



NOTICE OF MEETING CANCELLATION

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CAMPBELL CITY COUNCIL

Monday, August 24, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

City Hall - 70 N. First St., Campbell, California

****** The special meeting of the Campbell City Council for August 24, 2020 has been canceled due to a lack of a quorum.******



City Council Agenda

City of Campbell, 70 N. First St., Campbell, California

NOTE: To protect our constituents, City officials, and City staff, the City requests all members of the public follow the guidance of the California Department of Health Services', and the County of Santa Clara Health Officer Order, to help control the spread of COVID-19. Additional information regarding COVID-19 is available on the City's website at www.campbellca.gov.

This Special City Council meeting will be conducted via telecommunication and is compliant with provisions of the Brown Act and Executive Order N-29-20 issued by the Governor.

The following Councilmembers of the Campbell City Council are listed to permit them to appear electronically or telephonically at the Special City Council meeting on August 24, 2020: Councilmember Rich Waterman, Councilmember Anne Bybee, Councilmember Paul Resnikoff, Vice Mayor Elizabeth "Liz" Gibbons, and Mayor Susan M. Landry.

Members of the public will not be able to attend meetings at the Campbell City Council Chamber physically. The City Council meeting will be live-streamed on YouTube at (<https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofCampbell>).

Public comment for the City Council meetings will be accepted via email at ClerksOffice@campbellca.gov prior to the start of the meeting. Written comments will be posted on the website and distributed to the Council. If you choose to email your comments, please indicate in the subject line "FOR PUBLIC COMMENT" and indicate the item number.

Those members of the public wishing to participate are asked to register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rHxidAVUSum-JVpf5mSQIA
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CAMPBELL CITY COUNCIL

Monday, August 24, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

City Hall - 70 N. First St., Campbell, California

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Planning Commission Interviews**
Recommended Action: That the City Council conduct interviews and appoint two applicants to serve on the Planning Commission, each for a full four-year term expiring August, 2024.

ADJOURN



*City
Council
Report*

Item: 1
Meeting Date: August 24, 2020

TITLE: Planning Commission Interviews

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the City Council conduct interviews and appoint two applicants to serve on the Planning Commission, each for a full four-year term expiring August, 2024.

DISCUSSION

A Special City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2020 to interview applicants for the Planning Commission, for two full four-year terms expiring August, 2024. The term of Terrence Hines expires August, 2020 and he has not requested reappointment. The term of Adam Buchbinder expires August, 2020 and he has requested reappointment. The Clerk's office received two additional applications. The applications and supplemental questionnaires submitted by each applicant are attached to this report. 20-minute interviews will take place via Zoom teleconference, with 10 minutes in between to allow time for applicants to log in and out. The schedule is as follows:

6:00 p.m. Adam Buchbinder

6:30 p.m. Mohammad Issa Ibrahim

7:00 p.m. Alan Zisser

Prepared by:

Andrea Sanders

Andrea Sanders, Deputy City Clerk

Approved by:

Brian Loventhal

Brian Loventhal, City Manager

Attachment:

- a. Adam Buchbinder
- b. Mohammad Issa Ibrahim
- c. Alan Zisser

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OF CAMPBELL
70 NORTH FIRST SREET
CAMPBELL, CA 95008-1423

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS
PLANNING COMMISSIONER

REQUIREMENTS: Campbell resident and at least 18 years of age.

Name: Adam Buchbinder

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: (Home) [REDACTED] (Work) [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

How long have you been a resident of Campbell? 5 Years

Present Occupation (if applicable) Site Reliability Engineer
(Give Title)

Name and Address of Present Employer (if applicable) Google LLC
1600 Amphitheater Pkwy
Mountain View, CA 94043

Education: High School Windham High School, Willimantic, CT
College University of Connecticut; Drexel University

Please list three personal references:

1. Name Carin Powell
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

2. Name Jonathan Marinaro
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Attachment: Adam Buchbinder (Planning Commission Interviews)

Application - Planning Commission/continued

3. Name Jason Schein

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone Number [REDACTED]

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE 

Date 2020.6.6

Attachment: Adam Buchbinder (Planning Commission Interviews)

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want to be a Planning Commissioner?

I first started attending Planning Commission meetings in the wake of the 2016 election, and applied for a position because I wanted to get involved in politics at a local level. I believe that it's morally incumbent on me as a good citizen to involve myself in my community's decision-making, and to contribute my expertise.

More specifically, I care deeply about climate change, about homelessness, about housing affordability, and about livable cities in general. The choices we make at a local level have outsized effects--they determine so much about our lives.

