

On Mar 5, 2020, at 19:52, Kurt Knappen <kurtknappen@[REDACTED]> wrote:

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MICHAEL T. (MIKE) EGAN

FWTDNRWTCBD

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GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON JR.

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Date: March 5, 2020
Subject: 3 conservatives on Shawnee council--

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Ray Erlichman

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Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 8:14 PM
To: MICHAEL T. EGAN
Cc: BOB HODGDON; E III; Eric Jenkins; KEVIN STRAUB; MARY PILCHER COOK; MICHELLE DISTLER; MIKE KEMMLING; Mike Frizzell; Mike Kemmling; RAY ERLICHMAN; SHEILA WODTKE; TOM MARTIN; Tammy Thomas; Carri Person
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Nolan Sunderman <[REDACTED]>

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1 message

Michelle Distler <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Mar 7, 2020 at 8:01 AM

To: [REDACTED], Ellis Rainey <[REDACTED]>

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From: Kurt Knappen <[REDACTED]>
Date: March 7, 2020 at 7:48:35 AM CST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: 3 conservatives on Shawnee council--

Michelle: Forwarding just to you because I only sent my reply to tt & can't tell who is copied on response. —. Tt loves drama. I am done responding. It seriously hasn't always been like this? I need to understand how - why there has been more drama since I arrived. Why don't Mike or Eric ever weigh in?

Sent from my iPhone

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I thought you wanted to talk, one on one.

Here is where I believe you made your mistake:
you switched your vote from the principle of "experience counts", to, "I was afraid the mayor would not vote for the policy we had just finally crafted, of in case of a tie, the mayor can STILL not vote, but EXPERIENCE at running the government is wiser than a coin toss."

You still could change your vote.
At the meeting.
And you should.
It would be the right thing to do.

If this were your business, would you want some newbie taking over your division, based on a coin toss? I doubt it.
This is not your son's football game.
This is the direction of the city that controls your taxes and 67,000 people's biggest investments.
Will the balance of power tip toward socialism because of a coin toss?
When all you have to do is say:
"I've reconsidered. Experience matters."

You made an assumption about Michelle.
That is placating.
In terms of the Archetype, that is you, being the Knight, rescuing the Damsel.

She therefore manipulated you into throwing the game.
She wore you down.

You changed your vote to avoid the actual vote, of who is best qualified to run the city if the mayor cannot continue her duties.

This during the corona virus.

This when the mayor has Type 1 Diabetes and was in the hospital twice in three weeks this past summer.

So this has a bit more possibility of occurrence to it than usual, where we have never had a vacated mayoral seat, to my knowledge.

That is making life a bit easier for you--at a future meeting.

With your "rescue", you also don't give Michelle any choice in the matter.

Would she then perhaps vote for what she might consider to be a now-perfected policy with a legitimate tie breaker provision? Seniority?

Why don't you ask her privately?

Why can't our mayor, and all future mayors, now at the very least, care about the taxpayers enough to name her successor in case of a tie?

Kurt, do you not see how unhealthy this is?

As I told you, it was smart to strip the power of the agenda from the council president.

But this new policy is an effort, mathematically, to shift from a republic form to straight democracy.

If you believe that, then Hillary won in 2016. Most votes in California. Tho that wasn't the rule or the game.

TOur country has entered a new period, an era where there ARE more legitimate divisions--fiscal conservatism and original construction vs. socialism and rescue and rewriting the Constitution to "Life is a coin toss", no borders, etc.

My principles are worth fighting for, at least with well-crafted essays.

You dismiss me and belittle me when you say I just love the drama.

Yes, I am a powerful writer. And speaker.

But know this: I only speak up when there is a principle on the line.

And I put my money where my mouth is--eg contributing \$5005 (the largest of anyone or any business) to pay for the mailings that defeated the stupid Community Center.

Or urging Northpoint Development to change the branding of their doomed Westbrooke Green adjacent to the vouchered Westbrooke Glen apartments.

(which Leah Wankum refused to report. You might read the PC minutes.)

I'm certainly no Alexander Hamilton, but I do know and employ the power of the pen.

And the import of nuanced and strategic decisions.

If he had not used his essays, the Federalist Essays, 85 of them of which he penned 53 of those, we would not have a democratic REPUBLIC.

That thought through **succession issues**.

Hamilton didn't just cave and say, I let them win because I was tired, and didn't want to have to revisit this at a future meeting if someone still could not be placated.

Would love to chat, or have coffee, Kurt.

I like you as well!

Tracy

On Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 10:44 PM Kurt Knappen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Post whatever you want. I like you personally- I really do. We've always gotten along well... but I feel you like drama the most. I will continue to represent the majority of Ward 3 citizens (my job) and do what is best for moving Shawnee forward. I am not about placating any group.

Kurt

On Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 10:03 PM tracy thomas <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Of COURSE your vote for a coin flip takes current personalities into account.
The vapid cowardly personality of Michelle Distler.

You caved.
You whined about the 2 hours and 40 minutes.
You bailed out Michelle Distler.

