

The Oregonian

With re-election bid gone, what can Charlie Hales accomplish?

By Andrew Theen

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Charlie Hales is a free agent.

Instead of running for re-election, Hales said Monday that he's ready to tackle affordable housing, homelessness, gang violence and the city's blueprint for the next 20 years of growth.

He didn't provide many details Monday, and he and his spokesman declined to provide more information Tuesday.

But current and former City Hall staffers agreed that Hales now has more room to get things done, and can look to his last two predecessors, Sam Adams and Tom Potter, for models of successes and failures.

"You can really break through some of the walls that people put up because people say, 'It's just politics as usual,'" said Austin Raglione, Potter's former chief of staff.

Susan Anderson, director of the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability who's been in city government for two decades, said Hales still has credibility and can now be bolder. "You can take some chances," she said.

Commissioner Nick Fish said Hales could look to Adams, who followed his July 2011 decision to not run with a "burst of productive energy."

In his last year in office, Adams proposed a budget that included a more than \$7 million bailout for Portland public schools. He also conceived of the Arts Tax, expelled Occupy Portland demonstrators from downtown parks, and created a new urban renewal district, though Hales disbanded it.

On the other hand, Adams wasn't able to push through a renovation of Veterans Memorial Coliseum, though, or a plan to build a \$62 million Sustainability Center. He didn't respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Fish said the last three years under Hales have been a "bit of a roller coaster," citing strained relationships after Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick tried unsuccessfully last year to come up with a street-funding plan.

"We can have a very productive year next year, and by the way, the people expect us to do that," Fish said.

Raglione said once Potter decided in September 2007 not to run, the staff got to work. "The first thing we did was put together a 17-month calendar," she said, with a list of Potter's top priorities.

"He did quite a few of them," Raglione said, citing the formation of commissions on equity and disability and enactment of the controversial sit-lie ordinance. That law, which outlaws sitting or laying down on sidewalks, was overturned by a court ruling in 2009.

Potter, reached at his home Tuesday, declined an interview request.

But Potter also showed his frustration. During an October 2007 City Council hearing on his plan to rename North Interstate Avenue after Cesar Chavez, he handed the gavel to then-candidate Sam Adams, said, "I am irrelevant" and stormed out.

The next March, Potter endorsed Adams' opponent, Portland businessman Sho Dozono. After Adams won office in the May primary, Raglione said that created an unusual "joint mayorship." "They generally really had the best interest of the city at heart," she said of Potter and Adams, recalling the 2008 Grand Floral Rose Parade where the two politicians walked side-by-side and received cheers.

For now, Hales said stopping the campaign gives him time to focus on all the major issues facing Portland during a "watershed time in the history of the city."

Hales, who also worked for more than 20 years in the private sector, also said he's looking forward to life after the 14 remaining months in City Hall. "I've never believed that the only life is the political life," Hales said.

Willamette Week

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales Sails Away From a Re-election Campaign He'd Barely Started

*By Beth Slovic
October 28, 2015*

Charlie Hales knew he wasn't keeping his hold on the Portland mayor's office. But even as he prepared to walk away, Hales wasn't just going to let challenger Ted Wheeler waltz into City Hall.

On the weekend before Hales stunned Portland supporters and colleagues by ending his re-election bid Oct. 26, he talked with Multnomah County chief operating officer Marissa Madrigal. He encouraged Madrigal to run against Wheeler, the state treasurer whose candidacy for mayor has upended—and probably finished—Hales' political career.

That meeting shows Hales was fighting to shape the city even as he retreated from the 2016 race. It was another maneuver from a mayor who for the past two months seemed both reinvigorated and panicked by Wheeler's challenge. He seemed, at times, like the mayor Portlanders had hoped they'd elected three years ago.

But the flurry of action was too little, too late.

In a shockingly swift reversal, Hales had gone from an unchallenged incumbent to the object of scrutiny from Wheeler and the press, who said he was too close to developers and big companies like Uber, too far from Portlanders struggling to pay rising rents, and too eager to change his mind when hit with criticism.

Even Hales' longtime enemies feel his pain.

"He and I never really hit it off," says former City Commissioner Randy Leonard, "but I have to tell you that in spite of that, I felt some sympathy. It just got to the point where the guy couldn't turn around without getting kicked."

The long odds against Hales became clear two months ago.

Pollsters found a puzzling divergence: The electorate thought the city was moving in the right direction but thought Hales was not.

"If I didn't know anything about this mayor and saw 'right direction' indicators where they are...that sounds like a recipe for re-election to me," says John Horvick, political director for DHM Research.

But Hales faced several obstacles to re-election.

His closest supporters were real-estate developers—at a moment when developers were as popular as used-car salesmen—and his political consultant, Mark Wiener, was being scrutinized for lobbying for Uber.

Wheeler scored early endorsements from the three previous mayors—Sam Adams, Tom Potter and Vera Katz. And Hales' fundraising was drying up: Since Sept. 1, he raised only \$34,000, about one-third of Wheeler's total during the same period.

But Wheeler's entry into the race Sept. 9 energized Hales, inspiring him to propose the kind of bold fixes his supporters in 2012 expected.

