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67TH KZGN NEWS TALKING POINTS EDITORIAL
By Tom Wiknich

HERE’S TODAY TOPIC:

“WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY’S VISIT LAST WEEK? AND WHERE WERE THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS?”

BUT FIRST HERE’S SOME RESPONSE TO LAST THURSDAY’S EDITORIAL TITLED:

“DO YOU SUPPORT THE 25MPH SPEED LIMIT ON CHINA LAKE BLVD IN THE CONSTRUCTION ZONES?”

A QUICK RECAP IS THE REDUCED SPEED LIMIT IS FOR TWO MAIN PURPOSES.

FIRST, IT HELPS PROTECT THE WORKERS THAT ARE OUT IN THE ROAD DOING THE WORK.

THE SECOND REASON FOR THE REDUCED SPEED LIMIT TO BE IN AFFECT, EVEN WHEN THE WORKERS ARE NOT PRESENT, IS DUE TO THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION.

OFTEN TIMES, THE CONSTRUCTION AREA IS LEFT IN WHAT COULD BE DESCRIBED IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

HERE’S A COUPLE COMMENTS WE RECEIVED:

SUZZY WROTE: YES, I SUPPORT IT, AS IT'S FOR THE SAFETY OF THE WORKERS. I JUST WISH RPD WOULD ISSUE MORE TICKETS INSTEAD OF WARNINGS TO GET THE POINT ACROSS.

FRAN WROTE: I AM TIRED OF THEIR TAKING SO LONG GETTING THIS PROJECT DONE. IT HAS BEEN MONTHS. THEY NEED TO FINISH THIS NOW BEFORE DOING ANOTHER PLACE. 25MPH IS TOO SLOW.

THOSE COMMENTS ECHO WHAT I HEAR FROM MOST PEOPLE ON THE STREET AS WELL.

THEY ARE SICK AND TIRED OF HOW LONG THIS PROJECT IS TAKING. IT’S GENERALLY NOT THE 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT THAT PEOPLE DISLIKE. IT’S THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS CONSTRUCTION.

NOW ON TO TODAYS EDITORIAL TOPIC:

 “WHAT DID YOU THINK OF CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHYS VISIT?”

WELL AS YOU SAW FROM LAST WEEKS TV COVERAGE, I HAD A CHANCE TO INTERVIEW HIM WHILE HE WAS AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON.

THIS WAS A WELL ATTENDED LUNCH. THE ROOM WAS PACKED AND PEOPLE WERE EVEN TURNED AWAY THAT DIDN’T MAKE RESERVATIONS.

I HEARD THAT HE SPENT THE MORNING MEETING WITH THE BASE MANAGEMENT. THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT STOP.

WHAT WAS NOTABLE AT THE LUNCH WAS THAT THE ATTENDEES WERE ALL THE USUAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF THE CITY. THIS INCLUDED MAYOR BREEDEN, SIERRA SAND SUPERINTENDENT ERNIE BELL, WATER DISTRICT BOARDS MEMBERS, AND MANY OTHER PEOPLE, INCLUDING A LOT OF BUSINESS PEOPLE AND EVEN SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. BUT THE PART ALSO INTERESTING WAS THE ABSENCE OF OUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. AND ACTUALLY I DIDN’T REALIZE IT UNTIL I READ TODAYS DAILY INDEPENDENT.

NO RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. I WONDER WHERE THEY WERE. THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT FOR THEM TO ATTEND, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE FOR THEM TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE CONGRESSMAN AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.

AND SPEAKING OF THEIR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS LUNCH, OR LACK THERE OF, I HAVE A REQUEST OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL. IT CONCERNS YOUR ATTENDANCE AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS. SINCE I ATTEND ALMOST EVERY COUNCIL MEETING, I’VE NOTICED QUITE A FEW MEETINGS WHERE THE FULL COUNCIL WASN’T THERE.

HOWEVER, THERE IS SELDOM AN ANNOUNCMENT AS TO WHY THEY WEREN’T THERE. SINCE YOU WORK FOR US, WHEN YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING A COUNCIL MEETING, WE THE PEOPLE DESERVE THE RESPECT FOR YOU TO REPORT TO US WHY YOU HAVE MISSED A MEETING. OFTEN TIMES COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE STARTED WITH SOMEONE MISSING. YET SELDOM IS AN EXPLANATION OFFERED.

