

MEET THE CANDIDATES

CITY/SCHOOL
ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER 5,
2019

Upcoming Elections

The upcoming City/School election will be held on Tuesday, November 5th from 7am-8pm. Voting location for Collins residents is at the Collins Area Community Center. There are 2 people running for Mayor and 3 people running to fill 2 open City Council positions. There is 1 person running for the Collins-Maxwell School Board.

In this “Meet The Candidate” sec-

tion of the newsletter, you will learn a little bit about each candidate.

You can check your voter registration status at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx> to make sure you are registered to vote in Collins.

If you are not yet registered to vote in Collins, you can register online at

<https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>.

Remember to take a form of identification with you when you head to the polls on November 5th.

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Brett Comegys



Running for: Mayor

Please introduce yourself.

My name is Brett Comegys. I am a long time resident of Collins and I live with my wife (Jenny), kids (Kaleb, Kelsey, and Sophie), dog (Jack) and cat (Lavon). I graduated from ISU and went on to earn my Master's Degree from Graceland University and an administrative license from Viterbo. When I was 18, I joined the Marines as an infantryman and served for 8 years. After a break in service, I joined the Army National Guard, and worked for 6 years as an Intelligence Analyst. Currently, I am working to build affordable housing in Collins and my wife and I took the risk of opening a small convenience store on our Main Street. When I can find a little spare time, I like to dabble in with art.

What made you decide to run for Collins public office?

There are a handful of reasons that I am running for re-election:

- For starters, I care about this town and the people that live here. I have invested a lot in this community and it is important to me to make sure Collins is around for a long time.
- We have several major initiatives that I helped to in-

roduce to Collins, such as TIF, that are very complicated and demand a special attention. I don't like to start things that I don't finish.

- There is a lot of positive things happening in our town with new housing, infrastructure repairs, Main Street revitalization, and economic development. I have helped to create this momentum and I don't want to see it get derailed.
- We have great employees, community groups, and participation in this town.
- Finally...when I was 18 years old, I joined the Marines. I did it because I wanted to protect people. Not all of us had a chance to serve, but I think we all have a duty to look after one another. That doesn't mean we always have to agree with one another, but it does mean we should still respect and value the people around us. Because this is important to me, I feel like I have an obligation to step forward and look out for those that can't look out for themselves, find ways to help others succeed, and to ensure that folks are protected against the kinds of people that are more driven by their own ambitions than the needs of those around them.

Why are you the right person for the job?

For nearly 8 years, I've been an energetic advocate for Collins. I've worked hard to bring in a lot of money to the town through grants and donations. I have helped introduce important reforms, capital improvement planning, and an overall vision to help our town become more viable. I am willing to stick my neck out there when I believe in something and I always do my best to make sure that Collins is represented in a positive and progressive light.

What is your vision for Collins?

Over the last eight years, we have come a long way. But we need to continue adding affordable (but quality) housing, revitalization efforts along our Main Street, infrastructure upgrades, and much more. If we continue along that path, we will attract more families and more investment. Even just a small amount of growth will help us pay down our lagoon debt, increase tax revenues, add amenities, and help guarantee that our town is around for generations to come.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

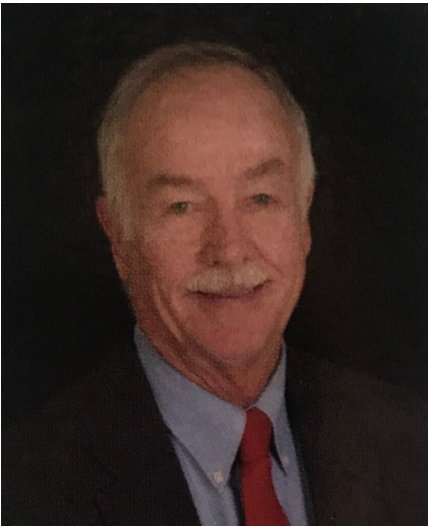
I would love to payoff the SRF loan we were forced to take out for our sewage lagoons. Doing so would automatically cut everyone's water bills by nearly \$35 a month. People would get some instant financial relief and the City would eliminate a lot of debt. At that point, if we want to spend money, it will be up to us... not because of the EPA or IDNR.

