

## AGENDA ITEM 5— Appointment to Ethics Committee

I support Dan Barnett as the choice for the Ethics Committee and here are my reasons.

### To avoid actual nepotism or the appearance of nepotism

The Ethics Committee has the potential to make determinations on any city department. The other candidate's spouse is a city employee. Under Nepotism, the city code appears to call it such if someone is already on a board or commission (like the Ethics Committee) and subsequently, their spouse, child, etc is then appointed to a city position.

You may argue that the code doesn't appear to address it as nepotism the other way around, for example, if an existing city employee's spouse, child, etc is appointed to a board of committee. But to me and many other residents of Great Falls, there is no distinction between the two.

Why bother appoint someone to a committee that has decision-making power on a city employee who is a related party under nepotism statutes? The appointee would just have to recuse themselves from any decision involving their related party and that could become an issue with only three members and one alternate on the Ethics Committee.

Dan Barnett doesn't have this issue.

### An attorney is not necessarily the best choice for this task.

Although being an attorney infers familiarity with the law, I don't necessarily believe an attorney is a good choice to adjudicate whether something violates ethical standards in the Montana Code Annotated or the city code.

Attorneys are tasked with supporting a side rather than judging both sides of an argument.

Barnett has experience with adjudicating the right or wrong of actions of city employees through his experience as member of Las Vegas Metro Police Use of Force Board.

In his military experience, he has adjudicating both judicial and nonjudicial cases, including conduct unbecoming / unethical actions under military code.

### Scheduling

Burrow indicated possible scheduling conflicts while Barnett indicated no scheduling conflicts.

### AGENDA ITEMS 15 & 16 — City utility rate increases

Have you tried to find ways to decrease costs? Have you actually utilized any grant money to try to avoid rate increases? You are nickel and dining us to death with these city utility rate increases.