This whole thing is being driven by Michelle's refusal to be a leader.
So she can remain a cheerleader.

That is the dysfunction that still needs to be exposed.

If anyone wonders why Lenexa kicks our butts, perhaps it is that.
Refusal to make choices.

As I told you two days ago, it WAS good to strip the council president of any power to
pre-screen the city's agendas.

That was an example of just how bad it is when the liberal socialists get in power,
financed by George Soros,
introducing their socialist agenda of rescue.
Stephanie Meyer did grave damage to Shawnee with her NDO.
As will LLB, when she pushes for who knows what--
outlawing plastic bags, homeless shelters in upscale neighborhoods (being considered in
Lenexa), all manner of fiscal rescue.

And if you refuse to now change your vote, and force it to be 4/4--
requiring the mayor to do her job and vote,
face the music, take the heat one way or the other--
we are one coin toss away from all that.

Distler left the R. party, don't you get that?

You, sir, with what 3 meetings under your belt, don't have a clue how city govt. works.

Kurt, your little coin toss system is dangerous.

The mayor refuses to even lead in determining who should replace her in case of death
OR DISABILITY!
That is not leadership.
That is a disservice to the voters.

If she can't even lead on that, we might as well get a Bingo machine, and turn the crank
and let the numbers decide each vote between fiscal conservatism and liberal socialism.

You got played, Kurt.

Happy to discuss,
privately with you, before I publish this on an SEO optimized website.

Tracy

And thank you for telling me about Mike Egan's antics.
He would never even have KNOWN about the vote, since he does not subscribe to
SMPPost. I'm the only person who has ever taken the time to cut and paste pertinent
stories. He wants to be a power broker here, and does this to me? That will end now.

tt

On Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 9:19 PM Kurt Knappen <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Tracy,

Interesting to note that you send emails about me w o copying me... then they are forwarded w o copying you. I don't appreciate it either.

Kurt

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kurt Knappen <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, Mar 5, 2020 at 8:13 PM
Subject: Re: 3 conservatives on Shawnee council--
To: MICHAEL T. EGAN <[REDACTED]>
CC: BOB HODGDON <[REDACTED]>, E III <[REDACTED]>, Eric Jenkins <[REDACTED]>, KEVIN STRAUB <[REDACTED]>, MARY PILCHER COOK <[REDACTED]>, MICHELLE DISTLER <[REDACTED]>, MIKE KEMMLING <[REDACTED]>, Mike Frizzell <[REDACTED]>, Mike Kemmling <[REDACTED]>, RAY ERLICHMAN <[REDACTED]>, SHEILA WODTKE <[REDACTED]>, TOM MARTIN <[REDACTED]>, Tammy Thomas <[REDACTED]>, Carri Person <[REDACTED]>

Not sure these large chain emails are constructive. That's why I rarely respond to them. Personal discussions are far better than one liners on mass email. I'm out, hope you all have a great weekend. Kurt

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 5, 2020, at 8:03 PM, MICHAEL T. EGAN <[REDACTED]> wrote:

The ENTIRE process and giant waste of time could've been mitigated if the chicken-mayor (I cleaned it up for purpose of this email) would have voted !

NOPE, she cannot be held to a standard of doing the right thing the right way for the right reason, so instead creates more dysfunction, more acrimony and a HUGE waste of time.

Congratulations Madame mayor for creating the huge forest fire of dysfunction and dragging city governance into the laughing stock of johnson county and perhaps all America.

Michael T Egan
[REDACTED]

On Mar 5, 2020, at 19:52, Kurt Knappen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Please note: after being the one to second Eric's motion to make tenure the tie breaker, I realized that moving it forward out of committee w only a 4-4 (by rule tie vote moves forward out of committee) — would likely result in it ultimately being killed by a four for vote when the governing body votes to finalize the decision (it would then require a majority vote with the mayor choosing not to weigh in). Then our entire two hour and 40 minute deliberation would've been for nothing and we would have looked even more incompetent & dysfunctional...

The system we voted on and passed sets up a fair system that does not take current personalities into account, which is the best way to make policy for the future I believe....

Kurt

On Thu, Mar 5, 2020 at 10:29 AM MICHAEL T. EGAN

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

NOT GOOD.

Y'ALL ARE WILLING TO TURN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT UPSIDE-DOWN, because the chicken-mayor wont even vote?

What's next, rewrite the U.S. CONSTITUTION until Bernie is anointed king?

I have never seen a more dysfunctional city government than Shawnee.

EVER

And i have served city and county government in my career.

You should be ashamed of making this government the laughing stock of the world.

MICHAEL T. (MIKE) EGAN
FWTDTNRWTCBD

"A good plan violently executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed next week."

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON JR.

Begin forwarded message:

From: tracy thomas
Date: March 5, 2020
Subject: 3 conservatives on Shawnee council--

Kurt Knappen voted with the libs.

Against seniority being the decider in a tied election.

I did note, that in the final listing of how folks voted last night, that Tammy Thomas has magically earned a nickname from reporter Leah Wankum:

Tammy Tommy!!!

