

February 22, 2011

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Place 6 Burleson City Council member Chip Stephens submitted his letter of resignation to council last night. Council accepted the resignation with a vote of 5-1 (Stephens abstained; Mayor Pro Tem Stuart Gillaspie voted against). Council then approved a resolution calling for a special election, on May 14, to fill Stephens' unexpired term. That vote passed 7-0.

In his letter to the City, council, and citizens of Burleson, Stephens said it has been "an honor and a privilege to represent the citizens of this great city, my hometown, for the past seven years. Our city has taken great strides in a very short amount of time and it is my hope that we will continue to grow and prosper well into the future. Due to personal reasons, I find it necessary to take this step, of resigning, mid-term."

The City charter states that a single vacancy on the council shall be filled by appointment within 30 days. However, any vacancy that occurs within 90 days of a general election shall not be filled by appointment. Stephens will continue to serve until the votes from the May 14 election are canvassed and accepted by council.

There were already three seats on the May 14, 2011 ballot. Stephens' seat will be added to that ballot as an unexpired term (one year).

As of noon on Thursday, Feb. 17, all three incumbents as well as one challenger had filed for a seat on the Burleson City Council.

Incumbent Dan McClendon filed for his Place 5 seat on Saturday, Feb. 12. Jerry Allen, who is challenging Place 3 Incumbent Matt Powell for his seat, also filed Feb. 12. Powell filed for re-election to his seat on Feb. 14 and Stuart Gillaspie filed for his Place 1 seat on Feb. 17.

The filing deadline is March 14. Election Day is May 14. Council applications are available through the city secretary's office at Burleson City Hall as well as at the regular council meeting on March 7.

If you want to vote in the May 2011 Burleson City Council election, you must be a resident of Burleson (you pay City taxes) and you must register to vote by April 14. Voter registration cards are available at city hall and the Burleson Public Library as well as through election offices in Tarrant County and Johnson County.

Early voting will be May 2-May 7 (Monday-Saturday), 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and May 9-10 (Monday-Tuesday), 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Election Day is Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. All voting takes place at Burleson City Hall, 141 W. Renfro St.

For more information, go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com, hover over Departments, then hover over City Secretary and click on Elections. You can also call the city secretary's office at 817-426-9660 or e-mail City Secretary Amanda McCrory at amccrory@burlesontx.com.