

Musings From the Mayor

The orchestrated press releases of grievances by the grievors the week of January 25 is a little surprising in light of the fact how some of the alleged complaints by police department personnel (men and women) against the chief were handled last summer by the administrator and others. VERY QUIET. Matter of fact it just came to my attention and another commissioner, this past October.

I believe that to maintain transparency in Government, at the very least, the commissioner holding the appropriate portfolio and the Mayor should have been consulted by the top staff level supervisor. Why this didn't happen is a mystery to me. Transparency is the key here.

I didn't find out about the toy gun incident until 6 days after the fact. I believe it was incumbent upon the administrator to advise me of the incident instead of finding it out by a phone call from a distraught citizen. The orange barrel on toy guns does not seem to be enough deterrent to reduce accidental fatalities nation wide. Seems to me a policy by the legislature, or the top law enforcement agency needs to be established. Appears to be to discretionary currently. If the wrong choice is made an innocent person may be dead and your dead a long time.

It has been my experience in my former career that these kinds of issues (grievances) are handled professionally, in-house, by policy, not through the media. This really smacks of petty politics, and I'll admit I'm no good at that.

I can live with some of the false, and non-documented statements that have been made, however my concern is what kind of an economic impact these releases could have on Valley City's economy. I've lived continuously in Valley City since 1969, and gone through floods, water in the basement, snow storms etc and don't want to see the city go backwards We need to strive to maintain

transparency.

The city relies heavily on revenues generated by the city sales tax to help pay for ~~the~~ such things as the Wellness Center, provides for some Property Tax Relief, subsidizes to some extent a portion of assessments to help offset costs to property owners for various infrastructure improvements, and the local share of the permanent flood control costs, among other things.

The City hired a consultant to review and update zoning requirements in an effort to be more compatible with other municipalities, making us more competitive.

The private sector of the economy has shown some substantial growth with Grand Stay Motel and Hotel that just opened, Stoudt Ross Ford, and under construction Pucklich General Motors both of which will be new and newer facilities. There is also a proposal for some new student housing near the University Campus from the private sector by the Singleton Group. The North Dakota Winter Show will be an enhanced program for 2016 according to Dawn Riley who along with Kay and the Chamber, really do a wonderful job promoting this event. VCSU enrollment has been near record or record the last few years and that's good.

There has been a slight down-tick in sales tax collections, and other revenue projections for the near term are lower due in part to the slump in crop and crude oil prices, and that is why I think we need to accentuate the positive. This is from my perspective of course.

I KNOW THERE WILL BE A MULTITUDE OF DEFINITIONS OF "PROFESSIONAL"

"TO EACH HIS OWN"

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Whitehouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'W'.