

EDDIE SIMPSON: EXPLAINS SERIES OF EVENTS

I would like to explain my knowledge of Mr. Johnson's allegations of alleged threats, etc., that I have been accused of.

Early in 2010 I was asked by Mr. Johnson my opinion about reprimanding employees under Recorder Johnson. My response to him was that as long as he treated everyone equally that is exactly what he should do. At that time, I was told no written policies were in place therefore he verbally reprimanded four employees for various offenses and made policies to refer to in the future.

I was serving as Vice Mayor at this time and on or about July 5th, I saw a payment request for seven hundred and some odd dollars for political giveaway items that said, Bobby Johnson, Jr. Lenoir City Recorder-Treasurer, these items were footballs and basketballs that were thrown out at the Fourth of July Parade. This brought my attention to other items such as pens and calendars that had been given away in the past by Mr. Johnson. I felt like this was a misuse of City funds and felt obligated immediately to turn this over to the City Administrator and City Attorney, Buddy Hathcock. At this time I was told that it had to be reported to the auditors and or comptrollers. I also was told my obligation at this point was over.

After this was brought to the forefront, Mr. Johnson as I understand, a few days later contacted these same four employees and told them he was going to put the earlier reprimands in their files and then again on the same day or somewhere close they were again told he would only hold them on his desk and not put them in their files!

Late in December 2010, the administration was presented with the findings from the auditors. The 2009-2010 audit showed a dozen or so discrepancies, which at this time Mr. Johnson, resigned his position as Recorder. At that point he was allowed to return to the Park & Recreation Department.

As an elected official myself, who is here only because I care for this City and I feel I can contribute with my knowledge in several areas, will always do what's right.

SUMMARY:

This is what happened as best as I recall. The threat from me never happened, unless you consider doing the right thing, and telling Mr. Johnson to be fair, and that what he did was not showing good leadership, and saying it's the "Kettle calling the Pot Black". I have no regrets on my handling of this matter.

I also find it interesting what or where the source is that The News Sentinel and our critics web pages have information on "private" city documents, and when reporting certain findings especially on the audit, they left out #10 of the audit report that states; "an employee which was at that time an elected official on three different occasions, purchases were made with City funds which one was later repaid".

Thanks for the time given to explain my position on this matter.

STATEMENT – WORKING FOR A POSITIVE COMMUNITY

There is another matter I have a concern about. There are people in our community promoting hatred and negativity, which saddens me.

>We have seen what putting a “TARGET” on a map accomplished in Arizona!! I feel some words have been said on websites and blogs promoting this type of reaction.

> We need to support and not condemn our officials. There are some vindictive people in our community that maybe didn't get elected or got up on the wrong side of the bed that is promoting hatred.

> My mother is 82 years old and if I talked negative about people or hide behind my Christian upbringing, she would and should call my hand on it.

>My wish is that we can come together for the betterment of our community and continue to move forward.

>Thanks for your time.