

May 19, 2008

Mayor William Cedar Jr.
City of St. Clair
547 N. Carney Drive
St. Clair, MI 48079

Dear Mayor Cedar:

This letter is forwarded to you, with copies to Scott Adkins and Janice Winn, to advise you of my decision to resign from City Council effectively immediately. I believe resignation is the best course of action for me in light of my experiences in almost 5 months on Council.

As you are aware from our telephone conversations with you during February, I was more that outraged to find out that several Council members would support (some reluctantly) a community survey and strategic planning at an open meeting, but then have separate, private conversations with Scott, the majority of the Council, and others in the community indicating they did not support the process. I believe we were elected to honestly express our opinions and represent our constituents, not say one thing in a public meeting and then undermine the process privately. This was not an isolated incident and similar behavior has occurred by some on Council on other issues. I am certain that most of the citizens are unaware the extent to which The Voyageur Restaurant functions as the de-facto City Hall.

The lack of action by Council on key issues astonishes me. The City obviously faces several difficult financial decisions which require open and honest public discussions by Council members. While some Council members express reluctance, or in one case adamant opposition, to a millage increase to support road maintenance and repairs, no one is prepared to discuss the alternative to such an increase – real budget cuts. While I do not believe a .925 mills increase for road maintenance and repair is inappropriate for this community, I was prepared to work with other Council members to discuss priorities and potential cuts to reduce that increase as much as possible. I have approached several Council members regarding their concerns and possible budget cuts, but none are willing to have open discussion of those options at a Council meeting.

Similarly, the costs and benefits of the recreation department (as currently structured) and the operating costs of the current pool are a huge issue in this community. A decision must be made as to whether we keep pouring money (potentially \$50,000 in infrastructure expenses this year) into the current pool, build a new pool, or get out of the pool business entirely. I have tried at several Council meetings and during our budget

discussions to prod discussion and a decision. Yet, the priority of a majority on Council is to see how quickly they can proceed through our agenda. So, how much money will St. Clair spend on the current aging pool before Council has the courage to make a real decision?

A number of important ordinances have been discussed and requested by some members of Council and the Police Chief including ordinances addressing parking in the right of way and loitering. The parking in the right of way issue was raised by both Mr. Smith and me in January and had been before Council last year. Finally, on May 15th the Ordinance Review Committee referred those two matters (among others) to the City Attorney for draft ordinances. This is ridiculous timeframe for action on relatively simple matters.

Mr. Mayor, a business operated and led in this manner is not likely to survive and certainly will not flourish. As you know, I have a number of priorities to juggle not the least of which are my family and leading my company. I do not believe continuing to invest my time in Council is likely to result in any positive change for the community and, as a result, would be a waste of limited time and energy.

Best regards,



Paul Mitchell

Cc: Scott Adkins
Janice Winn