

I will continue to maintain that the city failed to follow the Montana Code Annotated in the city's swamp land purchase and for the water, sewer and storm drain increases. I will <sup>continue</sup> maintain that this body did not do its job as representatives of the people and rubber-stamped those questionable actions. In nearly all commission decisions I've witnessed, the commission seems to neglect its duties to the people in favor of doing what the city manager and city staff want.

Now, that is my opinion based on extensive research and lived experience, not just conjecture. If I come in here and make those statements at every meeting, that's my right. If I send you all an email every week with that claim, that's my right.

You can belittle me for doing that, Commissioner Tryon. I don't care. In fact, I don't care what any human being thinks of me. I don't answer to mortals.

Mayor Kelly used to say, "Here's my card, call me" whenever I had a question. Or he would tell me to email him. I had higher expectations of the current commission, but this body and city staff still operate that way and therein lies the problem. It's simply a ruse, an illusion of transparency.

When individuals are forced to communicate privately, there's no opportunity for the rest of the public to hear those questions and the answers. The importance of answering publicly is that it allows everyone to hear the same answer and doesn't allow all of you and city staff to simply tell people privately what they want to hear, which may be contradictory depending on who is asking. It's all about accountability and transparency.

There are many questions I've asked at commission meetings and information I've requested that has been ignored, some for over a year now. I don't see how any of you can call that accountable and transparency.

For major decisions, there needs to be a town hall process where questions can be asked and answered for all to hear because that's true transparency. I know Mayor Reeves has mentioned he doesn't want endless meetings, but given the current commission meeting format where the public asks and we seldom get public answers from the commission or city staff, it is necessary.