



ROGER W. HOLMES
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DATE: October 6, 2020

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
2020-OIG-1

Early in the year, I was contacted by an anonymous Complainant who notified me that there was a concern that a retired CWLP employee was manipulating the electric meter on the employee's house to minimize the employee's bill. I was given an address and through property tax records, learned the name of the owner of that address. I contacted CWLP management who indicated that they have had issues in the past with former workers rigging the electric meter to under-read.

As a result, CWLP crews placed a separate meter on the power pole adjacent to the Respondent's home to see if the usage on that independent meter correlated with the meter on the Respondent's home. CWLP management explained to me a procedure that can be used within a home so that the meter under-reads. I did not fully understand that procedure nor would I put it in a public report so as to enable others to similarly rewire their system.

The extra meter was on the pole for a number of months and when compared with prior meter readings, there was not a significant enough differential to prove that the Respondent had been under-reporting electric usage. If there had been a significant differential, I would have referred the matter to the States Attorney's Office to determine if they wished to bring theft of services charges. That would be a criminal charge which would require proof beyond a reasonable doubt and the data collected did not show a significant enough difference to expect that level of proof could be reached.

Accordingly, this matter is closed without further action being taken or recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

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**INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
2020-OIG-2**

In February 2020, I was visited by two agents from the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. I was previously contacted by telephone and a face-to-face meeting was thereafter set up. I was contacted because of the Inspector General work that I did on TIF issues related to Enos Park in a Report presented to the City Council on December 20, 2016.

The investigators were concerned about payments made from the Hardest Hit Fund a/k/a the Blight Fund. Between 2015 and 2016, they had spent \$300,000 in Springfield for demolition of blighted properties. The primary question that they asked was "Why would Enos Park Development borrow money to purchase blighted properties and then seek funding to have them torn down?" They indicated that Enos Park Development had purchased 813 N. Ninth, 847 N. 7th, 904 N. 9th and 1001 N. 4th for at least \$25,000 each. I indicated that in my earlier investigation into whether or not any of the officers of Enos Park Development or its related entities personally profited (which I determined they had not). I made observations about the business model of buying properties from landlords at market price so that the property didn't go into the hands of another landlord who might neglect the property. Hence, the payment of market value and not acquiring the property for free. The investigators indicated that they would be speaking to others on the topic and that they had no objection to me disclosing that they had met with me.

I have had no further contact from the investigators and therefore this matter is closed.

Respectfully submitted,



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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
2020-OIG-6

I was contacted by a Complainant who frequently appears during the public comment session at the end of each City Council meeting. Complainant stated that she was treated rudely by Alderman Hanauer and sent links to 4 video recordings of the meetings where she felt treated in this fashion. I asked if there were other instances and was told that there were not.

I reviewed each of the 4 Council meeting videos and both Complainant and the Alderman were somewhat argumentative at times. On the one occasion where the Alderman chaired a Committee of the Whole meeting, the Complainant was admonished for exceeding the 5 minute time limit on public comment. While the exchanges between Complainant and the Alderman were not overly friendly, I would not characterize them as rude or hostile. Therefore, no followup action is called for.

I do have the following observation, which is applicable to all members of the City Council.

This is not the only recent complaint that I have received about Aldermen's treatment of persons speaking during the public comment period held at the end of each Council Meeting. While the complaint against Alderman Hanauer is unfounded, it is my recommendation that Council members, as a whole, exercise patience with members of the public who are exercising their right as citizens to address the Council. Many important issues are raised and lead to further discussion during the public comment period, but, of course, there are those who address the Council on a range of unusual topics. I realize that the fact that the public comment period comes at the end of often lengthy and exhausting meetings makes it difficult to be patient at times.

Respectfully submitted,

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INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
2020-OIG-10

This matter was opened following a citizen complaint alleging that he was treated offensively by Alderman Turner when he spoke during the public comment period at the end of a City Council Meeting. The Complainant addressed the City Council and chastised them for holding a public discussion criticizing a comment made at a Council Meeting by Alderman McMenamin. The Complainant stated his opinion that such arguments shouldn't occur during the public portion of a meeting but should be done in Executive Session.

When Complainant was finished speaking, Alderman Turner commented that conducting such discussions in private would violate the Open Meetings Act and stated that the Complainant himself had acted inappropriately when he called her a "Bitch". Complainant stated to me that he did not say that word to her that night. When I reviewed the tape of the Council Meeting, I was left with the impression that the name calling incident had occurred on a prior date. I contacted Complainant and he denied ever having addressed Alderman Turner in this way.

I reached out to Alderman Turner who quickly recalled both incidents including when the Complainant addressed her with a racially insensitive reference which included the word "Bitch". Alderman Turner stated that thereafter, the Springfield Police Department escorted her to her car after Council Meetings for a number of weeks and that Complainant later apologized to her.

Therefore, Alderman Turner's observation of the irony of the Complainant admonishing the City Council to behave better was appropriate.

This file is closed as unfounded with no further action taken.

Respectfully submitted,

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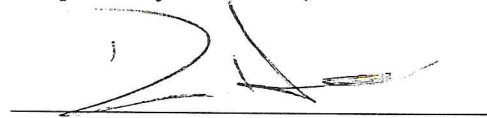
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
2020-OIG-12

I was contacted by multiple parties immediately following the September 8, 2020 City Council Meeting regarding a topic brought up by Alderman DiCenso. The Alderman asked if there were permits required to stage a boat parade on Lake Springfield. A Presidential candidate had boat parades across the country and one apparently occurred on Lake Springfield. A discussion ensued and Corporation Counsel indicated that since it was a political gathering that free speech considerations would prohibit any requirement for a permit. Corporation Counsel also observed that there was not a permitting process for gatherings on Lake Springfield and the Mayor opined that the annual blessing of the boats also drew a line of boats on Lake Springfield.

All of the Complainants who contacted me felt that the Alderman's comment was politically motivated and that it was an attempt to curtail the exercise of political free speech.

Because no particular candidate's names were mentioned by any of the participants in the Council's discussion, I do not feel that any line was crossed and that no sanction is warranted. Accordingly, this file is closed with no action or recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Inspector General