After nearly three hours of deliberations Tuesday, the Shawnee city council has come up with a plan for self-electing its president.

The main outcome of last night's council committee meeting: The city councilmembers unanimously agreed that they want the mayor to be a participating and voting member at future council committee meetings. They would also like to see her chair those meetings as well.

If the city council officially adopts this change, then the council president would no longer chair council committee meetings. However, the council president would still serve as acting mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor.

After comparing pros and cons of the policies and ordinances governing committees and council presidents of neighboring cities, the Shawnee city council also ultimately agreed to make some changes to its internal election process of the council president.

The new process favored by most of the city council is a runoff election. With that process, councilmembers who are nominated for council president would be put on a single ballot; if one nominee wins a simple majority (5 votes), then s/he wins the role. If not, then the nominee with the fewest votes is removed from the list, and the voting process begins again. until there are two candidates left. This continues until there is either a simple majority or a tie. The city council agreed to break a tie with a coin toss.



Lisa Larson-Bunnell and her fellow councilmembers weighed the pros and cons of different ways to elect a new council president.

The current election process allows councilmembers to self-nominate, or nominate one of their own, to be council president. All nominations end

up on a single ballot, and councilmembers select one person.

However, with that process in place, the Shawnee council ran into a deadlock with electing a new president in January because each of three nominated councilmembers had gained only four votes from his/her colleagues. There was no system in place to address 4-4 splits on nominations.

Mayor Michelle Distler declined to break the 4-4 tie each time a councilmember was nominated, and she indicated that she has no plans to change her mind in the future.

“As a matter of principle, I will not vote for or against any of my councilmembers as that causes strife and division,” Distler said in an interview.

Discussions on Tuesday centered around the role of a council president and vice chair, inclusion of the mayor

in council committee meetings going forward, the process of electing a council president and the terms of office for elected city officials.

“I think that part of the impasse that we’ve been having lately with this council president is because of the input on the agenda and the line of succession,” said Councilmember Mike Kemmling, who is serving as council president for the time being because of his seniority on the council. “I think if we take that away from the council president, now it’s not that coveted spot anymore, and it’s not going to maybe have quite the animosity or the fighting, if this is really just someone who is going to chair in the absence of the mayor. It takes some of the shine off of it.”

Some councilmembers said they think tenure as an elected official should hold more weight when considering the council president, and that in

the event of a tie, then the senior councilmember should be considered for the role first. However, no motions or suggestions relating to seniority gained enough traction.



Mayor Michelle Distler may become the chair of council committee meetings if the city council agrees to it March 23. The council also agreed to permanently cancel the last meeting of the year, citing conflicts with Christmas, a major holiday.

Having the current mayor chair council committee meetings has its own issues as well. City staff said Mayor Distler has a standing conflict with Tuesday meetings, so future council committee meetings would have to change to a different day of the week.

Furthermore, Distler said she always listens to the audio livestream of council committee meetings, but the mayor never attends because she thought she was prohibited from attending.

“I was told when I became mayor that I was not allowed in the room let alone up on the dais,” Distler said. “It’s not that I didn’t choose to be there. I was told not to be there.”

The recommendations from the city council committee meeting may require changes to Charter Ordinance 45, Policy Statement 7 or the city’s regular ordinances. Charter ordinances take about 80 days and notice must be published before going into effect, while policy revisions become effective immediately upon approval.

Here are the seven decisions made by the city council during the committee meeting, as well as vote count and the

impact to the ordinances and policies governing city affairs:

- Allowing the mayor to become a full voting member of the council committee: Unanimous approval. Requires change to charter ordinance and policy revision.
- Having the mayor chair council committee meetings: 6-2, with Lisa Larson-Bunnell and Jill Chalfie against (citing concerns the mayor will be over-obligated). Requires policy revision.
- Confirming that council president will still become the acting mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor: 5-3, with Mike Kemmling, Eric Jenkins and Tammy Thomas against. No changes.
- Electing the council president through a runoff voting system until one candidate gets a majority vote: Unanimous approval. Requires policy revision.

- Using a coin toss to break a tie from the runoff voting system: 5-3, with Mike Kemmling, Eric Jenkins and Tammy Tommy voting against. Requires policy revision.
- Changing the date that terms of office for elected officials begin, from the first meeting in January to the first meeting of December: Unanimous approval. Requires change to charter ordinance.
- Permanently cancel the second meeting in December (because of conflicts with Christmas), and only allow for a special meeting the third week of December for emergencies: Unanimous approval. Requires change to regular ordinance. All of these decisions must be adopted by the city council at its next meeting March 23 before becoming official.

Tracy Thomas

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Tracy Thomas

[REDACTED]

(does not accept texts --or even inform either of us of that)

but this is my preferred number for talking)

[REDACTED] is text and cell

Email: [REDACTED]

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Tracy Thomas

[REDACTED]

(does not accept texts --or even inform either of us of that)

but this is my preferred number for talking)

[REDACTED] is text and cell

Email: [REDACTED]