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BY: *R. Nashan*

Responsibilities of Councilmembers

RCW 35A

Review and approve the annual budget.

Establish long and short term objectives

Oversee performance of local public employees.

Oversee effectiveness of programs.

Establish tax rates

Enter into local contracts

Borrow funds

Pass ordinances and resolutions

Regulate public health and safety

Respond to constituents need and complaints

Represent the community to other levels of government

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BY: R. Senlar

November 22, 2022

City Council members:

I have been very ill and unable to communicate as I would like to, but feel it necessary to document several items in regards to the 2022 Budget. It seems there is a real push to eliminate the legislative voice, not just Napavine, but all over our nation. We are the voice of the people, and the attack is to shut down the voice of the people. I'm not implying anyone is purposely trying to do that, at least here in Napavine, but it is an attack of our form of government, our Constitution, and the rule of law.

The first thing in the budget that sticks out to me is the split of the property taxes between General and Street. This is a council decision, yet we were just by-passed and put in the budget as a 50/50 split. I have no objections to that other than it has never been discussed or action taken by the council.

Another item that was never voted on by the council is the 3% COLA raise that was taken by the Clerk and the Treasurer...We were told by Mary that the policy change in 2020 meant the clerk and treasurer's salary was considered separately, and yet there was no council action...My vote would be to approve this raise, and also amend the 2022 budget to deny any further raises. The total raise for the clerk, under their request is \$501. And the clerk \$378.78. The clerk is still working through step raises, and no way should we be giving the treasurer a \$500 raise to walk out the door, especially since it also means she could be eligible to cash out all vacation time at the higher rate. I suspect this is 240 hours...Another aspect of this raise is both the clerk and the treasurer's is taken 30% from water and 30% from sewer. We just passed an ordinance imposing on the people a \$1 raise on each. We have 805 customers generating \$805 per month on each water and sewer. These raises amount to nearly \$240 per month each on water and sewer, lowering that amount to \$565....The means that \$.40 of the \$1. Raise is going to raises for the clerk and treasurer...I do not feel good about that at all...Our citizens deserve better. There has been no consideration by the council as to performance for such a raise...It is untimely and therefore should be amended in the preliminary budget.

The next two items, three actually are with regards to the police department. The first is the \$36,000 for body cams...I do not object to purchasing them, just the

manner in which it is being done. First, the comment was made that "money was left over"...Any money that is not spent in the year becomes part of the ending balance for that fund...Already, the ending balance means just short of \$150,000 to be used of reserves for next years budget...another \$36,000 was increase that I am to assume, unless it has already been expended which should not be since no voucher has been submitted. I would suggest purchases like this that are not part of the planning be paid from criminal justice monies...so as not to further emcumber the general budget's operations budget. The same would be said for any increase in pay scales as a result of creating a new position, that of Police Sargaent. I have no objection to the position, I believe Officer Dawes is due that...only the manner in which it would be done.

As to the item of \$4800 to contract with Lewis County for evidence, I am opposed. We have facilities for keeping of evidence, and it should be kept within the department....Certainly it will require attention to liability, but this is why we have our own department with a Chief compensated to oversee such duties.

I am concerned with the direction the city is taking, particularly in regards to the General Fund. I am also concerned that the city Treasurer has not adequately informed the mayor and council of legalities surrounding the budget and city business...The council are the legislative body of the city that forms ALL policies and laws...not at the discretion of staff.

I plan on being on line to present this in person, but because of my physical limitation, I thought it best to also document for the record. I request this be made a part of the minutes.. LaVerne Haslett

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