

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Council President Jim Craig said tonight he has the privilege of calling Mayor Avello to the podium. We want to recognize Dion as the Mayor of Derby for the past 12 years and 8 years as a Council member. We recognize this man as an advocate, a representative for the City of Derby, and the many functions and meetings he attended as Mayor. He has done a class job as a representative for our city. He called the Council to the podium. He presented the key to the city to Mayor Avello for his service from 1994 to 2015.

Council Member White recognized Mayor Avello's family who were in attendance. The Mayor has made some good friends through the years. You have seen this city through some major changes. The construction of the library, construction of Rock River Rapids, the development along Rock Road and Lowe's and Kohls. He thanked Mayor Avello for all of his years of service.

Council Member Craig said many of us on this Council have gone through interesting agenda items over the years. We have always maintained our decorum because our leader has always maintained his decorum. It has been a learning experience over the years. He appreciates Dion's advocacy for the City.

Council Member Haynes said he has known Mr. Avello for 8 years. He recalled the 2007 election when he lost in Ward IV and Mayor Avello later chose someone else over him in filling a vacant seat. The leadership the Mayor showed me during that meeting displayed the leadership that it takes to be the Mayor of Derby. The Mayor told him he would be a good Council member when the time was right. He encouraged me to get involved in boards and commissions and I did. I took it as a challenge. He recognized Mayor Avello's leadership and the care he had for this community.

Council Member Bannon said you took the seat as Mayor the same night I took the Council seat. You have guided us for 12 years. We have seen some great stuff happen during those years. He has been a supporter of so many things over the years. Over the past few years he learned how to email. I have become friends with you and your wife. This room is filled tonight to say thank you, and you will be missed.

Council Member Warren said we have served together for 15 years as allies and adversaries. We remain friends and he has the utmost respect for you. He said thank you for the love you have for this community and the leadership you have given to this community.

Council Member Downing said it has been a real pleasure to work with you first on the Council together some years ago and now you as the Mayor. We

have not always agreed. You have been a great leader, a great Mayor and I salute you, sir.

Council Member Staats said thank you for your years of service. You put a lot of time and energy towards the Council because you love Derby. He first met you in 1989 or 1990 when he was a police officer and Dion was the Mayor. He was well loved by City employees because he listened and he put the City and its employees first. You thought outside the box and were the driving force for the Rock Road development. You encouraged development for the free enterprise system.

Council President Craig invited anyone in the audience who would like to speak to come forward.

Jim Skelton, former County Commissioner, said he met Mr. Avello at Ben Sciortino's house. We have been allies and we have also opposed each other. He thanked Mayor Avello for his service.

Ken Lyerla has been a Derby resident since 1962. He served with Dion in the early 1990's on the Council. We accomplished building High Park during that time. He has enjoyed your friendship and learned a lot from him over the years.

Father David Lies, St. Mary Catholic Church, has lived in Derby for 3 1/2 years. As a member of the community, he has felt blessed to be a citizen of Derby. Knowing Dion also as a parishioner along with his wife and family, he feels blessed to have their presence in our community. He appreciates all of the work he and the City Council have done in advancing Derby and making it a community where people come from far away to live. Derby is a noted community where people know they can raise a family, where they can live their faith and be respected by their fellow citizens.

Marcey Gregory, Mayor of Goddard, said thank you for your leadership. Because of your strong leadership, the City is a source of envy and inspiration. Thank you for your friendship. After her election in 2007, you were one of the first people to reach out to me and extend your friendship and guidance. You were always there to give me guidance and support. SCAC meetings and LKM meetings aren't going to be as much fun without you there.

Charlie Schwarz said he used to be on the Derby City Council. He met a lot of you on a night when a lot of passionate citizens wanted to build a new swimming pool in Derby. It was 40 days after 9 -11, and everybody was scared in this country. Mayor Avello offered his total support for that project that night. Fifteen months later, as we waited for the votes to come in from each ward, Mayor Avello told me "if this thing passes tonight, you will not recognize Derby in five years." Mayor Avello does not just appoint people to

the Council. He goes out and interviews people in the community to find a suitable fit for the Council. My time on the Council was the most fulfilling time of my life. He thanked Mayor Avello for all his time in Derby and for supporting me as well.

Dick Dennis said when he first came to Derby, he was introduced to the City Council with a situation and Mayor Avello put him at ease to go through the process. As you can see with what has happened in our great city, he has put a lot of effort and leadership into this city. He thanked him for his service.

Mayor Avello said he is humbled by this honor. He has spent 20 years in this city. He saw the people who created this city and saw the potential in it and knew someday this city would be a leader not only in Sedgwick County and the state of Kansas, but in the whole country. This was a labor of love for me. He has met a lot of nice people and he did not do this by himself. It was working with Council members, volunteers, staff and everyone in the community. We have a lot more to do, and he is humbled that he was elected Mayor to lead this community.

Council President Craig asked Sandy Avello to come to the podium. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers. He thanked Sandy as a partner and an advocate for the Mayor of Derby.

Mayor Avello requested a five-minute recess.

Jim Craig moved, Tom Haynes seconded, to take a five-minute recess at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: 7-0

Mayor Avello reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Council Member Staats asked about the status of Senate Bill 171. Has the City made a response to this bill?

Kathy Sexton, City Manager, said there is a hearing tomorrow in the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections about moving the city, school board and special district elections from the spring to the fall. We submitted testimony to the legislature not knowing what was included in the bill. Today they sent out the bill. The League of Kansas Municipalities attorneys will testify in the morning on the more confusing parts. For example, the whole section on page 1 that eliminates the city manager form of government from the state statutes. City council members want to know if their terms expire in 2017, how does this affect them? Are they going to serve more than four years or less than four years? All we could find is one paragraph that says the term of elected officials that expire in 2016 would instead expire in January 2017. We have nine, and none of them expire in 2016. We called the League today, and they are aware