

Newcomer challenges Taylor in Ward 2

By Justin Sayers

The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone will hold a special election on Nov. 5 on a move to recall a city councilman criticized by a rival of not serving his constituents well.

Ward 2 Councilman Donald Taylor has missed monthly meetings, been tendentious in discussions with fellow councilmembers and been inaccessible to the community since he took over as councilman in November, according to Robert Carroll, who led the recall and wants to take his place on the council.

According to the ballot, Carroll's grounds for recalling Taylor are: "Mr. Taylor appears to be representing only his special interests. During the past six months it does not appear that he's representing his constituents and instead went into office with his own agenda.



Robert Carroll



Donald Taylor

He argues rather than find common ground and this is not a manner in which a public servant should act nor in which I wish to be represented. Mr. Taylor has not shown any interest in doing what is best for the city of Tombstone."

Taylor wouldn't answer questions from The Epitaph about the move to throw him out of office, and instead issued a statement refuting Carroll's charges: "I have

no special interests other than the welfare of the businesses and residents of Ward 2 and Tombstone as a whole," the statement said. In a different statement, he cited the creation of the City of Tombstone Volunteer Program, the push to make the town a Certified Local Government and his work with the city financial advisor to develop new revenue sources as examples of his work as councilman.

Carroll, an Army veteran who moved to Tombstone six years ago, said that he was able to get the 30 signatures required for the recall petition in about three days. He also said that he was able to get the first 15 in about half an hour.

"The thing that bothers me is that the people that I talk to, they don't even see (Councilman Taylor)," said Carroll, who will be the only challenger to Taylor in the special election.

Taylor responded by saying that

he visits the ward and downtown frequently. He said that he has spoken with members of the district and that his focus is on Ward 2.

Carroll said that he was influenced by many Tombstone residents to run in the recall election. "I just figured maybe I can make a difference," he said. "I want to be there for the people in Ward 2. I'm not doing this stuff for me."

He also said that he believes he has support from members of the town's government.

"I talked to the Mayor, I talked to a few of the councilpeople that I know there and they told me on more than one occasion that 'We hope you get it,'" Carroll said.

In a phone interview, Schmidt said that he was not taking sides.

If elected, Carroll said that he'd like to find ways to better promote the town, while also serving as a re-

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source to residents.

"When it comes down to it, you've got two ears and one mouth, so it's better to listen than talk sometimes," he said.

Carroll said that he began campaigning by putting signs up around the district and going door-to-door to talk to residents.

"If they've got an idea, I'm

going to carry a pen and a piece of paper with me," he said. "That way I can say, 'If you have an idea, write it down and I'll see what I can do'."

Carroll said that he walks the roughly two-mile area and has yet to see any campaign signs of Taylor's.

Taylor's written statement said: "I received my sample ballot in the mail this week and I was rather surprised to read Robert Carroll's 'Grounds for Recall.' I have

no special interests other than the welfare of the businesses and residents of Ward 2 and Tombstone as a whole. My only agenda is to represent the people of Ward 2 and to ensure the city becomes financially stable again," he said while stating that there is still a lot of work to do.

"I am currently working with the mayor and other council members on a plan to accomplish this goal. The ideas and projects I am working on allow us as a commu-

nity to benefit from them in both the long and short term. We have many areas to improve and 'Band-Aids' only postpone the difficult decisions. I am concentrating on getting it right the first time so no one else has to clean up after me. Ward 2 is moving in the right direction again," the statement said.

While Carroll acknowledged that Taylor has done a lot for the town, he says that it doesn't mean a lot to the people he's representing if they

never see him.

"If I do get this thing, I'm going to be there for the folks," Carroll said.

The election will cost Tombstone roughly \$3,500, according to City Clerk Brenda Ikirt. There are five members of the council, which consists of one representative from each ward and the mayor. The job is considered an appointed position and pays \$150 a month for councilman and \$250 per month for the mayor.