Three Class D felonies were filed against Austin Mayor Douglas Campbell and a city employee, Terry Danner, in Scott Superior Court on Wednesday afternoon, May 1.

The separate cases were filed by Special Prosecutor Barry Brown of Bloomington in the early afternoon, charging Campbell and Danner, the city's Street Superintendent, with two counts each of vote fraud and one charge each of conspiracy.

According to paperwork filed with the court, each man is accused of having taken the primary election absentee ballots of Austin residents Mable Jackson and Jerry Jackson last April, 2011, from the couple. According to earlier statements made by the Jacksons, the Mayor and Danner promised to mail the completed, sealed ballots for them.

The third count of conspiracy is based upon the Mayor and Danner having "...agreed with each other to engage in conduct which constitutes vote fraud...by agreeing to retrieve completed absentee ballots prepared by registered Scott County voters..."

According to Indiana state election laws, the voter receiving an absentee ballot is responsible for filling it out, signing it, sealing the envelope and mailing it back to the proper county clerk's office for tabulation.

Mayor Campbell was running for re-nomination as the Democrat Party's candidate in that 2010 spring primary election. He won the re-nomination by a healthy margin over his Democrat opponent, Brandon Glenn White. He then won the fall election last November and began his second four-year term on January.

The complaint on which the criminal charges are based was filed by 13 individuals on May 2, 2011, just before that primary election. Two of those who signed the complaint and request for an investigation were immediate family members of the defeated White.

Having been advised that the charges were to be filed on Wednesday, Mayor Campbell and Danner surrendered at the Scott County Security Center across the street from the Courthouse in downtown Scottsburg. They then attended initial hearings conducted in Superior Court by Senior Judge Nicholas South, entered not guilty pleas and were each assigned pre-trial dates of July 2 and jury trial dates of July 24. Mayor Campbell was represented during the proceedings by attorney Kathleen Sweeney. Danner's attorney is Michael Krupp.

Their individual bonds were set at $2,500 corporate surety or 10% cash. Each man posted cash bonds of $250 and was released on their own recognizance until their jury trials are conducted.