Barnett, Ashland debate civic center proposal

A proposal to raise city sales taxes to support a civic center complex was made last Thursday night when candidates for the city council raised questions as to the likelihood of the project.

During the debate were Frank Barnett, candidate for Mayor; Winifred McConnell, another candidate; and Mayor John Nelson. The discussion centered around the estimated cost of the complex, as opposed to the estimated figure of $1,000,000 for land acquisition and building costs. The debate came at a candidate's meeting organized by the Young Women's Christian Association.

The debate centered on the estimated cost of the complex, which Barnett said could be as high as $1,000,000. McConnell, on the other hand, estimated the cost could be as low as $500,000. Both candidates agreed that a civic center would be a benefit to the city, but Barnett argued that the project was too risky without a guarantee of funding.

Barnett challenged McConnell's estimate of the cost. He said that the city could save money by using existing buildings and facilities. McConnell, on the other hand, argued that the city would need to acquire new land and buildings to make the project feasible.

The candidates also discussed the need for a civic center. Barnett argued that the center would be a benefit to the city, providing a place for social gatherings and cultural events. McConnell, however, argued that the project was too risky and that the city should focus on more pressing issues.

In conclusion, the debate highlighted the differences in opinion among the candidates. While both Barnett and McConnell agreed on the need for a civic center, they differed on the feasibility and cost of the project.