Being part of the Campbell Planning Commission has been fascinating, challenging, and rewarding. I'm glad I joined last year, and I very much want to keep doing it.

2. Have you previously participated on committees, boards, etc., requiring a group decision-making/consensus-building process? If you have, list such experience.

Whether or not you have such experience, what do you think are the necessary prerequisites for successful group decision making?

I now have experience as part of the Planning Commission, which uses a consensus-building process.

I continue to work on an engineering team at my day job. Where we use a heavily evidence-based consensus process to make technical decisions. Because of this, it's extremely rare for people to end up at odds; everyone has the same broad objective, and there's a sense of community, of teamwork.

That, to me, is vital for group decision-making: we should all have the same basic goals, even if we disagree about how to get there. We have to believe that everyone there is participating out of a genuine desire to do good, and that they might know more than we do. Even with respect and unity of purpose, consensus isn't guaranteed, but without them, consensus is impossible.

3. How would you attempt to help the City Council balance the need for community economic development vs. the need to maintain Campbell's "quality of life"?

The city had constraints defined by its tax structures and existing obligations before the COVID-19 crisis struck; those constraints are now, if anything, more binding. I still believe that there are positive-sum tradeoffs out there which will allow for more residents and more businesses to come to Campbell, that good development can improve the quality of life here.

Specifically, encouraging alternative forms of transportation, mixing uses so that people can walk to their errands, and streamlining the permitting of "missing middle" housing so that the elderly can age in place and the young aren't afflicted with crushing rent burdens. Building on Campbell's success in making our downtown a destination, we can enable even more people to enjoy what we have.

With good planning, the goals of economic development and quality of life aren't opposed; they're both benefits of properly managed development.

4. What is good and worth preserving about the community today? What do you not like about Campbell?

Campbell has a marvelous downtown, with wonderful small businesses like Recycle Bookstore and The Snake and Butterfly. I've never felt unsafe here. The neighbors are friendly and generous; I love the serendipitous chats we get into on the way to the farmer's market on Sundays. Much of the city is walkable, and its parks and bike trails are charming and valuable. All of these things are precious, and we should preserve them.

At the same time, the rents are too high, and the city is sparse and car-dependent in many places. I'd like more neighbors, and riding a bike through the city can be harrowing. The city should repurpose underutilized space, encourage more infill development (especially near our train stations), charge for the remaining parking, close the center of the city to pass-through private-car traffic, provide dedicated bus lanes during rush hour, and build better bike, scooter and pedestrian infrastructure, prioritizing people on foot over those in cars.

5. How would you feel/react if the City Council overturned a decision of the Commission that you believed was the correct decision regarding a particular development proposal?

I would be disappointed, of course, but the functioning of the system is more important than me getting my way on any one specific issue. I'm going to be wrong sometimes, and the city will sometimes have broader goals than the commission. As long as I make the best decisions I can, I'll be happy with my work.

6. How do you view the advisory role of a Planning Commissioner in relation to the City Council? In relation to the staff?

I see the Planning Commission as specialists: the City Council will set goals and describe the will of the community, and the Planning Commission implements that will in its specifics, as informed by staff, whose task is to provide data and professional insight to support the best possible decision-making by the Commission. The Commission should also use its experience and expertise to discuss and appropriately propose changes to the city's zoning code where needed.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE



DATE

2020.6.6

Attachment: Adam Buchbinder (Planning Commission Interviews)

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OF CAMPBELL
70 NORTH FIRST SREET
CAMPBELL, CA 95008-1423

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS
PLANNING COMMISSIONER

REQUIREMENTS: Campbell resident and at least 18 years of age.

Name: Mohammad Issa Ibrahim

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: (Home) [REDACTED] (Work) [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

How long have you been a resident of Campbell? 5 and half years

Present Occupation (if applicable) Security Specialist
(Give Title)

Name and Address of Present Employer (if applicable) _____
Securitas - 2480 N 1st St #180, San Jose, CA 95131

Education: High School _____
College San Jose State University - BA Degree; Currently studying masters degree in Transportation Management

Please list three personal references:

1. Name Anteneh Woldeyes
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

2. Name Asha Weinstein Agrawal
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Attachment: Mohammad Issa Ibrahim (Planning Commission Interviews)

Application - Planning Commission/continued

3. Name Hassan Etemadi
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE 
Date 7/2/2020

Attachment: Mohammad Issa Ibrahim (Planning Commission Interviews)

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want to be a Planning Commissioner?