Final Thoughts:

I think we all have a responsibility to use the talents and gifts given to us by our creator in a way that betters the world around us. Personally, I have invested a lot into our towns success, and I do it because I believe in Collins. Our community is a great place to live. We have become the envy of rural Iowa and we have earned the right to be proud of where we have come. This has happened because all of the great people that live here. With your support I intend to help maintain the positive momentum that we all have worked so hard to create.

Thank you for your time and please get out to vote.

Greg Schlueter



Running for: Mayor

Please introduce yourself:

I am Greg Schlueter, 30 year resident, currently completing 6 years on the City Council. A member of the Story County Economic Development Group. Board Member of the Story County Trust Fund. Board Member of the Collins Wellness Center and a Board Member of the Collins United Methodist Church.

What made you decide to run for Collins public office?

After 6 years of being on the City Council and being involved in all phases of City functions, I believe I can do a much better job of running the City.

Why are you the right person for the job?

I have run many successful businesses the past 50 years, and since I am retired have plenty of time to devote to the City.

What is your vision for Collins?

Continue to encourage restoration of all properties and Main Street redevelopment. I would like to see annexation of surrounding areas for future.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

Pay off fire house bond. The rest for street improvements and infrastructure upgrades.

Final Thoughts....

The City is very fortunate to have been the receiver of the new Landus Facility. The city will be receiving enough increased property tax revenue to make a large impact on our infrastructure. I feel I can manage these projects very effectively. The mayor is a 2 year term. If you do not like the difference in Collins after 2 years, I will be glad to back the new individual at that time.

Staci Corbitt



Running for: City Council

Please introduce yourself:

I'm Staci Corbitt and I'm running for re-election to City Council. I have served for a year on City Council and would like to be re-elected for a four-year seat.

What made you decide to run for Collins public office?

I decided to run for City Council again because I want to bring change to the city and help build a community that communicates in positive ways in order to keep our homes and families safe.

Why are you the right person for the job?

I'm the right person for the job because I make informed decisions. If I don't know something, I take the initiative to find out. Also, I'm not afraid of change. In order for Collins to continue to grow, we need informed individuals who aren't afraid of change. I'm also very money conscious and support

the town's growth. Therefore, I support projects to improve the city as long as there's funding or a plan to obtain funding for it. During my time on City Council, I started the Collins Watch and Collins Watch Facebook group in order to keep our kids and properties safe. I communicate regularly with Officer Hamilton about City and resident concerns. Since communication about our town has opened up more these last few months, Story County has received and responded to less calls in Collins. I also developed the Community Center rental agreement in order to have reasonable rental prices and to secure the cleanliness of the CACC after each renter uses it. I'm currently working on getting motion-censored lights and cameras put up at the Trailside Park to ensure that equipment and facilities are around for generations to come.

What is your vision for Collins?

My vision is that we become a

close-knit community that works towards making Collins a safe, fun, and thriving community that people will want to start a family in.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

I think the \$1 million grant should be used to help fund the work that needs to be done in order to prevent the center of town from flooding every heavy rain we get. I think that this project is important in order to make families' homes and belongings a priority and also to those residents affected by the water from moving to other towns.

Final Thoughts....

The city has been making great progress under the current leadership, and I hope that progress will continue for many years to come!

Andrew Coree



Running for: City Council

Please introduce yourself:

My name is Andrew Coree. I have lived in Collins for roughly 14 years now. I am married to Sara Coree (the sweet lady at the library) who has been around Collins most of her life. We have 4 great kids ranging in age from 12-19 years old. I am an active member of Collins Fire and Rescue and have been on multiple community committees. I work in DSM as a 3rd shift Supervisor, over multiple departments, at DeeZee.

What made you decide to run for Collins public office?

What made me run for Collins public office was there was a lack of fresh faces on the council. I think a fresh set of eyes and ears would be a great asset to the community.

Why are you the right person for the job?

I don't know if I am "the right person for the job". I would like to think that I have all the right qualities that a great council person would have. I don't know that there is a "Right Person" for the job. That is what makes the council work, different people bringing different ideas together to plan for the betterment of the community.

What is your vision for Collins?