WHEN ELECTED TO YOUR POSITION, WE ALL EXPECT YOU TO BE THERE. I REMEMBER WHEN I SERVED, I SCHEDULED EVERY VACATION AROUND THE MEETINGS, SO I DIDN’T MISS ANY. I NEVER MISSED EVEN ONE MEETING IN FOUR YEARS.

HOWEVER, I DON’T EXPECT EVERYONE TO DO THE SAME. I KNOW THINGS CAN COME UP THAT MAY EFFECT YOUR ATTENDANCE. THERE CAN BE EMERGENCIES, OR ILLNESS THAT STOP YOU. AND THAT’S OK. IT REALLY IS.

HOWEVER, WE THE PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW THE REASON YOU’RE NOT AT A MEETING. A SIMPLE STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR, OR ACTING MAYOR, AS TO WHO ISN’T ATTENDING AND WHY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THIS IS NOT FOR CRITISM FOR THE ABSENCE. IT’S FOR TRANSPARENCY, AND RESPECT FOR THE OFFICE AND THOSE THAT YOU SERVE. YOU ARE NOT ABOVE ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR ABSENCE. HECK, THERE ARE RECORDS THAT TRACK EVERY ELECTED OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE AT STATE AND FEDERAL SESSIONS. I RECOGNIZE THAT THEY SELDOM REPORT WHY THEY WEREN’T THERE.

HOWEVER, IF YOU CALLED THEIR OFFICE AND ASKED, THEY WOULD USUALLY HAVE AN ANSWER WHERE THE REPRESENTATIVE WAS. AS FAR AS THE COUNCIL GOES, LET’S EVEN SAY THEIR ABSENCE WAS PRIVATE AND PERSONAL IN NATURE.

THEN JUST SAY THAT.

JUST SAY: “I HAD TO MISS THE MEETING FOR PERSONAL REASONS”. THAT’S IT. WE AREN’T LOOKING FOR DIRT, JUST ACCOUNTABILITY.

RECENTLY MAYOR PRO TEM SANDERS MISSED A SERIES OF MEETINGS. WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR COVERING FOR HIM WHILE HE WAS ABSENT. BUT NOT A WORD TO US AS TO WHY HE WAS ABSENT. HE HAS TO REALIZE, THAT WHILE HE WAS GONE, THE TOWN LOST HIS PERSPECTIVE AND INFLUENCE OF ISSUE’S THE COUNCIL HAD BEFORE THEM. WE DESERVE TO KNOW WHY YOU WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE AT A MEETING YOU WERE EXPECTED TO BE AT. YOU WORK FOR US. SHOW US RESPECT AND LET US KNOW WHY YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND A MEETING.

ANYWAY, BACK TO THE MCCARTHY VISIT.

HE CALLS RIDGECREST HIS SECOND HOME.AND THE FACT HE TOOK THE TIME TO TALK TO EVERY PERSON AT THE LUNCH SAYS MUCH ABOUT HIM. I WATCHED HIM AS HE WENT THROUGH THE GROUP, AND IT WAS A BIG GROUP OF PEOPLE. HE TALKED TO ANYONE THAT WANTED TO TALK. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME LIBERALS HERE THAT DON’T LIKE HIM OR EVEN DESPISE HIM. THAT’S YOUR RIGHT.

HOWEVER, I ASK THEM THIS QUESTION: “WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME FIENSTEIN OR BOXER CAME HERE AND SPENT ANY TIME TALKING TO THE REGULAR FOLKS IN RIDGECREST?” I COULD BE WRONG, AND WOULD ACCEPT ANYONES CORRECTION OF ME IF I’M WRONG, BUT IN THE DOZENS OF YEARS THEY BOTH HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE, I THINK I ONLY REMEMBER ONE TIME THAT ONE OF THEM ROLLED IN FOR A BASE VISIT YEARS AGO. AND I CAN’T REMEMBER WHICH OF THEM IT WAS. WHEN IT HAPPENED, THERE WAS LITTLE TO NO CONTACT WITH THE REGULAR FOLKS IN TOWN.

 IN CONCLUSION;

THANK’S GOES TO CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY FOR STOPPING BY AND VISITING WITH THE PEOPLE HERE. AND TO THE CITY COUNCIL, HOW ABOUT BEING A LITTLE MORE FORTHCOMING ON YOUR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

 I’M TOM WIKNICH, AND THAT’S WHAT I THINK.

I’D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THIS EDITORIAL, OR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS OR RECOMMEND A TOPIC, I’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

PLEASE E MAIL THEM TO INFO@KZGN.NET