

**HUDSONVILLE CITY COMMISSION**  
**City Commission Minutes**  
Special Session

August 27, 2013

Mayor Van Doeselaar called a Special Session of the Hudsonville City Commission to order on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Van Doeselaar, Commissioners Brandsen, Leerar, O'Brien, Ten Harmsel, Zuiderveen, City Manager Waterman, and City Clerk Wiersum.

8242. Mayor Van Doeselaar stated that the purpose of this meeting is to interview Dan Bolhuis and Mark Northrup, two residents from Ward 2, who have applied to complete the Commission term of Norm Unema, who passed away in July. Questions were presented to the candidates from the Mayor and Commissioners.

Dan Bolhuis

Mr. Bolhuis is a life-long resident of Hudsonville, a graduate of Grand Valley State College. He is currently the principal at Orchard View High School. His father, Dave Bolhuis, was a previous Hudsonville City Commissioner and he encouraged Dan to serve as a Commissioner.

Dan feels Hudsonville is a great place to live, and he would like to be a part of the potential growth of Hudsonville.

*How can the City Commission be most effective in the Community?*

Improving quality of life for the citizens is very important. Being able to retain business and attract new businesses is also important. I think the City Commission can be very active in getting Hudsonville to be a destination place.

*Why do you think you are the best choice for Commissioner?*

I'm not sure I would be the best choice, but I would be a good choice. I have a lot of energy, a lot of ideas that I would like to see Hudsonville expand in. I can work cooperatively with people. I feel very strongly about Hudsonville and what the future could be for Hudsonville and I would like to be a part of that.

*What are your ideas for Hudsonville and your vision of the future?*

I would like to see more events in the City. I attended the Salad Bowl Bash and feel the City could do more events like that to attract more than just City residents. I would like to see the city do things for younger people and bring

people into the City. We need to be able to identify with something that Hudsonville stands for.

*Any areas of concern that you see on behalf of the City?*

I do not see any big concerns. I am very happy with the services the City offers as well as the number and variety of parks the City has. I am a team player and would just like to be a part of the decisions made in the future. I have seen the brochure on the Village Green and I feel that has potential and is exciting for the future.

*What is your take on the public transportation issue that was brought up a few years ago?*

I personally don't know anybody who would use it. I don't know that there are enough people in the City that would use it to justify having it. If it is something that a significant number of people would use and would improve the quality of life of residents, then it should be looked at.

With limited funds you have to weigh cost versus gains. If the needs or desires of the people I am serving are changing, then I have to change with that. I believe the City Commission and Manager are there to serve the people they are representing. If there is a shift in the residents' needs and/or wants, then tough decisions need to be made.

Mark Northrup

Mr. Northrup has lived in Hudsonville for 10 years. He met Norm Unema when he moved in and it would be rare privileged to follow in Norm's footsteps. He would like to make Hudsonville more than just a pass-through city, but a place to visit or live. Hudsonville is neighborly, friendly and offers a high quality of life. His goal is to support his constituents and always seek to go one better and never be satisfied with the status quo, and work to always enhance the quality of life in Hudsonville. As a Commissioner he would be a hardworking and thoughtful team player seeking to do right for those around him.

*How can the City Commission be most effective in the Community and what role does the Commission play in being an effective body in operating the City?*

We can certainly work to be more pedestrian bike friendly. We need to look to ensure that there is a strong tax base to support the City and the activities sufficiently so that we can put in good roads and bike paths. We need to encourage good retail and commercial activity and to encourage more development, more restaurants, more retail activity to broaden the City's tax base. Overall is the issue of the quality of life. If we have a good tax base, good

schools and parks, the values of homes go up and that would increase the tax base to allow us to do more for the population.

*How would you describe some of those elements of quality of life?*

Activities like the farmers market and the fair that draw people to the City are elements. We can look to better our sidewalk and streets to make the City more pedestrian and bike friendly. We need to make sure we are well lit it areas so there is no crime and to provide opportunities for neighborhood watches to keep crime levels low.

*What strengths do you see bringing to the Commission?*

I am driven to get good results and make things happen. It is about a team developing a vision for our City and bringing value to our community. I am fairly well educated and well experienced. I have been around a lot and lived lot of places and have a sense for what makes a nice place to live. I think that experience can be of value to the City.

*What is your vision of the City 5, 10 years down the road?*

I would like to see the values of our homes go up, have better roads and parks. Like to see residential building be of high quality that would attract the kind of people that would make Hudsonville a desirable place to live. The natural beauty of the City lends itself to bikes and pedestrian paths. We don't have a really good feel for walking through the City. The cross walks on busy streets such as Chicago Drive also lends some risk to the City, and we need to be conscience of that too. It is about creating a tax base to support those activities.

*What is the greatest concern that you see for the City that needs to be addressed?*

I think there is a risk to the City with the train coming through the City as it does, particularly with the chemical cars coming through. We need processes and procedures in place to deal with that. We are blessed to relatively crime free, but certainly drugs and meth lab activity can encroach without our knowledge. There may be risks there we don't fully understand. Any kind of drug activity I would perceive as negative. I am very excited about the school additions. I see that as a real asset to the City.

Regarding the public transportation issue, I feel we need to provide a good support system for the challenged people in our community. That could come through the development of our parks, sidewalks and bike paths to be more pedestrian friendly and offering opportunities for transportation.

The Mayor and Commissioners commented that both candidates are very capable and well qualified to fill this vacancy. They area both outstanding candidates.

Motion by Brandsen, seconded by Leerar to select either Dan Bolhuis or Mark Northrup to fulfil the remainder of Norm Unema's term as City Commissioner for Ward 2.

Brandsen -	Mark Northrup
Leerar -	Mark Northrup
O'Brien -	Mark Northrup
Ten Harmsel-	Mark Northrup
Zuiderveen -	Dan Bolhuis
Mayor -	Dan Bolhuis

Mark Northrup is elected with a majority vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

8243. Motion by Zuiderveen, seconded by Leerar, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

All aye, motion carried.

---

Jan Wiersum  
Hudsonville City Clerk

---

Mayor Van Doeselaar