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After seven years, there's a new Mayor Pro Tem in town.

Dan McClendon, Place 5 councilmember, was unanimously elected Mayor Pro Tem at the July 7 Burleson City Council meeting. He replaces Stuart Gillaspie, who has served in that role since the May 2007 City elections.

McClendon was sworn in to his Place 5 seat in May 2007. He also serves as president of the Burleson Type 4A Economic Development Corporation and chairs the Infrastructure and Development committee. He is the owner of McClendon Construction Company, which he founded in 1990 in Burleson. His company performs municipal street reconstruction.

McClendon has lived in the Burleson area since 1977. He and his wife Mary Lynn share four children and one grandson. The new mayor pro tem grew up in Powell, Texas, then earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from North Texas State University. He is a member pilot and contributor of Angel Flight. Angel Flight is a non-profit charitable organization of pilots, volunteers and friends who arrange free air transportation for any legitimate, charitable, medically related non-emergency need.

Gillaspie has been an active part of City government for almost 23 years, serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission for just shy of seven years - starting in 1992 - then was elected to city council in 1999.

According to the City's home rule charter, a mayor pro tem will act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor and, if a vacancy occurs in the mayor's position, the mayor pro tem will become mayor until the next general election.

The mayor presides at meetings of the city council and, except in cases of conflict of interest, must vote on all items voted on by the council, but the mayor has no veto power. The mayor is the recognized head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law, but the mayor has no regular administrative duties.

To see all of the profiles of current city council members, go to www.burlesontx.com/council.