There are several reasons that I want to be a Planning Commissioner:

1- My family and I are immigrants from Afghanistan that arrived at the United States in October 2013. The city of Campbell was the first place we resettled and ever since we have considered this city as our home. So far, the city has given me and my family a lot and I want to get involved through joining the planning commission to give back to the community and the city that took us in.

2- I am a current graduate student working on my masters degree in Transportation Management and Mobility at San Jose State University (SJSU) & Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI). My graduate program involves transportation issues in roads, public transit, road reconstruction, traffic engineering and management, city development, and high-speed rail management. Therefore, I believe my expertise in transportation management would be valuable to the Planning Commission in the city of Campbell.

2- Back in Afghanistan, I worked as an Interpreter/Translator for US Military. For more than a year, I worked with a team of American engineers that were advising and supporting the Afghan National Army (ANA) Department of Public Works (DPW), who were in charge of the buildings, operations & maintenance, building transfers and contracts and planning for an entire military Corps (209 Shaheen Corps in Northern Afghanistan). We were involved in Standard Operating Procedures, handover of building responsibilities, building operations, and planning new projects that involved the DPW.

3- The city parks and public amenities have been the places where my family and I have spent our time for exercising and enjoyment. The planning commission is involved in the city development and planning; therefore, I would like to get involved to be part of the improvement of city parks as well as Campbell's portion of Los Gatos Creek Trail where I often bike and run with my family.

The above-mentioned reasons are the main motives that I would like to get involved in improving the living space of the community that has always welcomed us. I can foresee that in future I can do more by getting involved in community development and bring changes and improvements in my neighborhood.

2. Have you previously participated on committees, boards, etc., requiring a group decision-making/consensus-building process? If you have, list such experience.

Whether or not you have such experience, what do you think are the necessary prerequisites for successful group decision making?

I have a ten-year work background working in various capacities that have involved me in group decision making. I have been involved in hiring staff and personnel for two of projects that I have worked in the past as well as giving advice to the rest of the team when I was helping as a consultant with a group of mentors.

The decision-makers need to identify the problem and the topic that they need to decide. The group need to have full information on what they are involved and what issue they have on hand that need to be resolved. Once, they have the full information and the details of the issues on hand, they can discuss the issue. Everyone can argue and state their points of views about the problem and issue that need to be resolved.

After discussions and everyone's inputs during the discussions process, they would need to come with ideas and several solutions to the issue. Indeed, there would always be several solutions, and the most viable and logical one would be on the priority of the group to decide. The decisions can come through the team members votes and consensus can come with whatever decisions that has the most votes.

Additionally, the prerequisites for successful group decision making are that decision makers should have a common goal that they want to achieve. Everybody must be aware that they are there to reach a consensus on a decision. In this case, the planning commissioners are there to bring improvement to the lives of the local citizens in the city of Campbell. Their goal is to help the community members to live in an environment and city that everybody can feel they are part of a larger community that everybody is welcomed and respected.

Finally, there must be trust between the decision-makers in a team; without trust, there won't be a common goal and the group will not be able to achieve a common goal that they are pursuing.

3. Please describe an issue that was recently addressed by the Planning Commission and explain how you would handle a similar issue.

Recently, I have heard that there are discussions at the city level that whether the city of Campbell should agree on buying a \$250,000 armored police vehicle. This issue has been the subject of a heated discussion between the proponent and opponent of such a deal by the Campbell PD on next-door neighborhood website. I believe there is a huge information gap and uncertainty of this issue whether this issue has been discussed or not. If I join the Planning Commission in the city, I would give priority to discuss the issue with the rest of Planning Commission members and reach the City Council so they can give an answer to the local community members. Currently, many residents are confused regarding this issue and that is why it urges me to get involved to help my local community and facilitate transparency for the decisions that are being made at the city level.

- 4 How would you attempt to help the City Council balance the need for community economic development vs. the need to maintain Campbell's "quality of life"?

The city of Campbell is in unique positions with rich cultural vibe for whoever who wants to visit. I have noticed that many people come to visit the city from many places in the Bay Area who want to experience the cultural richness of the city, its museum and eating in one of several famous restaurants that are available. On weekends, the city attracts people from various age groups. It is indeed fascinating. In addition, the population of the city is growing as well. As a transportation expert, I would like to bring improvements in bike lanes and routes in the city. I would like to help bring changes and encourage residents to use public transportation and, I am really interested to make the city as walkable as possible. We really need to minimize the sound and air pollution by decreasing the level of auto transportation. People should be able to walk and bike to enjoy from the neighborhood. That also need to work on the vehicle speed limits and its implementation that I am eager to work on.

5. What is good and worth preserving about the community today?

What do you not like about Campbell?

