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JORDAN INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT WWW.JORDANNEWS.COM



PHOTO BY JAIMEE HOOD

Many of the newly-elected Jordan officials echoed residents' call for a revitalized business environment.

'Jordan wanted some change'

New elects envision city's future

BY JAIMEE HOOD
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The results of the Nov. 3 general election reveal Jordan voters are ready to move in the direction of something new, said Mayor-elect Mike Franklin.

During his campaign, Franklin promised to focus on attracting new business owners to Jordan.

"We need a red carpet approach to business, and we need to get rid of red tape," Franklin said after the win was unofficially confirmed Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Franklin came out on top of current Mayor Tanya Velishek with a lead of 638 votes — totaling 52.01% over Velishek's 32.6%, according to unofficial, incomplete results from the Minnesota Secretary of State. Terry Stier, who sat on



Mike Franklin

the Jordan City Council while he ran for the mayoral seat received 15.05% of the vote.

"(The win) confirms what I have seen throughout my campaign and in the City Council races," Franklin said. "Jordan wanted some change."

In addition to a new mayor, the city will see a few new council members in the upcoming term.

Councilmember Jeff Will was not re-elected. Three seats were open this year, and will be filled by Jerry Monyok, Matt Schmitt and incumbent Robert Whipps.

Along with the completion of the Highway 169 construction project, several of the recently-elected councilmembers echoed Franklin's call to attract more industry to Jordan.

"There has been quite a bit of residential development within the past year," Monyok said. "Now, we need some new

businesses to come in to help new residents be able to work in town."

LOCAL ECONOMY

City Administrator Tom Nikunen said in spite of a pandemic on top of the "red tape" involved in opening up a new business under normal circumstances, several new storefronts, including Sparkling Mousse Winery and Dollar Buys, have come to Jordan in recent months.

On top of CARES funding, the city was able to give out six \$12,500 loans to small-business owners, a total of \$75,000. Nikunen said he's only aware of one business that has closed its doors permanently.

"It's been a terrible, terrible year for it," Nikunen said. "But some businesses have still opened. That's always something we're trying to focus on."

One of the best ways to support the local economy is to follow COVID-19 health precautions so businesses like restaurants can safely stay open in the winter

Jordan to 3 ►



PHOTO BY AMY FELEGY

Scott County election officials received around 1,500 absentee ballots from drop-off sites Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Onslaught of absentee ballots slowed election results

Scott County saw 94% voter turnout

BY JAIMEE HOOD
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The evening of Tuesday, Nov. 3 became a long night for Scott County candidates and residents waiting to find out who would fill open positions for the coming term.

Most precincts in Scott County, including races for city, school board, county and congressional positions, did not release results until after midnight.

County Auditor Cindy Geis said there are a couple of reasons the counting of votes took longer in 2020 than in years past.

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VOLUME 137, ISSUE 27

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