

Subject: Re: Public Input & Council

Date: Sun, 13 Jan 2002 00:39:38 -0800

From: Bill Tracey <bill_tracey@telus.net>

Organization: Systek Engineering Ltd.

To: brian_platts@telus.net

CC: Don Bell <belld@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Bill Denault <bill_denault@dnv.org>, Doug Mackay-Dunn <doug_mackay-dunn@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Heather Dunsford <heather_dunsford@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <janice_harris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Annette Martin <annettem@digital-rain.com>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Dave Sadler <davesadler@telus.net>, Eric Andersen <eric@seatrade.ca>, Felipe Grossling <felipeg@shaw.com>, John Hunter <johnhunter@idmail.com>, Liz James <cagebc@yahoo.com>, Peter Thompson <bedeconsulting@shaw.ca>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Well said, Brian! And about time, too.

Bill Tracey

Brian Platts wrote:

> *Mayor Bell:*

>
> *Whenever a member of the public brings to your attention a complaint
> about Council or District Staff, you tell that person to put the
> complaint in writing. Well that is exactly what I am doing right now
> with this e-mail.*

>
> *At today's Budget Workshop Mr. John Hunter made a very detailed and
> professional presentation. Upon conclusion of this presentation,
> Councillor Harris -- rather than thanking Mr. Hunter for coming to the
> District Hall on a Saturday to give his input based on his many years of
> business experience -- tried her best to discredit his argument that the
> District receives below market value for its land portfolio. Following
> on Councillor Harris' heels, Councillor Denault derisively made
> reference to the "flawed argument" put forward by Mr. Hunter. Despite
> this clearly disrespectful behavior directed towards a member of the
> public who was not in position to respond, you did nothing to correct
> it, Mayor Bell.*

>
> *While the above is bad enough, the next speaker from the public, Mr.
> Corrie Kost, objected to the line of questioning by Councillor Harris
> and also Councillor Denault's "flawed argument" comment. When he calmly
> pointed out that in fact they were wrong and Mr. Hunter was right, both
> these petulant Councillors reacted with shouts of "POINT OF ORDER!!!"
> You in turn Mayor Bell, admonished not the two councillors, but instead
> directed your authority at Mr. Kost and told him to be "respectful" with
> his comments! Watching this disgraceful scene from the public gallery,
> it was all I could do to remain silent.*

>
> *Why is it you tolerate certain councillors attacking the integrity of*

> *well-meaning citizens who come forward to participate in local*
> *government decision-making? On the other side, the least hint of*
> *provocation on behalf of a speaker results in hysterical calls for*
> *"POINT OF ORDER MAYOR BELL!!!" which you then use to frustrate*
> *legitimate comment. The only conclusion to be drawn is that in its*
> *application, there is a much higher standard of conduct that exists for*
> *members of the public than for the councillors themselves. This sort of*
> *tactic is nothing short of intimidation.*

>

> *I have written to you before regarding this clear bias, but you did not*
> *respond. While I personally prefer a free debate and discussion, if you*
> *are going to demand such strict confines for the public, Mayor Bell,*
> *then it is about time that you held ALL councillors to this same*
> *standard.*

>

> *Sincerely,*
> *Brian Platts*