

7/27/17

Shirley Maike Public Disclosure Complaint response:

I adamantly refute these allegations. They are false and without merit. I will reply to the complaint allegation by allegation. My responses are in bold. I have not edited Ms. Parson's language.

Ms. Parsons' complaint:

July 18, 2017, I went to Medical Lake city hall for a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting that was scheduled for 5:30pm. I looked for the meeting and was told that the Parks and Recreation coordinator was off so there wouldn't be a meeting. No one had called me to tell me there was no meeting. At this point, Destiny Stein, another council member walked in and we walked past Mayor John Higgins office. John Higgins jumped up and started yelling "hey, hey come here!!" I thought he was trying to get Mrs. Steins attention because I have only talked with the Mayor approximately 4 times, one on one, in the last 6 years. The Mayor made it clear that he was trying to talk to me, so I went into his office and he had some sheets of paper from my Mayoral webpage and a few words were highlighted. He was angry that I had written "to an open, professional and honest city government" on my online speech for Mayor.(attachment of the whole sentence below.). He said that people where calling the city and were questioning him about the city being open, professional and honest. He said it was because of what I had written for my run as the next Mayor that they were calling him.. He continued to berate and yell at me about this for a few minutes. I tried to reason with him, but he was still irate and I felt threatened and bullied.I explained that out of all the people I have talked to during my campaign, 199 out of 200 said that they had a problem with the city hall. I explained what I see as the issue and explained it as " It isn't the ordinances or fines people are angry with, it is how they are treated and the interpersonal relationships or lack there- of when people come into city hall to do business or complain" the Mayor said "I don't know why people would complain about the ladies in the front, they are very friendly"..Finally he calmed down, and I sat in the City Managers office and waited for my next meeting that was to start at 6pm. Shirley Maike, another candidate for Mayor came in, and the Mayor welcomed her in and spoke very friendly and nicely to her for a few minutes. Then they both got up and went into another room to have a private conversation.

Shirley Maike response: Mayor Higgins and I have been personal friends for over 30 years. We have multiple areas of interest outside city government and Mayor Higgins has been very interested in my welfare following the death of my mother two months ago. As I came down the hall past the City Administrator Doug Ross's office, I poked my head in Doug's office to say hi, as I always do. I then proceeded to Mayor Higgins' office, again as I always do, to catch up. Mayor Higgins spoke with me about how I was doing and how the process of selling my mother's home was progressing. We were in the Mayor's office with the connecting door to the city Administrator's office closed but his entry door open. A few minutes later, Mayor Higgins and I left his office because it was time for my Finance Committee meeting and he was going to go upstairs to city council chambers.

Ms. Parsons continues:

At 6:30pm we went upstairs to our regular city council meeting. There were a lot of people present who supported Shirley Maike in the front row, and the Sheriff was there(this was arranged a few days before our meeting was to be held).

Shirley Maike response: To my recollection, these were the people in the front row during the council meeting: Sheriff Knezovich, the new director of the Sheriff's Emergency Management Department who was there to be introduced to council, and two planning commission members who attend every council meeting. The council chambers were almost full, which is extremely unusual for Medical Lake City Council meetings. I knew only a handful of people personally and there were numerous candidates for office and their supporters present as well.

Two people there for Shirley Maike stood up and talked about " how great the sheriffs' department has been and that we don't need to look at other options for policing for our city." The sheriff also got up and spoke about how well their agency has been working for our city. Looking into other options is a part of my platform. To review our contract with the Sheriffs department and look at all other public safety issues. Ms. Maikes platform is to "keep the Sheriffs department because it is working well." This all seemed like an

orchestrated event, set up to show Ms. Maike and her political views in a positive light.

Shirley Maike response:

The Sheriff had been scheduled to speak at the June meeting, was unable to attend, and was rescheduled for the July meeting. All council members who were present at the June meeting knew this. Ms. Parsons was absent from the June meeting.

The June 20, 2017 Medical Lake Council minutes state:

Sheriff Knezovich will be present at July council meeting.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the Medical-Lake.org website to verify these statements.

