

In dark over latest appointment

No clear favorite among 6 vying for council job

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selected. One person receiving two votes and two other candidates getting a single vote each wouldn't win appointment, he said.

"You'd have to have a majority on the council," Bennett said. "I'd have to be 4-0 or 3-1 to be selected."

NO CLEAR FAVORITE emerges in

talking to councilmen about who they favor for selection. Yoder supports the elder Tupper for the job but doubts whether he has council support for the appointment.

Bennett says he is torn between endorsing Washburn and Mosshamer.

"To tell you the honest truth I happen to respect highly John Washburn's ability," Bennett said, "and I realize I'm talking out of both sides of my

mouth but I'd really like to see a woman on the council for the first time."

However, Bennett added, he finds "positive feelings" in all six candidates.

Earlier this month Councilman William Hartsock said there was no consensus by council members on any one candidate.

"I don't think any two of us have come to any conclusions yet," Hartsock said at the time.

Council members refused to interview candidates for appointment in public session saying the process might embarrass potential candidates for the job. Bennett said council members must "be sensitive" Monday night in debating the appointment to avoid hurting the feelings of candidates who aren't picked.

"The way I see it," Yoder said, "come Monday night I'm going to pro-

pose Joe Blow. You probably already know who that is. I'll propose Bayard Tupper and somebody will propose somebody else. Through the process of elimination we'll select somebody. If each guy proposes somebody else, it won't work. Somebody's going to have to give."

NO BEHIND-DOOR negotiations or telephonic arm-twisting has taken place so far in the evaluation process,

say Bennett and Yoder. All council members say they haven't violated provisions of the Open Meetings Act but resist efforts to open up the review process to public hearings where candidates could be interviewed and their qualifications openly discussed.

The name of the appointee won't be known by council members themselves, Bennett and Yoder maintain, until they vote Monday night.

Jazz shrine continues under local man's helm

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"HE (BAKER) WILL CONTINUE TO BOOK local acts through the next few months, and for the fall we're trying to line up some national acts," Pukoff said.

In a money-saving move, Baker's began featuring only local entertainment last October. National names had been playing to half-empty houses.

Pukoff plans to keep cover charges at \$2 for local acts and at \$7.50 for national acts despite the fact that "national acts have gone sky high."

"You can only book so many a year. You can't have the national names week in and week out," he said.

"It's impossible today. I'd say three to four a year would be reasonable."

The advent of outdoor theaters such as Pine Knob and large concert halls have presented another major stumbling block in the booking of big names.

"George Benson makes \$100,000 a night at Pine Knob. Here, at \$7.50 a head, 125 seats with two shows, he'd clear close to \$2,000," said Pukoff.

The attraction for musicians remains, however.

Appearances at Baker's have helped launch the careers of several nationally known musicians, including Detroit guitarist/composer Earl Klugh.

"Earl played here when he was about 16 — he sat in here," Pukoff said.

"Jazz musicians all want the name and want to say 'I've appeared at Baker's.' It's the oldest jazz club in the world."

PUKOFF PREDICTS a bright future for Baker's despite the ailing economy.

"We haven't been sold out, but we're averaging decently. Three weeks ago, you couldn't get in the door. We get all ages in here — 21-year-olds sit next to old men," said Pukoff, who plans to wage an all-out advertising campaign.

"I feel there's the potential. You had your bigger clubs like the Roostertail going right down and out of business. In a big club with 1,000 people, you can't

see the performer.

"Entertainment here is like what you saw 30 years ago. People are always coming in from out of town and coming to Baker's because they've heard about it."

Pukoff intends to "follow in the footsteps of Mr. Baker."

"That means being a host here every night — keeping something Mr. Baker had. This is a unique, one-of-a-kind place."

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