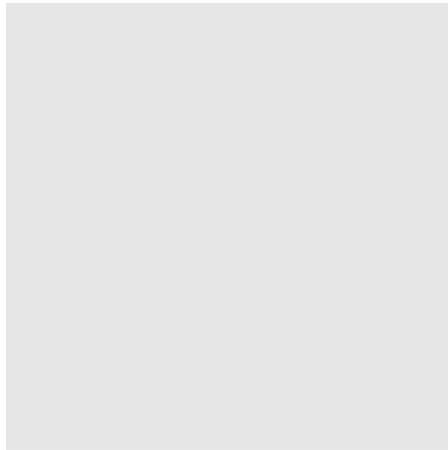


http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/palmer-plans-another-run-for-rochester-council-seat/article_812788dc-5f03-11e8-80e4-1b40a208e0dd.html

Palmer plans another run for Rochester council seat

By Randy Petersen rpetersen@postbulletin.com May 24, 2018



Palmer

Shaun Palmer said he feels he's become a better candidate since winning 46 percent of the vote in the 2014 election for Rochester City Council's Ward 5 seat.

He said he decided to run again after hearing Council Member Mark Hickey decided not to seek another term in the seat. The goal, he said, is to be a voice for the people in the ward he's called home since 1991.

"I don't have an agenda or special interests, I'm just running to represent our neighbors on the city council," he said.

Palmer faced Hickey in the ward's two previous elections, making it to the general election to fill Randy Staver's term after a seven-way primary in 2013 and challenging Hickey in 2014.

He said he feels this is his year.

“You have to be persistent,” said the candidate, comparing the process to the Boston Marathon, which he has run eight years in a row.

While he said there isn't a single issue compelling him to seek a council seat, Palmer said several concerns, including transportation and affordable housing, require a depth of city knowledge, which he feels he can provide.

A Rochester native, he retired after 25 years as a Rochester building inspector and said he's had a long interest in city politics and operations. Now, a project manager for Precast Superior Concrete Walls, he said he continues to feel the pull toward local government in the city where he raised his three children.

“To me, it's important to remember that Rochester is a good city,” he said. “We want to make it better, but it's a good city and it doesn't have a lot of problems.”

Palmer is one of three candidates to file for the Ward 5 seat as of Wednesday evening. IBM team leader Byron Clark and attorney Mike Walters have also filed, which will create the need for an Aug. 14 primary to narrow the candidates to two for the general election in Nov. 6.

Two other city races will have primaries based on the number of candidates who have filed so far.

Retired senior engineering design technician Brent Coggins, Mayo Clinic security intelligence specialist Charlie O'Connell, former state representative Kim Norton and Community Interfaith Dialogue on Islam founder Regina Mustafa have submitted paperwork to run for Rochester mayor.

In Ward 1, former council member Paul Myhrom, marketing consultant Heather Holmes, retired software engineer Patrick Keane and University of Minnesota Rochester IT administrator Sin Kim have filed to replace Council Member Ed Hruska, who has announced he will not seek re-election.

Filing for city offices continues through June 5.

Randy Petersen

Local Government Reporter

Randy is the Post Bulletin's local government reporter, covering the city of Rochester and Olmsted County, as well as Destination Medical Center efforts. He joined the Post Bulletin staff in 2014.