The July 2017 City Council agenda, which is distributed on the Friday before Tuesday's council meeting contained this agenda item:

4. Staff Report

a.) Update from Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich

I do not know about agenda items prior to the paper copy agenda being delivered to my home on the Friday before the meeting, other than what may be talked about in previous meetings to the whole council as we clarified in June that the Sheriff would be present in July. Those of us who were at the June meeting knew that Sheriff Knezovich was going to be at the July meeting. Laura was absent from the June Council meeting.

There are various Facebook posts by some mayoral candidates (Ms. Parsons included) and council member candidates who talk about wanting to bring back the Medical Lake Police Department which was disbanded many years ago for a variety of reasons. Several citizens of the community who support the sheriff's department coverage of Medical Lake decided to speak up in a public forum to express their support as a counter to the movement to bring back a city police department that has been published in social media and local newspapers. They were speaking about the sheriff's department contract and not about mayoral candidates. At no time did they mention my name. In fact, one of the speakers also spoke about banning fireworks (which she does at every meeting following the 4th of July).

There was no collusion with the Sheriff. He and I do not know each other and do not associate with each other. I doubt he would even recognize me or know my name if he saw me in another setting.

I respect every citizen's right to speak at a city council meeting on whatever topic they wish. I do not know what Ms. Parsons' is objecting to – that these ladies should not have spoken about the sheriff's contract, that Sheriff Knezovich should not have responded to their comments in a positive way about the department and its collaboration with Medical Lake, or just that they shouldn't be allowed to speak at all because they support me? They were responding to Facebook posts and newspaper articles that cited other candidates' desires for a city police department.

I stated some of my views during the meeting and i felt very uncomfortable, and it was a uninviting and hostile environment.

Shirley Maike response: There was no hostility expressed toward Ms. Parsons by me. Council members and Mayor were cordial as usual during council meetings. There is a recorded tape of the July council meeting which I would hope that you request to determine for yourselves whether there it was a hostile and uninviting meeting. Here is a Facebook post regarding the meeting from a citizen in attendance (who I do not personally know):

Kelly Redinger

My husband and I went to the council meeting last week. It was very interesting. We got to see the members in action, and were able to meet a few of the candidates. A couple of issues stayed at the forefront of my mind: 1. Did you know there is a form at City Hall that you can fill out for Kudos/Complaints? The council can't address issues if they don't know they are happening. 2. Anyone can speak at any council meeting. Just sign up when you arrive, and you will be called to speak. Everyone was very respectful of the speakers, even if we didn't agree. 😊 :-) 3. It was mentioned that the utility bill has community notices on it sometimes. There was a very SMALL sentence on the bottom of our last bill that stated the 72 hour rule for RV's and the hours for outside watering. I suggest that the large blank area be used to keep the community informed. All of us get a bill, right? Choose a large font and pick a few items/concerns each month. 4. A speaker mentioned the city street sweepers. How many of us have wished we knew what day they were coming, so we could make sure the area in front of our homes was clear? Vehicles, trash bins, etc. 5. Take a drive around town. You will see some areas that are pretty rough with trash, vegetation debris, broken cars, etc. Anyone remember when we had the yearly clean up? The city put large dumpsters out and we all worked together to help those who couldn't or wouldn't keep their area safe. 6. When was the last time the signs at the entrance to our community were updated with current facts and a good paint job? Have a great week all!!

[Like](#) · July 23 at 11:30pm

When the meeting was over all the people there for Ms. Maike went up to talk to the Mayor and her.

Shirley Maike response:

I sit next to the Mayor on the council podium. Several people came to the podium as I recall. This is not unusual at council meetings. I remember that one citizen asked another council member about his children and one of the individual speakers provided the city administrator a copy of her spoken remarks. I was cordial to all of those who came up to the podium as we were clearing our workspaces and preparing to depart council chambers.

Violations: The management staff using public resources in a manner that promotes or opposes a candidate or a ballot measure.

Shirley Maike response: There was no violation of public disclosure commission rules or regulations. Neither the Mayor nor any other city official promoted my or any other person's candidacy and did not use public resources to promote or oppose a candidate or ballot measure. Ms. Parsons appears unhappy that there were citizens and the Sheriff who spoke about the contract with the Sheriff. These individuals have every right to speak at any council meeting and the Sheriff had been invited to the meeting over 6 weeks prior as his regularly scheduled report to the Council.

