

# The Bandera PROPHEET

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City Council member resigns, BEDC board members dismissed

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Though her resignation will not be official until Thursday's regular meeting, Bandera City Council Member Lynn Palmer is stepping down from office. She is the latest official to exit City Hall's revolving door, through which former City Council Member Glenn Clark and Bandera Economic Development Corporation Board Members Laura Devenport and Toni Kunz departed by resignation earlier this year.

In her letter, Palmer explained that her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren had moved back to Bandera, and she was re-centering her focus on her family. She also highlighted the many accomplishments City Council had achieved during her tenure as a council member (see her resignation letter in full [here](#)).

Her departure is on the heels of a heated controversy with the BEDC. "On Aug. 6, during the Public Forum of the Bandera City Council meeting, I was blindsided by the accusations made against the newly appointed EDC Director DeAnna McCabe... At no time did anyone involved - other board members, administrative assistant, City Council members or the mayor - contact me to inform me there were accusations being made about an email account owned by McCabe, who was previously the EDC administrative assistant," Palmer told the Prophet. "In my opinion, the EDC board members should have addressed this immediately in a special meeting, and given Ms. McCabe the opportunity to defend herself. We could have discussed this and made the determination on how to move forward as a board."

According to BEDC Board Member Darcy Hasty and Megan Lamb, who resigned as the BEDC administrative assistant, McCabe may have

had access to an email account that may have contained sensitive information.

McCabe could not be reached for comment, however BEDC Board President Andrea Jankoski told the Prophet she discussed the matter with McCabe, and was not concerned about any potential breach.

“I spoke to DeAnna as soon as I was made aware of the situation and she not only had an explanation, she also had adequate proof to dispute the accusations, but she was never given the opportunity,” Jankoski said. “I, personally, am not concerned for two reasons. One, she provided the explanation and proof to me and two, DeAnna has always done things with full disclosure, transparency and integrity.”

On Aug. 11, after a lengthy executive session, Council Member Rebeca Gibson motioned to remove all BEDC board members, except Palmer and Mayor Suzanne Schauman - who had resigned from the board, but stated after the motion that she withdrew her resignation. Without further discussion, the motion to dismiss McCabe, Lee Correll, Jankoski and Hasty carried with Gibson and Council Members Jerry Russe and Rosie Smith in favor. Council Member Don Clark abstained, and Palmer was not present.

In the next motion, Russe moved to appoint Gibson and city Utility Clerk Laura Losoya to the BEDC board. With Palmer’s resignation, the seven-member board has three members - it needs four to make a quorum. Schauman said City Council members would consider applicants during tomorrow evening’s meeting.

“There are a couple of applicants,” Schauman told the Prophet, adding both were county residents.

Schauman said state statute allows up to four board members who are connected directly with the city, either as employee, government official or city officer. She said the city has several big projects in the works, and she feels having board members who double as city representatives will ease the process.

“It’s an easier transition because council has to approve all of EDC spending,” Schauman said. “So if we know what’s going on it just makes it better.”

She said when enough qualified candidates apply, she would again resign from the board.

Hasty, who is a candidate in the City Council's November election, said she was not upset about being dismissed from the BEDC. She said it was council's prerogative and understood council members are working toward revamping the BEDC bylaws and policies. What concerns her, she said, is the lack of transparency.

"I think having City Council members on the EDC is not a good idea," Hasty said. "I think the overseen should not be the overseers."

Hasty, who publicly stated when appointed to the BEDC board that she would resign her position if she won the election for City Council, said the two entities have different missions.

"As an EDC member, you want facades, you look at things that will draw people in," Hasty said. "As a City Council member, you focus on infrastructure. We need the roads to be fixed. We need the water issues to be fixed."

Further, Hasty said overlapping board members compromises healthy debate, and lessens the public's input.

Regarding McCabe, Hasty said she did not speak directly with her, but she had spoken with Lamb and Schauman. Hasty said she was trying to avoid causing a walking quorum, and did not want to discuss the matter with another member should the issue come before the board.

"It's unfortunate the decision was made to remove citizens who had volunteered their time to be involved with our city government," Palmer said. "According to my way of thinking, the action taken was rash and hasty."

## **Election**

Schauman and Cindy Coffey have registered as candidates for mayor. Hasty, Jankoski and Kunz have registered as candidates for two open seats on City Council. All seats are a two-year term.