

Hello Mr Fox Blackhorn,

This has hit me out of the blue and I've not taken the time to formulate a professional response. However, I will do my best to address this and try to limit my responses to the specific allegations.

Allegation 1: The mayor does not have specific hours as this is a part-time nominally paid position. I would not be able to venture what the work hours might be. However, it would seem appropriate that the mayor question her about her allegation that the current governing body is NOT honest or open. Posting directly to the function of the city operations but then not want to actually talk about it seems counterproductive. Face to face conversations that do not violate "open meeting statutes" appear appropriate and helpful.

Allegation 2: No facilities were used and suppositions that a private meeting was held for campaigning are not supported. If they/we chose to discuss the contract with the Sheriff's Department that is appropriate and legal, even prudent given our positions. As to how she might have "felt" during the meeting, our rights as elected officials and as citizens do not end where her feelings begin. Yes, I opposed her view that the Sheriff's office was not responding quickly enough and we would be better off with our own department. Afterwards, I asked her why she had to politicize this topic instead of showing support for public servants doing a very difficult job. This is exactly the type of communication that should occur between elected officials sorting through what we believe might be best for the city. It was done professionally and in front of about 8-10 people right after the meeting. If Shirley Maike and I have similar views regarding that contract, that's within our rights to have and does not indicate the use of any public facilities, funds, or even staff involvement. I have never coordinated responses or spoke in support of any candidate in a public meeting. I did not know what Shirley Maike's views were about the Sheriff's office or what her level of support was before the meeting. Even if I did, there's still nothing wrong with that, especially if one person just might be incorrect in their assertions.

Being a mayor is mostly about handling difficult and differing viewpoints. Feeling threatened, uncomfortable, or uninvited is a state of mind that will not serve an elected official well. Alleging violations because of opposing views is not healthy for our future.

Respectfully,
John R Paikuli