Shall not coordinate informational activities with campaign efforts, in a manner that makes the agency appear to be supporting or opposing a ballot or a candidate. Wac 390-050273.

Shirley Maike response: I have not coordinated with any elected or appointed official of the City of Medical Lake in a manner so as to appear that the city is supporting my candidacy. Citizens are free to speak on any subject they wish at council meetings. I had no input into agenda items.

Allegation 1: city official may not promote or oppose a candidate during work hours. Mayor Higgins emotional oppositional display in regards to my Mayoral bid webpage statement was in violation because we were at the city hall during work hours (scheduled committee meeting and city council meeting).

Witnesses: Doug Ross city manager and Destiny Stein, city councilmember.

Shirley Maike response: I do not know what she is referring to. I did not observe any emotional or oppositional display by the Mayor towards anyone.

Allegation 2: violation of RCW.17A.555, for using public facilities, staff, and funds for unauthorized benefit of a political campaign. Mayor John Higgins, City Manager Doug Ross, Councilmember John Pikuli and Councilmember Shirley Maike violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using public facilities for the direct or indirect purpose of assisting a campaign for election. Alleged that these 4 individuals coordinated their efforts using public facilities, before and during the city council meeting held on July 18, 2017, to promote councilmember Maikes bid for Mayor. Sheriff's presence, Ms. Maikes entourage, policing of Medical lake,

fire pit ordinance. In order to "show" that the city supports Shirley Maikes bid for Mayor.

Shirley Maike response:

I had no conversation with the Mayor, Doug Ross, the Sheriff, John Paikuli, or any other elected or appointed official prior to the July 18 council meeting or during the council meeting regarding the activities for that meeting. I entered the first floor of City Hall at approximately 5:50 p.m. as I usually do on council night to say hi to anyone in the building (Doug Ross, Mayor Higgins, Finance Director Karen Langford, or anyone else in the building prior to the committees getting started). Ms. Parsons seems to think that the conversations during the council meeting were all "set up" to support my bid for Mayor when in fact the topics discussed had been established weeks prior during the June meeting (the Sheriff's scheduled appearance to provide his quarterly report; first reading of an ordinance relating to burning inside city limits) and I had no input into any of the agenda items.

I am not the only elected official who is supportive of the Sheriff's department contract. Several of us on the council expressed our support after Sheriff Knezovich's comments as we have a right to do. I could not hear all comments Ms. Parsons specifically made during the council meeting as her voice did not carry to where I was sitting as she was turned more towards the audience than towards the other council members.

I have no input into the council agenda. All council members are offered an opportunity to add agenda items at the beginning of each meeting. I did not have any additional agenda items to add and stated so as I always do at council meetings.

Several of the items Ms. Parsons describes above (sheriff's appearance, fire pit ordinance) were openly discussed at the June 20, 2017 council meeting – Ms. Parsons was absent from that meeting.

Conclusion:

I take great exception to the fact that Ms. Parsons has made these allegations against me and against the current Mayor, City Administrator, Sheriff, other council members, and citizens. No matter what your findings are, this will be a permanent blemish in my PDC file. Ms. Parsons has made innuendos in her Facebook posts about *"open, professional, and honest city government. I can and will address these concerns as mayor."* I perceive this PDC complaint to be an opportunity on her part to sway voters that the current city government is not open, professional or honest. I was personally insulted by her Facebook post that she would "address these concerns" – she is part of city government right now and instead should have quashed any perception that current city government is not open, professional and honest.

It is my perception that Ms. Parsons made a deliberate false complaint to the PDC against several of us to further her own bid for Mayor.

I recently learned that several candidates are insinuating I was fired or asked to resign from a job I held for almost 40 years. This is an interesting coincidence to have a PDC complaint made at the same time just as ballots have been mailed out. I am extremely disappointed and disheartened by the tone this election has taken and the fractious tenor of candidates on Facebook and in other forums. It appears that I am being targeted in this campaign from multiple fronts.



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