I want to see Collins thrive. I want to see new faces move into the community. I would love to hear the residents proudly saying that they are from Collins. There is definitely some work that needs to be done to make this a reality, but we are on our way. There are quite a few new businesses that are in town now that are helping draw outside people into town and that is great. I would like to see this continue to happen.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

I would canvas the community to find out what the residents feel are the big issues or what they would like to see be done in the town. This is all about the community and not just what I feel is best. The town people are the reason I am running for council so why wouldn't I ask them their thoughts. If I were to decide without asking the people, that would go against why I am running.

Stacy Howell



Running for: City Council

Please introduce yourself:

My name is Stacy Howell and I grew up in Collins. My parents are Jerry and Opal (Kloppenborg) Howell. After I graduated from Collins-Maxwell high school, I entered the Iowa National Guard which I served for 8 years and attained the rank of sergeant. Before starting work for the city of Des Moines, I was a volunteer firefighter for Pleasant Hill and Perry Volunteer Fire Departments, and I also worked for Dallas County EMS as a medic. I currently work for the City of Des Moines Fire Department as a Paramedic Firefighter/Engineer. I am stationed at Fire Station #9 and drive Truck 9 (one of 5 aerial apparatus). I have worked for the City of Des Moines for over 20 years. I recently moved back into Collins after I had the opportunity to purchase the house that I grew up in and have so many fond memories in the house and community.

What made you decide to run for Collins public office?

Last summer I asked my neighbor to run for council (Del Amsden), watching his involvement with the community, and his ideals inspired me to try and make a difference in the community that I grew up in and moved back to because I enjoy the small town life, my neighbors, and the quiet of a rural community. Running for city council is a step to try and help the community.

Why are you the right person for the job?

All the candidates running for council are the right people for the job, each of us have our own opinions and how we can help the city. At this time, I have no agenda for getting on the council, mostly because I don't know what the future projects that the city has planned. But I am passionate and want to do what is best for the city. Having worked for the City of Des Moines for 20 years I have a very good idea of how budgets work and the importance of projects to benefit the city and its people.

What is your vision for Collins?

My vision for Collins is to try and improve what is possible

with the budget that the city has to work with. There are several plans for improvement that the city is wanting to start in the next few years. Supporting improvements for the sewer system and roads, community businesses, and being a voice for the citizens of Collins.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

If the city of Collins were to receive a \$1 million grant that could be used, especially to an existing item. I would use it to pay down the lagoon loan. Thus giving every resident in the city of Collins a break on their water bills. Everything is increasing from water bills, electricity to our internet bills. Why not give the residents, some who have limited or restricted incomes a relief.

Final Thoughts....

Every individual running for council is fully capable of doing a very good job as a council member. We all are unique and have qualities about us that will benefit the citizens of Collins. It is truly up to the citizens of Collins to decide who they think will do the best job.

Dawn Pasquariello



Running for: School Board

Please introduce yourself:

Hi, My name is Dawn Pasquariello and I have lived in Collins IA for 16 years now. I'm married to Nick Pasquariello, and we have three daughters Olivia, Emma & Ava Pasquariello that attend Collins- Maxwell schools. I'm sure you have all seen me walking our yellow lab Trice around town, or should I say he walks me around!

What made you decide to run for School Board?

I like the path that Collins Maxwell schools has gone down over the last few years, and want to help make sure we stay on this course. With one daughter in her last year of high school and two having several years left it would be a good opportunity for me to become more involved with the school.

Why are you the right person for the job?

Why are you the right person for the job? Being on the school board would be a new role for me and I feel I'm the right person for this job because I'm a strong individual who is not afraid to voice her opinion and concerns and want to see the school succeed for many years to come.

What is your vision for the Collins-Maxwell Community School District?

Over the last few years we have seen so much improvement within the school district, and my hope is that we continue to grow and stay on this track with developing the students to become successful & independent adults. Since the end of the sports sharing agreement and the amazing work to re-brand ourselves as the Spartans, I feel the district has enjoyed a re-

newed sense of pride not only in athletics, but scholastically as well. I believe that this is the key to building a district that can not only survive, but thrive in the future.

If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the school any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

I would invest in two areas: 1. Expand college credit courses and increase offerings in vocational / technical areas. Both would greatly impact the lives of students and families whether a student chooses higher education or entering the workforce in a skilled trade.

Final Thoughts....

Looking back to 16 years ago when we were looking for a place to call home for our family I'm glad we chose Collins and proud of our school district Collins Maxwell.