDonald clearly received the 3rd most votes(773) for city councilmember. This much greater than the 600 votes which would have given him an absolute majority(over 50%) in an average election over the past 22 years. Besides the vote itself, his competency and support was demonstrated by his endorsement by both the Gillespie County Republican Party and the Fredericksburg Tea Party. The winners of this election promised **more transparency** and more **action based on the voice of the citizens. Keep the integrity of your promises from the start** and choose James McDonald to fill this council vacancy. Whatever challenges you think you might have working with him based on what and how he said as a candidate, I think they will be much smaller if/when he becomes an accepted member of the council and pale in comparison to the thought and effort he will contribute based on his past history.

George Studor

**From:** [Jett Burns](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Written comment from Jett Burns  
**Date:** Friday, May 27, 2022 9:52:46 AM

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Hello,

This written comment is for the special city council meeting on Fri May 27, 2022:

Dear Fredericksburg City Council,

My name is Jett Burns, I live in Gillespie county outside the city. My family does business in town.

I want to voice my personal support for James McDonald to be the next city councilmember for Fredericksburg to fill the current vacated seat.

I am writing to implore you to fill the new vacancy in the Fredericksburg city council seat based on the May 7th election results. I believe you have 30 days to fill the vacancy after Kathy O'Neill's unanticipated resignation on May 9th, but there should be little deliberation as to what to do.

I believe you should make your choice based on our voice. There is no doubt that the voters have declared James McDonald as 3rd council member with their vote. James McDonald clearly received the 3rd most votes (773) for city councilmember.

This is much greater than the 600 votes which would have given him an absolute majority (over 50%) in an average election over the past 22 years. The winners of this election promised more transparency and more action based on the voice of the citizens. Please keep the integrity of your promises from the start and choose James McDonald to fill this council vacancy.

Thank you,

~ Jett Burns

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**From:** [Todd Plunk](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** City council member appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:13:38 PM

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To Mayor Hoover and fellow council members,

I'm writing to express my concern for the upcoming appointment for a new city council member following the abrupt resignation of council member O'Neill.

In light of the recent election, I strongly encourage you to appoint one of the two qualified candidates that showed the willingness, desire, and commitment to run for this office in the first place. James McDonald and Tom Musselman should be the only two candidates considered for this appointment.

Given the results from the current election, I would urge you to appoint James McDonald to this office. Not only did he receive the next highest vote total from the recent citizen vote, but he has also demonstrated a willingness to serve this city.

I would urge you to not look elsewhere for candidates or to find a more convenient person to appoint, who did not originally seek this office through the proper election process.

Thank you for your time,

Todd Plunk  
City resident & property owner

**From:** [Annette Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Citizen Comments](#)  
**Subject:** comments for special meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022 9:28:49 AM

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We believe with that the election of a new mayor and two new city council members the residents has sent a clear signal that public trust of their previous representatives was at a low point. We hope that the new members will demonstrate their commitment to honoring the views of the people they represent. The first step in this demonstration would be the selection of a person to complete the term of Kathy O'Neil.

We would like to propose the selection of James McDonald as an appropriate and logical choice for the following reasons:

1. James has already garnered public support in the recent election by capturing the most votes (following the first and second place winners) of the people to whom the council is called to represent.
2. He has shown an interest and commitment in serving the community to the point of putting forth personal time, effort and resources to run a campaign in the last election.
3. For many years, he has been actively involved in working with the city staff, council and people of the community by contributing valuable insights, solutions, knowledge, expertise from a wealth of experience, particularly in management and running successful businesses.
4. James understands that city council represents the people, not the government
5. He has led large, complex organizations as well as managed multi-million-dollar budgets.
6. James brings to the table valuable insights and perspectives, the ability to ask hard questions, and a commitment to the betterment of our community and its future.
7. In a previous Hoover administration a similar situation arose and in that case, the next highest vote getter was appointed to city council. Certainly a president has been set.

**In summary, we believe the selection of James McDonald an appropriate choice that will represent the people of Fredericksburg in a manner that will positively assist and contribute to the operations of city council. It will also demonstrate that the city council recognizes the public support of James and that they are committed to representing the citizens and are being more responsive to the community. Most importantly, this action offers a timely opportunity for the Council that can help restore the people's trust in our local government.**

Annette Bennett

713-201-1451

"Where law ends, tyranny begins. Unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it."

*-William Pitt the Elder*

**From:** [Timothy Riley](#)  
**To:** [Shelley Goodwin](#); [Clinton Bailey](#)  
**Subject:** Written Comments (City Council Special Session)  
**Date:** Friday, May 27, 2022 10:59:13 AM

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I believe I am a strong candidate for the current vacancy of council. Fredericksburg and Gillespie County have been home since 2006. As a council member, I would champion the opportunity to give voice to a generation of leaders that will make decisions for the next 50-100 years. Over the last few years, I have worked very hard to establish true credibility. I have worked to build a collaborative and professional working relationship with all department heads of our City Staff. I have met with development engineers to prioritize specific budget funds for sidewalks. My efforts include prioritizing a new sidewalk at the Washington and Austin Street Bridge. I have been working to improve major pedestrian areas and promote specific lines in the budget, including our creeks. Recently, our new vegetation crew has been hard at work, but one hard working crew is not enough. Every department needs more help. Our Technologies department, for example, will be asking for at least one more person, in the upcoming budget. When talking to our IT Director, you can learn a lot about how much growth and expansion will be occurring and how we have outgrown our facilities. Of course, this is true in all departments. How do I know? I have spent years developing a working knowledge of every department and their outstanding needs. I have worked with a nonprofit called Fredericksburg Shines since 2014, currently Vice President, and recently, including the County, FBG Shines was able to finance three new car chargers and offer improvements for our recycling center and parks. I have shown our City Staff and our elected officials that I offer leadership that produces results. Those results are based on the expectations of our community, laid forth in "The Path to the Future." As a result of my initiatives, this document is on the homepage of our city website. I have always been dedicated to these initiatives and as a council member, I am committed to working together to build our path to our future. Thank you for your consideration. I will be attending today's meeting and I am more than willing to respond to any questions or necessary clarifications. Thanks again.

Timothy Ellis Riley  
TimothyEllisRiley.com  
@timothyellisrileyformayor