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**Mayor of Greenfield**



***Gilmour to run for Mayor***

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**Greenfield City Councilor Sheila Gilmour.**

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Published: 3/7/2019

GREENFIELD — Precinct 6 City Councilor Sheila Gilmour says she intends to run for mayor, becoming the third person aiming to replace incumbent William Martin, who is stepping down.

Gilmour enters the field in the middle of her first term as a city councilor.  Gilmour is vice president of her union at the University of Massachusetts, where she works in the registrar’s office, and is a part-time political organizer for the Massachusetts Teachers Association. She served 8½ years in the military.

Also planning to run in the November town election are Precinct 3 City Councilor Brickett Allis, who has served as an elected city official for 18 years, and former 14-year Greenfield Planning Board Chairwoman RoxannWedegartner.

While the three have announced their candidacies, and two have filed paperwork with the state’s Office of Campaign and Political Finance, paperwork in Greenfield City Clerk’s Office that all need to run officially will not be available until next month.

The winner of this race will become the city’s third mayor, following Martin’s 10 years on the job. The four-year term will begin in 2020.

If all three follow through on their intentions, it will require a primary election earlier in the fall. The Clerk’s Office expects the primary in September with the general election in November. The top two vote-getters advance to the November general election, in which the city will also vote to fill six of the 13 City Council seats this year, most of which are currently held by councilors who tend to vote as fiscal conservatives.

Gilmour plans to run on a three-prong platform prioritizing infrastructure, economic development and restoring trust in city employees.

She wants to shift the city’s focus to fixing and getting into compliance the wastewater treatment plant and to addressing other issues like uneven sidewalks.

“The little, basic things — they’re not exciting, they’re not sexy, but they’re basic needs we need to take care of,” Gilmour said. “Hopefully the library goes through next week and we can start worrying about these types of things,” she said, referring to a contentious proposal before the council to borrow as much as $10 million toward a new $19.3 million library.

Gilmour said the city’s “employees are not always treated with the most respect,” and that needs to change, which is a point Allis has made a part of his platform as well. The council voted “no confidence” in Martin this summer, accusing him of being a bully and pointing to the perceived abrupt firing of the city’s then-Finance Director Elizabeth Braccia, who has filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

The councilor also hopes to spur “creative solutions to economic development” as mayor. Gilmour said she wants to continue to expand GCET, the quasi-public municipal internet service. She also wants to stop belaboring issues like bringing more gas stations, fast food and retail to Greenfield.

 “I really want to shift the focus away from people talking about retail. We’re getting left behind,” Gilmour said. “We need to be focused on tomorrow.”

Gilmour said she hopes people focus on her voting record and issues she has stood for, like being on the picket line with striking Baystate Franklin Medical Center nurses and pushing for a plastic bag ban.

She said she originally thought about announcing her candidacy at the end of 2018, but with the ongoing discourse over a new public library and then the introduction of zoning changes, it diverted her attention.

“I have a good handle on that now and can turn my attention,” Gilmour said.

Gilmour has three children in the Greenfield public schools, two in high school and one in middle school. She and her husband moved to the city seven years ago when they bought a house here.

Gilmour plans to make her formal announcement on March 14 at 6 p.m. on the Greenfield Common.