



Gregg Guetschow <gguetschow@charlottemi.org>

## December 14 Council Meeting

matthewwonch@yahoo.com <matthewwonch@yahoo.com>

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Reply-To: matthewwonch@yahoo.com

To: "tlewis@charlottemi.org" <tlewis@charlottemi.org>, "csanders@charlottemi.org" <csanders@charlottemi.org>, "bmittchell@charlottemi.org" <bmittchell@charlottemi.org>, "yridge@charlottemi.org" <yridge@charlottemi.org>, "bjohnston@charlottemi.org" <bjohnston@charlottemi.org>, "arusso@charlottemi.org" <arusso@charlottemi.org>, "cbahmer@charlottemi.org" <cbahmer@charlottemi.org>

Cc: "gguetschow@charlottemi.org" <gguetschow@charlottemi.org>

I was unable to attend the December 14th council meeting; I wanted to write now to communicate my support of Mr. Guetschow. I am appalled that his contract was not extended.

I watched the council meeting online today. The long line of speakers supporting Gregg Guetschow all had numerous examples of his achievements and stated the positive attributes that he brings to the position he holds. While many of his accomplishments were clearly stated; no specific performance issue or reason why the contract should not be extended was provided. A couple council members stated that they received emails on things that people wanted changed, or alluded to there being issues. One community member stated there was a "silent majority" that wants a new city manager. Well maybe that "silent majority" should grow a voice and state the specific reasons why they feel a new city manager is needed. If the city council members have received a high volume of emails stating that citizens want a new city manager due to specific issues, then the council members as elected official should speak for those constituents and state those issues in the open forum.

Once citizen spoke and alluded to unnecessary spending, however, no specific example was given. I assume this is in reference to the purchase of the Armory. If council members have received emails regarding the Armory purchase; I would hope you would reply with the correct statement that the building was not purchased by the city manager, but rather the purchase was voted on and was approved by the city council.

In the closing remarks Brad Johnston stated that "I think we do need a change". Do you have any specific reason for wanting a change in the city manager? Corey Sanderson stated that "there are these small things that need to be corrected". Well what are these small things?

Chris Bahmer stated he has received emails from people opposed to extending the current city managers contract, and that the counsel wanted their own terms in the city managers contract rather than swallowing the terms from the last contract. If you have received emails stating cons to extending the city managers contact then summarize them in the meeting. What terms are you looking to add to the city managers contract? Mr. Bahmer, your dad came to my front door campaigning for you. He stated that you were running for city council because you wanted complete openness and transperance; if you are going to talk the talk then walk the walk and openly convey what the issues are from this alleged silent group.

I, and apparently the vast majority of business and community leaders, think the city manager is doing an outstanding job in the position. He has not had a pay raise since 2008, pushed for the Owens Illinois tax settlement, set up a municipal non-profit for Camp Frances, supported the DPW Director when she fought DEQ's mandate to build a \$20 million water treatment plant that was not necessary, has been actively involved in the community in including Rotary and Can Do. He has 35 plus year of experience, the knowledge and ambition to competently manage the City of Charlotte.

I do agree that the City Managers contract should be changed to match the fiscal calendar. This can be accomplished by offering him a 2.5 year contract. Given Mr. Guetschow's positive reputation, commitment and support from the community, the contract should be extended to maintain the positive continuity of city operations.

Since the council members were mute to the any specific concerns they have with the city managers performance, and no specific negative information was communicated, the no vote defies all logic and common sense. I don't know what hidden addenda those members may have, but I hope they come to the realization, especially after the large supportive turn out to the council meeting, that extending Mr. Guetschow contract is the best course of action for the community.

Matthew Wonch  
784 W. Seminary Charlotte, MI