HELLO, I’M TOM WIKNICH

WELCOME TO THE 4th KZGN NEWS TALKING POINTS EDITORIAL FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 2014.

TODAYS TOPIC WILL BE

“GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW CITY COUNCIL”.

BUT FIRST, I WANT TO SHARE SOME COMMENTS PROVIDED VIA E MAIL AND ON FACEBOOK ABOUT OUR NEW KZGN NEWS EDITORIAL SEGMENT.

FIRST WE HEAR FROM CAROL:

SHE WROTE CONCERING MY EDITORIAL ABOUT ADA COMPLIANCE AND SPENDING PRIORITES:

TOM, I AGREE WITH YOU COMPLETELY. THE CITY IS SO FAR BEHIND ON ADA THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PLAYING WITH ADA FUNDS.

THANKS CAROL AND I AGREE.

LARRY WROTE:

TOM’S NEW SEGMENT IS A GREAT ADDITION TO THE NEWS, AND IT IS VERY INFORMATIONAL. IMO, TOMS’ DELIVERY OF THE INFO IS NOT SCOLDING, NOR PRAISING, JUST THE FACTS.

THAT’S MY GOAL LARRY. JUST THE FACTS.

BUT LIKE IT’S BEEN SUGGESTED, I WILL WORK ON MY DELIVERY AND TRY AND BRING SOME EXCITEMENT TO THE SEGMENT.

AND HERE’S PART OF WHAT SKIP WROTE:

I WATCHED IT AND HOPE TOM CONTINUES THIS EDITORIAL SEGMENT. THIS IS VALUABLE STUFF. IT GETS US THINKING & TALKING. KEEP IT UP.

THAT’S IMPORTANT TO ME SKIP.

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON’T HAVE THE TIME TO WATCH THE GOINGS ON AT CITY HALL.

I’LL TRY AND BRING IMPORTANT ITEMS FROM THE AGENDAS TO PEOPLES ATTENTION.

I’ll PROVIDE FACTS AND DETAILS TO HELP PEOPLE STAY INFORMED AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON.

AND THEN THERE WAS SCOTT THAT WROTE MANY COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK CONCERNING THE LAST EDITORIAL CONCERNING COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY,

SCOTT MOSTLY WANTED TO ARGUE ABOUT THE “RECOMMENDATION” THE MAYOR MADE,

VS THE TOPIC OF MY EDITORIAL THAT WAS TITLED “COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY”.

AFTER A FEW BACK AND FORTHS WITH HIM, I TRIED TO GET HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT TRANSPARENCY MEANS OPENESS WITH THE PUBLIC.

ITEMS VOTED ON BY THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE PUBLICALLY NOTICED TO THE PEOPLE FOR 72 HOURS BEFORE IT IS VOTED ON.

HE DOESN’T THINK SO.

HE ALSO THINKS I SHOULD CHANGE THE FORMAT OF THIS EDITORIAL THAT I POST ON THE KZGN WEB SITE.

HE DOESN’T LIKE ME USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

THANKS FOR YOUR COMMENTS SCOTT. I KEEP THEM IN MIND.

BUT FOR NOW, I’LL JUST KEEP TRYING TO IMPROVE WHAT I DO.

STATE THE FACTS, PROVIDE MY OPINION, AND LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

NOW TODAYS TOPIC:

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW CITY COUNCIL.

TOMORROW EVENING THE NEW MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE SWORN IN.

I HOPE THAT THE NEWLY ELECTED REMEMBER THEIR CAMPAIGN PROMISES.

SOME OF THE MOST OFTEN STATED PROMISES OVER AND OVER WAS:

I WILL LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

I WILL BE THEIR VOICE.

AND ALL OF THEM AGREED TRANSPARENCY OF THE COUNCIL ACTIONS WITH THE PUBLIC WAS MOST IMPORTANT.

DURING THE CANDIDATE FORUMS HELD RIGHT HERE ON KZGN TV, ALL THE CANDIDATES MADE THOSE PROMISES.

THEY ALL AGREED THAT THE SAFETY FOR OUR COMMUNITY WAS TOP PRIORITY.

