

CHESTERFIELD COUNCILWOMAN AND FORMER MAYOR NANCY GREENWOOD DIES



By John Hoffmann

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GREENWOOD DIES: By the time our regular weekly newsletter is posted Nancy's funeral will be over. But it is not too late for even a newcomer like me to Chesterfield politics to appreciate how important Nancy was to the process and how lucky the residents were to have her in office. Nancy died Friday morning September 18.

Nancy had a thick skin and did not appear to hold grudges like a number of her colleagues have shown a propensity to do. Mayor Bob Nation vetoed her bill to add two more police officers to area elementary schools as school resource officers, citing the bill did not go through either the Police Committee or the Finance and Administration Committee. She got the votes to override the veto, but did not end up hating Nation. That is not true of other members of the City Council who saw vetoes due to budget concerns by Nation.



Nancy was tough on issues especially issues involving neighborhoods, spending or giving carte blanche to developers to ignore the city's tree policy and deforest parcels of land for subdivisions. It would be nice if the councilpersons who routinely give developers whatever they want try a save a few trees in the next year in honor of Nancy Greenwood.

However as tough as Nancy was she could also put a smile on your face and gain a chuckle on the first try unlike her fellow councilmen Dan Hurt and Mike Casey who often need four or five bad jokes to get the genuine laugh.

After being on the council Nancy was elected mayor in 1997 grabbing almost 75-percent of the vote. She served one-four year term. She was replaced by lawyer John Nations who ran unopposed in 2001.

After an absence from office for 12 years Nancy was elected to the council from Ward 1 to the council in 2013 with 69-percent of the vote. She replaced Matt Segal who was closely tied to developers. Segal was running for mayor and was defeated by Bob Nation. One of Nancy's two opponents was endorsed by four other councilpersons who were also backing Segal.



Greenwood after 2013 swearing in. Nancy with Dan Hurt at an agenda meeting prior to a July 2013 Council Meeting.

In the summer of 2014 Nancy confided in me that the reason she was missing some meetings was she was being treated for cancer. Some of the treatments were out of town and others were leaving her too tired to attend meetings. She asked that I not

publicize she had cancer but she wanted me to know why she was absent from some committee meetings. By the end of the year she told me her cancer was completely in remission and she was feeling great. She ran like someone in her 40s and not in her 70s when she ran for reelection against two more candidates in the April 2015 elections. This time she carried 73-percent of the vote.



Nancy at a December 2014 Planning and Public Works Committee with people from the River Bend Subdivision in the room over the road closure issue. Nancy being sworn in for another term in April of 2015.



Nancy being chagrined over a face made by fellow Ward 1 Councilman Barry Flachsbart to a comment from another councilperson at the May 4, 2015 Council meeting.



Nancy before her next to last Council meeting on July 20.



Nancy before her last Council meeting on August 3.

After Nancy missed two consecutive council meetings, I quietly inquired if she was having health issues again. I was told she was. After she missed her third meeting, I learned that the cancer had returned. When she missed two committee meetings last week I learned that she would not be able to attend any more meetings.

From her last City Council Meeting it was a matter of six weeks before Nancy was gone. I have to say this as an outside observer, the residents of Ward 1 and the entire City of Chesterfield got their money's worth from Nancy Greenwood and then some. They might be wise to include a thank you in their prayers.