

Lest We Forget

Councilman Harold Froehlich either voted for or personally pushed these actions:

1. A \$55 million bond issue in 2009 including a \$30 MM blank check for economic development and \$8.75 MM for a water park and senior center indoor pool. Would have caused a 21% tax rate increase. Fortunately the voters rejected all but the fire station bond.
2. Issued a \$10 million certificate of obligation to implement part of what the voters rejected, i.e., to purchase 400,000 sf of land and improvements in Four Corners using a ruse of "dangerous buildings". Result is a low end grocer, a second tier fast food, and a big tract still off the tax rolls. The property tax revenue increment is \$22,000 per year vs. \$700,000 debt service.
3. A most vocal supporter of the immigration ordinance which produced:
 - a. a loss in court at a cost in legal fees alone of \$7.5 MM to say nothing of the reputational and opportunity costs.
 - b. an open meetings lawsuit which had to be settled by adopting best practices and paying plaintiff's legal fees
 - c. a voting rights act suit which had to be settled by adopting single member districts and paying plaintiff's legal fees
 - d. five years of zero street maintenance, staff layoffs, deferred programs, etc. because that money went to pay legal expenses
4. A driving force behind the demo-rebuild program which encourages destruction of homes either by purchase of homes to resell them at a loss to builders or by paying an outright subsidy to owners wanting a new house. Ignored consultant's advice to limit this to less upscale areas with the result that the city is subsidizing what would happen without subsidy.
5. A driving force behind the nanny codes, e.g., penalizing people who allowed grass in cracks in sidewalk or had too many flower pots.
6. Forced the city manager, without council action, to install "traffic calming devices" on a segment of Golfing Green. Residents were outraged and forced city to pay once again to remove the barriers.
7. Outsourced the library over the advice of library board to a for profit operator who terminated entire staff, restaffed with entry level staff with minimal benefits.

Friends of the Library disbanded. All to save a modest amount which today is probably nil.

8. Removed citizen comment from the council agenda...twice.
9. Voted to combine two voter rejected bond initiatives as the "aquatic center" and to fund it with certificates of obligation. The project's consultant misled the city about both the cost and the economic viability of the project; reserves had to be raided to complete the project and it is struggling with low revenue.
10. A driving force to rezone 270 acres of Mercer Crossing from commercial to residential, resulting in higher cost of municipal services
11. A driving force to subsidize the Mercer Crossing developer by creating a PID to pay for the infrastructure and then a TIRZ to allot 40% of the tax increment to subsidize the PID's debt service, leaving the city only 60% of the increment to fund 100% of residential level municipal services.
12. Has relied heavily on campaign funds for the same Mercer Crossing folks he favored with zoning and development incentives.