

Jackson to seek 2nd term, shun 'old ways'

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HAMDEN - Mayor Scott D. Jackson on Thursday revealed his intention to seek a second term, and four hours later met with constituents about what's going on in town.

"The old ways of doing things are done.

They're just done," Jackson said during an afternoon press conference announcing his candidacy at the M. L. Keefe Community Center. "We can't afford to continue to perpetuate ideas that have had their day." In the evening, the meeting with 120 people at Thornton Wilder Hall of Miller Library included leaders of civic associations, elected officials and residents.

For almost two hours, the mayor addressed questions dealing with the 2011-12 town and state budgets, the town health care and pension plans; recycling, trash and energy efficiency; traffic calming, public works operations and snow removal; regionalization; and why some houses aren't always getting their mail.

In response to a Lane Street resident who hasn't gotten his mail since the recent snowfall and didn't get a letter saying that service would be discontinued, Jackson said that was unacceptable and that he would discuss the problem today with U. S. Rep. Rosa L.

DeLauro, D-3.

Jackson said that government is "transforming" as a result of the lack of money.

"We have to contemplate new ways of doing business," he said. "This provides opportunities to throw everything on the table." Later, a Todd Street resident asked him what he had in mind in terms of service efficiencies and collaborating with other communities.

Jackson said that his administration and the school board are cooperating more than ever. But more efficiencies need to be achieved before he looks at

regionalization.

Beyond that, collaborations need to be looked at individually. He mentioned his work with North Haven on a regional animal shelter.

He said as a member of several regional groups, he often shares ideas with other leaders.

Jackson said that budgets get tougher and tougher. In response to a question, he said that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy on Wednesday said that Hamden's state aid would remain at about \$30 million, but the budget would have to be further analyzed to determine how the town would be affected by other potential cuts.

Because state funding will be level, Hamden would actually receive a few hundred thousand dollars more from the state as a result of Quinnipiac University's continued expansion and the CT Transit bus terminal that opened on State Street.

Jackson said that in the last year, negotiations to pass the transfer station to a private company, Trash Master, have gone slower than he expected, but should conclude soon. He also said that he hasn't moved on traffic calming as quickly as planned, but that \$40,000 for speed humps will soon be in place.

Jackson opened the forum by telling residents about the fire early Thursday that killed a Grandview Avenue man who was looking for his family that had already escaped the fire.

"I urge everyone to have an emergency plan; know where you're going to meet. Have a plan and practice it," Jackson said.

Caption:

Mara Lavitt/ Register **Hamden** Mayor Scott D. Jackson holds a community forum Thursday at the Miller Library to get residents' input on the budget and other community concerns.