Pam Pepper

November 15, 2021

I would like to address some recent actions that I took regarding the IMU Board. It is important to remind everyone that Indianola’s Mayor and City Council are elected to represent all citizens. The IMU Board is appointed. Our community has many infrastructure needs, especially those utilities under the control of IMU.

I wanted to keep this issue and my concerns private, but given the public attacks on my character and intentions, I would like to share the basis for my decision, which has been in the works for the twelve months I have been Mayor,  which called for the resignation of Adam Voigts and Mike Rozga, as within my jurisdiction as mayor and prescribed by law.

The following rationale for removal is listed in my November 4letter that was sent to both individuals. These points are based on my attendance at IMU board meetings, conversations, interactions, and feedback directly to me from IMU customers. Here are the problems not addressed by Adam as Chair of IMU and Mike as the former chair:

* The mishandling of the Elation conversion (the new IMU database). This $600,000 system is very costly but couldn’t provide the City with the reports we needed to balance our accounts.
* **Nine** significant findings in the FY2020 audit of IMU’s financials – and the glossing over of these when questioned
* Lack of a strategic plan. IMU has not had a strategic plan for **5 years**. This is an important instrument to help guide planning and investing in failing infrastructure.
  + For example, as many of our citizens experience, we have had numerous water main breaks in 2020. Our water lines are old and failing as so apparent by the major fix required on the Square renovations.
  + Another example, IMU repeatedly **transferred service rights** to other water utilities, largely due to the aged and undersized infrastructure. And, subsequently **gives revenue** to a different water supplier which ultimately impacts us.
* Lack of communication with City officials, City Council, citizens and other representatives and had what I believe was an inappropriate use of a closed session in an IMU Board Meeting
* The continual push for the separation of the City and the City owned utility – which adds cost and reduces customer service and collaboration
* A desire to change staffing and processes, which affect both IMU and the City, and not discussing with City Council before decisions are reached – again adding costs and lacking efficiencies that would be important to taxpayers
* Disengagement - Despite several years of meetings and updates, Adam claimed in May to have no knowledge of the Streetscape project until January 2021 – this is incomprehensible for a leader of a multi-million dollar public entity.

Without professionalism, accountability, transparency and communication, IMU costs will continue to rise and our community will not be able to sustain the growth it has generated over the last few years. **The success of IMU is incumbent upon an effective and engaged board of directors**. They serve by appointment of the mayor and these two individuals are **not upholding their responsibilities**.

Simply put, **I want more for our city**. We need active participants in our government.