



Snohomish County Council

Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Jared Mead, Council Chair
Nate Nehring, Council Vice-Chair
Councilmembers: Sam Low, Megan Dunn, Strom Peterson

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

2:30 PM

Jackson Board Room

Interviews/District Court Judge Vacancy (Cascade Division)

PRESENT:

Council Chair Mead
Vice-Chair Nehring
Councilmember Low
Councilmember Dunn
Councilmember Peterson
Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff
Candidate Jennifer DeJong
Candidate Rachelle Francis
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

**See names below for names of people providing public comment*

1. Call to Order

Chair Mead called the Council to order at 2:30 p.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment for both in-person and remote via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

The clerk called the roll and stated that all five members were present.

3. Public Comment

The following people provided supportive comments for Candidate Rachelle Francis:

- Judge Jennifer Rancourt, Cascade District Court and resident of the city of Stanwood
- Jason Schwarz, Director of Office of Public Defense
- Judge Anthony Howard, Everett District Court and resident of city of Marysville
- Retired Judge Steven Clough and resident of the city of Monroe

Jason Cummings, Snohomish County Prosecutor, spoke in support of Candidate Jennifer DeJong.

There were no further persons wishing to provide public comment.

Chair Mead and councilmembers introduced themselves. Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff, provided background information and explained how this position became vacant. She stated the effective date of this appointment is July 24, 2023. Ms. Beazizo then explained the process for today's interviews.

4. Council Interviews Candidates for District Court Judge Vacancy (Cascade Division)

click on 2023-0618 link below for candidate information

Councilmembers interviewed each of the following candidates separately for the Cascade District Court Judge vacancy.

Jennifer DeJong

Rachelle Francis

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Evaluate Qualifications of Candidate for Appointment of Elective Office Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h)

At 3:46 p.m., Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff, stated there is a need for an Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for an appointment to elective office, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) for an estimated duration of 15 minutes, with anticipated action to follow.

PRESENT:

Council Chair Mead

Council Vice-Chair Nehring

Councilmember Low

Councilmember Dunn

Councilmember Peterson

Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff

Bridget Casey, Prosecutor's Office

Executive Session began at 3:48 p.m. for an initial 15 minutes to 4:03 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 4:03 p.m.

At 4:03 p.m., Chair Mead called the Council back to order.

5. Motion 23-231, making an appointment to the Snohomish County District Court to fill a vacancy in the Cascade Electoral District [2023-0618](#)

The clerk read the motion title into the record.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Nehring made a motion to approve Motion 23-231. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion.

Councilmembers provided supportive comments for both candidates and thanked them for participating in the process. They all noted both candidates are very well qualified, making this a difficult decision.

ACTION: Councilmember Dunn made motion to amend the motion to add Rachele Francis to Motion 23-231. Councilmember Peterson seconded the motion. Councilmember Dunn spoke to the amendment and shared her appreciation for both candidates. The question was called for and the amendment carried unanimously.

The question was called for on the main motion and Motion 23-231 as amended carried unanimously.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Mead adjourned the Council for the day at 4:09 p.m.