When Wheeler made housing an issue, Hales declared an emergency. When Wheeler criticized housing demolitions, Hales quickly hatched a "tear-down tax."

Hales filled the calendar with new proclamations, announcing Hip-Hop Day and Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day and renaming Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day. He promised local public employee unions he would seek \$15-an-hour wages for the city's hundreds of seasonal workers.

Poked by Wheeler, Hales finally took a clear position on the controversial street fee, calling for a gas tax vote next May. He sought \$500,000 to expedite hiring new police—a clear response to Wheeler's interest in hiring 700 new officers.

This week, the City Council is scheduled to vote on yet another recent Hales initiative, nearly doubling city spending on housing.

Wheeler brought Hales to life. But it was too late. The mayor shifted into action so rapidly on so many issues that his behavior often looked panicked.

Leonard says he first noticed Hales' frantic activity in May, when he reversed his support for a propane terminal proposed by Canadian energy company Pembina.

"It felt like a series of almost desperation moves," says Leonard, "and Ted wasn't even considered to be a potential candidate at that time. It just seemed like [Hales] was trying to ingratiate himself to different groups of voters and that it wasn't sincere."

Hales' biggest supporters sensed the mayor secretly wanted out.

"I know that what he has really wanted to do is go sailing with his wonderful wife," says developer John Russell. "He has a fabulous boat that is capable of going around the world."

Hales' concession to Wheeler might seem hasty. But he's shown willingness to walk away before—he abruptly left his city commissioner's post in 2002 in the middle of his third term.

On Oct. 26, Hales said he decided not to run so he could focus his full attention on governing. He expressed hope that somebody else would jump in the race.

"He could have waited until much later," says Joe Baessler, political director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "I think there's somebody else out there waiting to step into the race, and I think Charlie Hales knows who it is."

Hales' statement Monday supported that notion.

"The filing deadline is still over four months away, and I hope and expect that several qualified candidates will seek the office of mayor," Hales said in the statement. "There are some dynamic new leaders in our community, and I'm excited to see who steps up."

By then, he had already contacted Madrigal, who served as interim county chair after Jeff Cogen's 2013 resignation and had earlier considered running for the City Council next year.

Madrigal did not respond to WW's requests for comment by press deadlines.

She's one of three women whom political insiders see as best positioned to run against Wheeler. Multnomah County Chairwoman Deborah Kafoury is strong on housing; House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) enjoys sturdy labor support. Neither has expressed any interest in running.

Observers say Hales did the city a final favor by conceding before a bruising race even started.

"The left lane is wide open," says longtime lobbyist Len Bergstein. "Somebody with progressive credentials could run to Wheeler's left and make it an interesting race."

The Portland Mercury

Portland Police Lieutenants Are Letting Go Of The Controversial "48-Hour Rule." Will Their Underlings Follow Suit?

*By Dirk VanderHart
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One of the more controversial protections Portland cops get in their union contracts is about to be a moot point for the police bureau's highest-ranked organized workers.

City Council on Wednesday is scheduled to vote on a revised contract with the Portland Police Commanding Officers Association, which represents the city's police lieutenants.

Among tweaks that increase members' pay and reward them for living in city limit is a potentially more meaningful change—one that might be a far bigger deal when the city takes up negotiations with the city's rank-and-file police union, the Portland Police Association, in 2017: The lieutenants are foregoing the standard 48 hours' notice offered up before they're asked to give an initial interview as part of an internal police investigation.

This so-called "48-hour" rule has been a central sticking point in Portland's quest to reform the police bureau. Though a settlement the city reached with the US Department of Justice in 2014 can't change collective bargaining agreements the city has struck with police unions, federal justice officials and the judge overseeing the settlement have repeatedly taken issue with the 48-hour rule, which is uniformly extended to police officers who've just shot or killed a suspect, and allows them time to confer with union lawyers.

The rule is less of a concern for police lieutenants, who aren't frequently on the front lines making arrests. But "it was still an issue," in contract negotiations, City of Portland Human Resources Director Anna Kanwit tells the Mercury. "It wasn't something where they just said 'no problem,' but they're not involved in as many [investigations]."

The verbiage of the 48-hour rule presents an interesting issue for internal affairs investigators. By Kanwit's reading of the rule, internal affairs never actually has to give 48 hours' notice to cops involved in use of force incidents. That's because the rule states the 48 hours should only be extended "when criminal culpability is not at issue," and an officer who uses force could always potentially face a criminal charge.

The City Attorney's Office has a similar take on the rule. According to the Oregonian, Deputy City Attorney Ellen Osoinach recently told US District Judge Michael Simon—who's overseeing the city/DOJ settlement—that "the rule doesn't hamper the city from requiring officers who use force to give immediate statements."

So does the police bureau ever actually forego the 48-hour rule when it's investigating cops who use force? Not to Kanwit's knowledge.

"I don't believe the bureau has done that," she says. "If they have, it's rare."

Mayor Charlie Hales, by the way, endorsed doing away with the 48-hour rule for rank-and-file cops when he was running for office in 2012. With Tuesday's announcement that he's done after this term, another mayor will likely be minding the shop before the next contract is hammered out.