

August 12, 2009

I received a telephone message from Alderman Spellman this morning asking about two issues. He wanted to know why I did not tell the Mayor why he was absent from the Council meeting and if a letter of cancellation was sent to Kennedy funding regarding the lease at Hillmoor. I called him back and told him that I did tell the Mayor and City Clerk why he was not there (he was at the House on the Rock) and that a letter has not been sent yet terminating the Hillmoor lease.

He then said he wondered how I put up with all the craziness around here. He stated that I was old enough to retire and stated that it might be better to do that than stay in my position. He then gave me an example of his wife getting hired to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Reek School. One week after she was hired, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher decided she wanted to teach the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, so his wife had to teach the first. What he was saying was that his wife should have left then and there rather than put up with what she did for the next ten years. From the way he told it, I took it that she had a bad time there. I asked what he meant by the craziness and he said with how the Mayor was acting regarding the appointment of the vacant Council position and the rumor that was going around. I asked if it was the rumor regarding that Mr. Spellman and his supporters were going to get a supporter of theirs installed in the vacant Council seat and then would replace me with former Alderman Dunham. He said it was something like that, but it would not be Mr. Dunham. So I stated that this wasn't just some rumor going around, but that they were of a mind to terminate me, and he suggested I consider retirement seriously. He further stated that Mrs. Krohn was on "their" side and that they had the votes to terminate me. He referred to a conversation we had when he first came on the Council. I told him that when I was elected to the City Council in Bozeman, Montana, the Mayor came up to me and told me all I needed to understand was the number 3. There were 5 people on the Council and 3 was a majority. He was telling me his supporters now were going to have the majority.

He went on to state that when Alderperson Russell resigned, that the Council went several meetings before they addressed filling the vacancy. They then asked citizens to submit their names and then made a decision. He and his supporters were concerned that the Mayor was trying to appoint someone while one of their group was on vacation. He stated that if that were to occur, the vote would be three to three and the Mayor would have cast the deciding vote. So they made sure there was not a quorum until their supporter returned from vacation. He said they would then nominate Mr. Condos for the vacancy as he had the most votes in the last election in District 1 (he got 4 more votes in his district than the Mayor did). He said it was nothing personal, and that he thought we might not have always agreed on some items, but that we had a good relationship.

Dennis E. Jordan

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