

Mayor Lopez and Councilmen: My name is Jane Tolmach. I live at 656 Douglas Ave here.

Several of the Councilmen have talked about running the city like a business. They must not forget that the City is not a private company with private financing. The public that votes in a city councilman expects that councilman to keep the citizens informed about city business.

Just as opening up the city to big time gambling could corrupt city government, putting more government decisions behind closed doors invites corruption. The staff recommends that very important city council decisions be delegated to city staff, thus avoiding the need to inform the public. Presently these decisions are made by the councilmen, so the Brown Act requires them to be made in public. These matters need the scrutiny of the taxpayers and should not be handled behind closed doors.

Advertising and awarding bids!

Consent to negotiate aquisition of property!

Lease renewals!

Reimbursement agreements!

Personnel actions

Position changes!

Salary/benefits changes!

Grants, below what threshold?!

Certain planning permits

tentative and final tract maps!

Acceptance of easements and right-of-way!

Routine financial reports! (Where we might discover the city manager had granted increased benefits to councilmen)

Fee waivers!

NOT A COMPLETE LISTING!

Let's have an open city government that people can trust. The more you try to shut out the public from the business of the city the more you invite distrust and endless haranguing against the councilmen and staff. Invite the public to be participants. Why did you have only a staff committee make these recommendations? Why did you not invite past councilmembers, past planning commissioners, other elected officials, or some of the loyal opposition to serve with staff?

If you want to think business, remember we are the stockholders in this corporation and we do not want the corporation run for the benefit of the staff and directors. We want it to benefit the stockholders too.

On a separate issue I would like the City Attorney to give me information about the ruling allowing two city councilmen to vote to approve nearly \$200,000 to pursue putting most of the city in a Redevelopment Project. My understanding of that provision was for a specific property that happened to be in an adopted Redevelopment Plan. Give me the citation of this provision.