

The city manager is proposing creation of a new city bureaucrat — the Strategic Development Officer at the cost of nearly \$170K.

This is just ridiculous! If you want another city bureaucrat, you should take the funds directly from the \$205K plus benefits the city manager is paid and from the assistant city manager position, whatever that position is paid.

It is so insensitive to the taxpayers that during these challenging economic times this city insists upon unnecessarily increasing its spending by creating new city positions.

All of this housing the city claims Great Falls needs because of growth is not backed up by any growth statistics. The Census Bureau claims Great Falls has lost population since the 2020 census and that seems a more credible source than Doney and GFDA.

The city also keeps touting the Sentinel project as proof we need more housing. I was at the commission meeting where the Sentinel project spokesman told us that he didn't anticipate the project would create ANY additional demand for housing in Great Falls.

The city claims all this additional housing will attract growth. But that's putting the cart before the horse. If more housing attracts people to Great Falls, where are they going to work? There's very little industry here. How will these folks pay the mortgage or rent without decent paying jobs?

The city manager has admitted TIF and direct payments to GFDA "have not seemed to deliver the desired results." It took the city far too long to realize that. So then why is the city still on that path? I would opine the GFDA received many million over the years, including city COVID funds. Was the city unaware of previous criticism of Doney's effects in Maine before handing over our tax dollars or did you just decided to allow him to blow smoke up your asses? I also want to remind the city that the GFDA has refused to provide public information I requested, despite them being required to because they receive public funding.

Seems to me the GFDA has done very little for economic development in Great Falls that wouldn't have occurred without it. It also seems the commission and city staff are trying to create a Great Falls that isn't realistic. Bozeman, Missoula and Kalispell didn't give away tax dollars to create growth — growth happened because of other factors that Great Falls doesn't possess and can't be bought.