We need to preserve Campbell's unique cultural viability and its museum. The Oktoberfest festival need to be turned into an important event and it needs to be advertised to attract people and visitors from around the bay area.

The library needs adequate material for children. I believe the city can attract funding and budget through for more children and youth resources at the library. Additionally, there must be more efforts put into after school support at the library for lower income students who cannot afford a tutor.

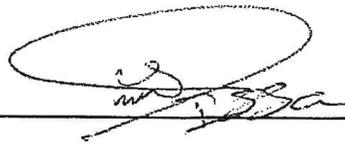
- 6. How would you feel/react if the City Council overturned a decision of the Commission that you believed was the correct decision regarding a particular development proposal?

First, I would try to convince and advise my team members at the Planning Commission and City Council to prioritize on what is necessary and can improve our local community. I would do my best for what is needed to help. But when I see that I cannot achieve to have a development proposal accepted and its overturned by the City Council, I would have no choice but to accept the authority of the City Council.

- 7. How do you view the advisory role of a Planning Commissioner in relation to the City Council? In relation to the staff?

Due to my educational background and experiences, I can help the Council Members in their decision to save money and resources for the city. I understand that Campbell is a small city without abundance of resources, I often have the initiative for bringing changes and improvements. I can advise the City Council in public transportation management such as how we can improve with bus stops, bike lanes, safe and proper use of VTA light rail by the city residents. In addition, I help the city staff by giving recommendations on how to use the roads and transportation budgets by saving the money and lessens the costs to the city budget. I also have community development experience that I can advise both City Council and staff on how to implement projects that can have economic benefits to the residents as well as bringing revenue to the city.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____



Date 7/2/2020

Attachment: Mohammad Issa Ibrahim (Planning Commission Interviews)

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OF CAMPBELL
70 NORTH FIRST SREET
CAMPBELL, CA 95008-1423

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS
PLANNING COMMISSIONER

REQUIREMENTS: Campbell resident and at least 18 years of age.

Name: Alan Zisser
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone No: (Home) [REDACTED] (Work) [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
How long have you been a resident of Campbell? 35 of last 41 years
Present Occupation (if applicable) Retired
(Give Title)

Name and Address of Present Employer (if applicable) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Education: High School [REDACTED]
College B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering

Please list three personal references:

- 1. Name Patricia Krackov
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]
- 2. Name Ann Herosy
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]
- 3. Name John Nerness
Address [REDACTED]
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE 
Date 6/30/2020

Attachment: Alan Zisser (Planning Commission Interviews)

Re: Alan Zisser's Application for Planning Commissioner – June 2020

10 years ago I applied for and was appointed to a position on the Civic Improvement Commission. On the application, I stated my interest in contributing to making Campbell a "more livable community for all Campbell residents", and "to give back to Campbell". These reasons still apply 10 years later, having served two terms on the CIC.

Becoming a member of the Planning Commission would provide me the opportunity to continue my service to the City and the residents. My experience on CIC those past eight years has given me insights into the city's operations, familiarity with many of the staff and Council members, and understanding how the process works. Based on my history on CIC, I would be an active member of the Planning Commission, bringing thoughtful input, good ideas, and a highly cooperative attitude to the Commission.

During my tenure with the CIC, I was involved and active in all projects and programs that the CIC was responsible for. I took the lead on a number of programs, including leading the Art Box project over a 4 year period, the Beautification Grant program, and the Youth Engagement investigation effort that resulted in a comprehensive survey and report, and ultimately the formation of the Youth Commission. I also helped author the Public Art Policy, and a revision of the Neighborhood Association Grant program. I also was active in support of the Youth Poster Contest, the new Youth Photo Contest, and Youth Job Fair. I participated fully in the Social Services Grants and Neighborhood Association Grants applications and approvals.

A number of these projects involved working with and developing a relationship with the staff from the City Manager's Office, the Community Center/Recreation department, and Public Works. I am also familiar with all the neighborhood groups. All this experience certainly would be an additional asset for a commissioner on the Planning Commission. I have been a resident in Campbell for 35 out the past 41 years, residing in south Campbell, west Campbell, and in the downtown area. I am intimately familiar with Campbell.

Finally, I have specific technical skills and experience that would help me in understanding the technical aspects of evaluating projects. I have a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering, and early in my career, I worked in positions that required me to read and evaluate specifications and blueprints of construction projects. Even later in my career as a product marketing professional in a variety of technical products, I was required to understand the detailed technical specifications of a myriad of highly technical products. This background will allow me to review plans and proposals effectively.

