

02-66843018

SUBMISSION RE CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

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I DO NOT SUPPORT ANY OF THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE STAFF REPORT PRESENTED AT THE MARCH COUNCIL MEETING.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE NOT MADE IN GOOD FAITH; THEY ARE NOT DESIGNED TO REDUCE MEETING LENGTH, AS PURPORTED, BUT TO REDUCE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF STAFF BY FIDDLING WITH PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

THE STAFF REPORT IS INTELLECTUALLY DISHONEST IN THAT IT TRIES TO ENGENDER INDIGNATION IN COUNCILLORS BY ~~BE~~ COMPARING THE LENGTH^{INS} OF BYRON COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH THOSE OF OTHER COUNCIL~~S~~ — WITHOUT^{HOWEVER} COMPARING HOW FREQUENTLY THOSE OTHER COUNCIL~~S~~^S ~~HOLD~~^{HOLD} THEIR MEETINGS. IT IS PATENTLY OBVIOUS THAT IF COUNCIL WERE TO HOLD MEETINGS EVERY 2 TO 3 WEEKS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT 4, THEN EACH INDIVIDUAL MEETING WOULD BE HOURS SHORTER, DUH. EVEN PUBLIC ACCESS WOULD BE SHORTER BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE LESS ISSUES TO ADDRESS PER MEETING, DUH.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC ACCESS WOULD ON AVERAGE SAVE 5 OR 6 MINUTES, THAT'S ALL, ASSUMING THAT THEY ARE TARGETTED AT ONE OR TWO PARTICULAR PERSONS^S AS THEY CLEARLY ARE. FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPOSE YOU AGREE TO PUBLISH THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN THE MINUTES, AS PROPOSED. THAT WOULD PREVENT ME FROM RAISING THE ISSUE AGAIN AS AN AGENDA ITEM, BUT I'D STILL GET 2 MINUTES TO ADDRESS IT UNDER GENERAL SUBMISSIONS ∴ TIME SAVED = 3 MINUTES! WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY....

COUNCILLORS WOULD BE AWARE THAT TOWARDS THE END OF MRS ~~REIGN~~ REIGN, GM KIM GAINOR INSTRUCTED STAFF NOT TO PUBLISH ANSWERS IN THE AGENDA AND

INSTEAD CAUSED THEM TO BE ~~BE~~ GIVEN INDIVIDUALLY TO THE QUESTIONER. I.E. WITHOUT A PUBLIC RECORD. THIS IS THE BEHAVIOR OF A MAN WITH SOMETHING TO HIDE, SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT EVASIVE & MISLEADING NON-ANSWERS TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY, SOMEONE IMMERSED IN A CULTURE.

IT ALSO OCCURS TO ME THAT THE MINUTES ARE A RECORD OF WHAT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR MEETING. IF THE ANSWER TO A PARTICULAR QUESTION WAS NOT GIVEN DURING THAT MEETING (I.E. WAS TAKEN ON NOTICE) HOW THEN CAN IT APPEAR IN THE MINUTES OF THAT MEETING? IT SEEMS TO ME THAT LOGICALLY ~~THESE~~ COUNCILLORS CANNOT AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL; IT IS ^{QUITE IRREGULAR} ~~IRREGULAR~~.

THE STAFF REPORT WHICH I CRITICIZE IN THIS SUBMISSION ATTEMPTS TO SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO IS NOT SATISFIED WITH ~~AN ANSWER~~ ^{A RESPONSE} PROVIDED TO A PREVIOUS QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. THIS APPROACH GIVES THE STAFF A CLEAR INCENTIVE TO PROVIDE EVASIVE AND MISLEADING ANSWERS — BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO CORRECTION FOR DOING SO. WHICH IS SURELY THE INTENT BEHIND THE PROPOSED CHANGE; ~~NO OTHER PLAUSIBLE REASON CAN BE FORGOTTEN~~ THIS IS THE STAFF SAYING "WE REFUSE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE".

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION: A/ THAT COUNCIL MEETINGS BE HELD EVERY 2 TO 3 WEEKS, THE CONVENIENCE OF STAFF BE DAMNED. THIS WOULD LEAD TO HIGHER QUALITY DECISIONS, SHORTER AGENDAS,

B/ THAT A DISTINCTION BE MADE BETWEEN "ANSWERS" & "RESPONSE", SUCH THAT AN EVASIVE, MISLEADING OR MISDIRECTIVE STAFF RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BE PUNISHABLE UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT. THIS WOULD SAVE STAFF TIME IN THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS DEMAND ON THEIR CREATIVITY.

J.A.