From: StormyNite
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: 2022 Budget
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:40:05 PM

City Council:

I am writing to the whole city council to make sure this email is read by at least one of you. I have just spent 3 days going over your budget information for 2022 and beyond. I am appalled to say the least. Why am I the taxpayer expected to pay for services to address equity in our city government??? This is Mayor Engen's 4 th term and most of you who have served longer than 1 term have created these problems...NOT THE TAXPAYER! My suggestion to all of you is to resign you position and let someone else who will not exploit the taxpayer for your mistakes fill your position. Mayor Engen should never be allowed on the city property again if this is the outcome. Hiring a permanent position for equity efforts is totally absurd and should not be considered. If this were your household, would you hire someone to make sure everything is equitable in your house? I think not.. neither should the city unless, it comes out of your pocket. If there is a problem....you created it in the first place.

Let's talk specifics: You want $110K to support modernization of communication. Apparently email, and phones are not enough? You want $650K for acquisition of a historic building....I assume you will have to renovate it for more money? Why is the city buying more property to renovate? Who are you putting in these building? Homeless I guess. We need less public owned business to maintain...not more!

Homeless: I see you want to buy more land for the homeless to the tune of $500K with my money. You want $2.7 million for additional support for affordable housing. You also want $850K to overhaul the housing codes so you can control people and place them in close quarters vs requiring green areas. I guess you did not pay any attention to the pandemic? Last I checked they wanted people to stay away from each other. You want $3.5 million to support Poverello and $311K for homeless Emergency shelter and $211K for operational expense to the Poverello?? What is wrong with you people? Facebook is advertising on East Coast come to Missoula for a free ride, Billboards are going up everywhere in this country to come to Missoula for free everything. You people need to figure out what is going on. I talked with several people who work with homeless and the homeless themselves. A large number of them are NOT from Montana. I talked with guy from Maryland that found out about Missoula giving away housing, food, medical care, and transportation. I guess we are paying for his bus ticket too?? Talked with a friend that her last two clients came from Florida. They bought them a 1 way bus ticket to Missoula! What does that tell you? Spending money for the needy is a charitable organization prime directive as well as our churches NOT THE CITY'S Job.

Building houses and feeding the homeless does not fix the situation, but makes it worse. We are prime example. We should be sending them to Seattle and California...It would be a lot cheaper. Why do you not actually do the research on the homeless? You will find that 75% of them have drug related issues and 78% have mental conditions. You want to eliminate your crime and destruction these people bring with them? Build a mental facility with bars and armed guards which will not allow them out until they are clean from drugs and on appropriate medication for their mental illness. That will decrease your homeless and decrease the influx of homeless coming here. If you do these things, they can become productive members of society vs. dependents on a taxpayer funded system. Soon you will have no taxpayers as the homeless will overrun us and steal whatever they need. People will leave. Look at Portland, Seattle, San Fransisco.....No one will go there and no companies will bring their business there due to homeless overrunning downtown.

I was downtown for the first time in 5 years last week. I am amazed at the lack of people, tourists and locals not there. I am surprised the business can keep the doors open. I only counted 6 homeless in my 30 minute tour which is low, but I only walked the main street on Higgins and did not go near the courthouse. Last time I was there a homeless man dropped his pants and urinated on the Doughboy statue. This is not something I want to see again or have children exposed to.

I looked at your first responders, fire departments and police requests which do help the community and the taxpayer. So take the money out of the homeless and acquisition of property out of the budget and it would be appropriate. As it stands, you all should resign and let someone else run the city who has some common sense and will do some research on what actually helps versus creating more problems.

Your job is to **help** the taxpayer and the community. As far as I can see the future for Missoula under your leadership is quite bleak!

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