By nature, I am someone who cares about understanding the details and issues of any situation or project. I have the ability to be objective, and look at all sides of an issue, and listen to the concerns of all stakeholders. I would be open to hearing inputs from all those involved in any issues coming before the Planning Commission.

This active involvement that I brought to the CIC, would continue if I were appointed to the Planning Commission.

Thanks for your consideration,

Alan Zisser
Campbell CA
June 22, 2020



PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want to be a Planning Commissioner?

I would like to continue to contribute to making Campbell a more livable community to all Campbell residents, and give back to my community. Having served on the CIC for eight years, I found it rewarding and believed that my contributions were positive; and I gained an appreciation for what local government does and those that volunteer their time to participate in civic engagement to make their community better.

2. Have you previously participated on committees, boards, etc., requiring a group decision-making/consensus-building process? If you have, list such experience.

I served two terms on Campbell's Civic Improvement Commission between 2010 and 2018, including being the Chair for a year. I worked on multiple committees with other commissioners, in some cases leading the effort, and in others being an active participant.

In addition to my commission experience, my background in the private sector often required me to work on teams on marketing and product management programs, both as a lead and a team participant.

Whether or not you have such experience, what do you think are the necessary prerequisites for successful group decision making?

I believe the key requirements for a position like Planning Commissioner includes a depth of understanding of the issue or project, a willingness to listen and understand all sides of the issue, having a basic understanding of the legal and procedural aspects that are relevant, and ability to ask hard questions that will provide the answers necessary to make an informed decision.

Additionally, planning commissioners should be knowledgeable about the community in general, it's history, it's established plans (e.g. General Plan), and be able to objectively evaluate each issue or project within that framework. Commissioners should listen carefully to all stakeholders in the community, ask questions, and be able to discuss openly with other commissioners without rancor, or discounting other input.

3. Please describe an issue that was recently addressed by the Planning Commission and explain how you would handle a similar issue.

I followed the Inn & Out Burger project fairly closely, both from hearing and seeing the input of local residents and business interests and the applicant, as well as attending or viewing a number of Planning Commission meetings on the subject.

Any major project of this type requires that Planning Commissioners first educate themselves fully on the plans for the site development, consider all the implications, and understand what exactly are the criteria necessary for considering either accepting or rejecting the application.

Additionally, it is important to listen to the local residents as to their positions and concerns, and the reasoning behind those opinions. Public input is an essential part of local government decisions. Commissioners should also get an up close look at the potential project. This means that I would want to view the site and the adjacent area, so I understand beyond looking at site plans.

Commissioners need to depend on the support of the city staff in their evaluation and recommendations, and be prepared to thoroughly inquire on all key aspects of the development. Staff operates on an objective basis, based on their professional knowledge of commercial development (in this case), so commissioners must take advantage of their expertise to be able to thoroughly evaluate the application before making a recommendation.

In the case of a particularly controversial development, as in this case, Planning Commissioners must pay extra attention to all the issues associated with the project so as to render their best recommendation.

4. How would you attempt to help the City Council balance the need for community economic development vs. the need to maintain Campbell's "quality of life"?

I do believe there are many resources outside the city that are available to better educate Planning Commissioners and City Council to make decisions to find the best balance. I think it would be good, if it isn't already being done, to educate ourselves on ways in which modern urban development is being reimagined for regions like the Bay Area on finding a balance between growth, commercial development, and residential development; while maintaining Campbell's quality of life. Being a small city with limited resources, we don't always have the knowledge or expertise to thoughtfully think through the implications of growth and development, and its long term impact. Sometimes, decisions are made based too much on personal gut feelings, rather than looking at the big picture. We need to continually educate ourselves on these issues.

5. What is good and worth preserving about the community today?

As a small suburban city within a large metropolitan area, it is often difficult for cities like Campbell to maintain their own identity, and small town feel. Campbell has accomplished a lot of this with the redevelopment and popularity of our downtown, keeping it's small town look and feel. Having such things as the Farmer's Market, Summer Music, Heritage Theater, an active Community Center, festivals, good parks and trails (wish there were more), and a local government that maintains it's civility in a time where often we see so much incivility. Those are all good things that we need to not only preserve, but continue to build on.

What do you not like about Campbell?

Being part of the Bay Area, we experience many of the same issues that other cities in the area experience. Homelessness, high housing costs, increasing property crime, and heavy traffic. These are areas that the city should do its part to mitigate. And although there are many residents involved in city activities, being a suburban city, we often have a relatively few of the same people getting involved in city policy or activities. I'd like to see efforts to bring more residents into being involved in local government, or at least better understanding how it works, and what the city does everyday to make life better for its residents. And how they can help.