SUPPORT OF CONTINUED ROAD REPAIRS WAS ALSO ASSURED.

BUT, IN ADDITION TO THOSE STANDARD CAMPAIGN PROMISES EVERYONE AGREED ON,THERE WAS ONE ISSUE I BROUGHT UP EVERY CHANCE I COULD THAT I THINK IS VERY IMPORTANT.

AND IT SEEMED NO OTHER CANDIDATES WANTED TO DISCUSS.

THE ISSUE: ADA COMPLIANCE

ADA IS AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

THE ADA IS A FEDERAL LAW REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINOUSLY WORK TO MAKE ALL THEIR FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESSIBLE TO THE DISABLED.

AS ONE THAT GOES INTO CITY HALL OFTEN, AND GOES TO THE POLICE STATION OFTEN, I HAVE DISCOVERED A SERIOUS PROBLEM THERE.

NEITHER ENTRANCE TO CITY HALL OR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAVE ADA COMPLIANT ENTRANCES.

IF YOU ARE IN A WHEELCHAIR, AND TRY TO GET INTO EITHER PLACE, YOU WILL NEED SOME KIND PERSON TO OPEN AND HOLD THE DOOR FOR YOU TO GET IN.

SO, WE HAVE A CITY HALL THAT HAS AN ELEVATOR FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO GET TO THE SECOND FLOOR, BUT THEY NEED HELP TO EVEN GET INTO THE BUILDING.

AND IF WE HAD SOMEONE IN A WHEELCHAIR, OR A MOTHER WITH A BABY IN A STROLLER TRYING TO GET INTO THE POLICE STATION IN A HURRY TO GET HELP, THEY ARE BASICALLY STUCK OUTSIDE STRUGGLING TO GET INTO THE STATION.

IT CAN’T COST THAT MUCH TO MAKE THE CITIES MAIN BUILDINGS ADA COMPLIANT. I’VE HEARD ESTIMATES AT AROUND $5000 PER ENTRANCE.

AND OH, BY THE WAY, THEY HAVE 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS SITTING IN UNOBLIGATED TAB FUNDS AVAILABLE TO CORRECT THIS PROBLEM.

THEY HAVE THE FUNDS TO MAKE THE REPAIRS.

JUST PUT YOURSELF INTO THE DISABLED SHOES FOR A MINUTE.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO EVEN GET INTO THE MAIN CITY BUILDINGS.

HAVING TO SIT OUTSIDE IN THE ELEMENTS, STRUGGLING TO GET IN.

AND ONE MORE ADA ISSUE.

I WOULD THINK WITH 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS OF UNOBLIGATED TAB FUNDS AVAILABLE, THEY WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CITIES ONLY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL ADA COMPLAINT AS WELL.

WELL, THAT’S MY THOUGHTS I’M PASSING ON TO THE NEW COUNCIL.

1. YOU MADE PROMISES. SO KEEP THEM.
2. LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE, ALL THE PEOPLE. NOT JUST THE ONES YOU AGREE WITH, OR YOUR SUPPORTERS.
3. BE TRANSPARENT AND OPEN WITH THE PUBLIC. REMEMBER, PERCEPTION IS REAL TO THE PERCEIVER.

I WILL BE WATCHING THE NEW COUNCIL.

I WISH THEM WELL.

I WILL SUPPORT THEM TO THE FULLEST THAT I CAN.

IN CLOSING, TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK!

I ENCOURAGE YOUR E MAIL COMMENTS.

WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH ME OR DON’T,

I’D LIKE TO READ YOUR COMMENTS.

I WILL READ SOME E MAIL COMMENTS ON THE AIR OF THE NEXT PROGRAM.

OR, IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION OF AN ISSUE YOU’D LIKE ME TO DISCUSS, E MAIL THAT TO ME AS WELL.

PLEASE E MAIL THEM TO INFO@KZGN.NET.

THIS HAS BEEN A

KZGN TALKING POINTS EDITORIAL.

OUR NEW SEGMENT RIGHT HERE ON KZGN TV

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, I’M TOM WIKNICH,

AND THAT’S WHAT I THINK!