

Press Release

For Immediate Release (Today, Thursday, July 6, 2017)

Ward 4 Resident Files to Recall Controversial Roseburg City Councilor, Ashley Hicks

A Recall Petition has been filed to recall Roseburg City Councilor, Ashley Hicks. Organizer of the recall effort and Chief Petitioner, Tommy Smith is waiting for word from the elections official to starting circulating petitions to remove controversial city councilor who has only been in office a short time.

Although Councilor Hicks has only been in office since January, Smith had “grave concerns about her ability to lead and represent our entire Ward” when she got elected. He and other residents supporting the recall effort, say their concerns “have proven to be well founded”.

The official statement for the Recall Petition claims Councilor Hicks: “has failed to fulfill her obligations as a City Council Ward 4 Representative”, “violated her Oath of Office,” refuses “to work with all residents of Ward 4”, and has created “a wedge between citizens and our government”. It goes on to list a few examples of these, since she took office just six-months ago*.

Although Smith is the Chief Petitioner, he says that Ward 4 residents have already been contacting him offering to help remove Hicks from office. “They range from volunteers who help the homeless to local business people, all who have one thing in common: getting rid of Hicks.” “It is not just residents who are fed up with her abusive style and unwillingness to work with others to solve the cities problems and improve the quality of life for everyone. Although she represents residents, working with all kinds of interest, is needed. Something that Councilor Hicks has proven unable to do.”

Hicks won a plurality, not a majority, of the votes for the council seat in the November election. In the three person race, Ashley Hicks got the most votes, which amounted to 42% of the ballots cast. Recall supporters point out that, “she was not elected by a majority of those who even voted, let alone a majority of the residents”. Recall supporters hope that the recall will provide a clear message that the majority of Ward 4 residents do not want her representing them.

Once the recall petition is certified by the city elections official, Smith and other residents of Ward 4 will begin circulating the Recall Petition. They will have 90 days to get 288 valid signatures of active registered voters who live in Ward 4. If they meet the goal, Councilor Ashley Hicks will have five days to resign or respond to reasons being used to recall her. If she does not resign, a recall election will be held with 35 days of the recall petition being qualified for the ballot.

Those interested in helping with the campaign can contact Tommy Smith at 541- 378-1280. The campaign has a Facebook Page: Recall Ashley Hicks for people who want to just keep up on what is happening.

*Here is the full text of the statement in the Recall Petition:

“Ashley Hicks has failed to fulfill her obligations as our City Council Ward 4 Representative. She has violated her Oath of Office. She has failed to fulfill the duties of her office by refusing to work with all residents of Ward 4 and others, but instead creating a wedge between the citizens and our government.

Her actions have alienated individual residents and members of volunteer community organizations. The citizens of Ward 4 now have to seek assistance with city government from others instead of our elected Ward representative. She has not only refused to work with the residents, she has even gone on a campaign to undermine community improvement activities in Ward 4.

Since taking office: Ashley Hicks threatened a local business person and a resident who exercised their rights to redress grievances with the Roseburg City Council. She made untruthful statements, about residents of Ward 4, as well as city staff. She has also used her position on the city council to threaten, bully, and intimidate city staff when they wouldn't comply with her demands.

The residents of Ward 4 just cannot afford to have her continue in office. We have no other options. Recall Ashley Hicks.”