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February 6, 2022

Subject: Town of Waynesville Aldermen stifling Public Comment at Public Meetings. What's Next?

Three (3) citizens offered Public Comment at the Regular Meeting of the Town of Waynesville on 1/25/2022. The meeting was recorded, and the recording of that meeting was obtained through a Request for Public Information. The link is shown here and also posted on www.haywoodtp.net.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yzf3OsWjHb5GPmC8YHxw7_JPI1AKWwER/view?usp=sharing

The agenda packet for the upcoming meeting next Tuesday was again obtained through a Request for Public Information. From Eddie Ward: “... [the agenda packet for the upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting which will be held on Tuesday February 8, 2022. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Board Room located at 9 South Main Street Waynesville, beginning at 6:00 pm. ...](#)”

This packet contains the minutes to be approved from the previous meeting on 1/25/2022. The following is lifted from that packet, and summarizes the content of the public comment by the three (3) citizens.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments were made by:

Lisa Overhultz concerning the pre-trial release program and Judge Letz.

Erich Overhultz concerning incident that happened on Russ Avenue involving Lt Chris Chandler and Detective Sam Holland.

A motion was made by Alderman Jon Feichter, seconded by Alderman Chuck Dickson, to allow Ms. Sherry Morgan to speak for 6 minutes instead of the 3 minutes normally allowed. The motion passed unanimously.

Sherry Morgan concerning the Whistleblower Policy and funding for Helping Hands.

This looks to me like the individual that created this set of minutes got some direction from someone who did not want to include those comments to wind up in the official minutes. If this keeps happening, posting recordings and agenda packets will become a regular occurrence, that is, until these meetings are live-streamed.

You are welcome to listen to the audio of this meeting, by going to the link above, to listen to the actual public comments.

The following is the text of one of the individuals, Sherry Morgan. You can listen to the audio recording and read along.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
Haywood County Taxpayer

LetsGoBrandon

[**Editors Note:** The following is the text of Sherry Morgan’s Public Comment at the 1/25/2022 Board of Aldermen meeting on 1/25/2022.]

I’m a retired bank Vice President and I’m glad to see the Whistleblower Policy has DRAFT written on it because it needs some work before you make your Town of Waynesville employees try to designate what they’re supposed to be blowing the whistle about. The policy states, “such violations may include, incorrect financial reporting, unlawful activity, creating or ignoring safety hazards, activities not in compliance with Town policy, misuse of Town property, and activities amounting to serious improper conduct”. That description is way too ambiguous and broad. The Definitions in this draft explains unlawful activity, serious improper conduct, fraud, waste, and abuse but you don’t define what creating or ignoring safety hazards might be or misuse of Town property serious enough for a whistleblower to report. Activities not in compliance with the Town policy manual can range from minor offences handled with a warning from the department head to dismissal. For example, if you walk under a ladder you’ve created a safety hazard and if you have a tattletale in your department it will get reported. If you don’t explain the reason for having a Whistleblower Policy, is to protect the person who exposes illegal, dishonest, dangerous, or fraudulent practices you’ll create a hostile work environment and possible lawsuits when someone is accused of something they didn’t intentionally do or they interpreted the personnel policy manual differently, especially the chapter in the Personal Policy Manual about not bringing politics into the work place. Citizens are still waiting to discover who signed the very partisan Dogwood Trust Draft document that was released from the City Manager’s office a few months ago. Is that the type of thing we should be blowing the whistle on?

At the last meeting I voiced concerns about Helping Hands giving Town of Waynesville money to the Our Place “All Cops are Bastards” Motel. Both of these non-profits are members of the Socialist Down Home group backed by the Marxist National group People’s Action. Nicole Kott is another Socialist Social Worker, sponsored by Asheville’s Socialist groups, with a goal of building low barrier, no rules shelters, increasing transient vagrants, enabling them with crack kits and needles, just like how Beloved Asheville has destroyed Buncombe County and Asheville. Their transients and vagrants have doubled and also their crime. Even the Asheville City Council is desperate to figure out how to stop the madness over there. The Socialist plan is no police, no jail, pre-trial release programs, make all drugs legal to create a crisis so government can solve it, to bring about Socialism, like Hugo Chavez did in Venezuela The City of Asheville is down 100 police officers and the Town of Waynesville is down eight, because of the humiliation these Socialist have given our wonderful Police family. Kim’s Pharmacy was broken into and all their narcotics were stolen. Our crime is increasing. What can this board do to publicly support the Waynesville Police Department as they try to build up their good police in this town? Maybe a billboard would be nice with a big Waynesville Police Department badge saying we need sixteen. The more the population grows the more police we need. This board gave \$5041.00 to Helping Hands in 2020, when they had only been open a few months and another \$7500 on 7-9-21, then awarded them \$70,000 to put the Town of Waynesville Homeless in motels. Why do we still have homeless under bridges when we only had 29 unhoused homeless in 2021? It sounds like Helping Hands is helping their hands to the Town of Waynesville’s money. I’m getting tired of the partisan politics of Waynesville’s entire board and government. The Citizens of this town would be outraged to discover one penny of the Town of Waynesville’s money was given to that disrespectful, All Cops are Bastards motel. Even the fact that, if Helping Hands is doing business with them and not disavowing them, is enough for the Town of Waynesville to not support them. I have the confidentiality agreement. It’s clear we can request information. It states, If the Town receives a REQUEST, Subpoena or court order to disclose any information or records Helping Hands or it’s representatives have provided or provide in the future relating to this Agreement, the Town will give Helping Hands prompt written notice of the REQUEST, subpoena or court order and will discuss any proposed disclosure of such information or records with Helping Hands. Why would Helping Hands have a problem with disclosing the names of the motels they use, which is the Our Place All Cops are Bastards Motel and the Scottish Inn? Consider this a formal request for Helping Hands to disclose to the public, receipts paid to motels for housing the homeless of the Town of Waynesville. Helping Hands has stated all participants were residents of the Town of Waynesville and were able to show ID. Someone needs to verify that as being fact since the Dogwood Trust Draft document stated

the majority of the unhoused homeless in Waynesville were from out of town. Also, isn't the money from the Town of Waynesville supposed to be used for temporary lodging in hotel rooms, not long term rentals at the Our Place, All Cops Are Bastards Motel? The next disbursement to Helping Hands should be withheld until these issues are investigated thoroughly and reported to the public.
