

Tami Bannick

From: Libby Wentz <libbypw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 9:01 PM
To: Tami Bannick
Cc: Neal Reisner; Randy Ripley; Tamara Stempel; Linda Neace; Matt Tracy; Thomas Mersereau
Subject: Please include in Council Meeting
Attachments: Ethics Commission 2019-4-19 Regular Session Book Page 89 to 102[2569].pdf

Hi Tami,

I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow but have been wanting to address the results of the ethic complaint I made year, ever since Tammy Stempel said my complaint was unfounded.

My complaint was not unfounded. The committee did find there was sufficient information to recommend that Tammy Stempel committed two violations of ORS 244.120(2).

If one reads the report, Stempel admits her violations and uses as an excuse, that the city attorney would have stopped her if she should have not voted...which is not true according to this report and not a valid excuse for voting to benefit her family financially.

Sincerely,

Libby Wentz

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION
INVESTIGATION

CASE NO: 18-185EHW

DATE: 04/10/2019

RESPONDENT: STEMPEL, Tamara (Tammy), Mayor & Budget Committee
Member, City of Gladstone

COMPLAINANT: WENTZ, Libby, Planning Commissioner, City of Gladstone

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Make a Preliminary Finding of 2 Violations of
ORS 244.120(2)

1 **SYNOPSIS:** Tammy Stempel was the Mayor and a member of the Budget Committee
2 for the City of Gladstone (City) when the events relevant to this investigation occurred.
3 The focus of this investigation was to determine whether a preponderance of evidence
4 exists to indicate that Tammy Stempel violated ORS Chapter 244 by failing to properly
5 dispose of conflicts of interest in a City Budget Committee meeting on 4/17/17 and in a
6 City Council meeting on 6/12/18.

7
8 In the 4/17/17 Budget Committee meeting, which Ms. Stempel attended as Chair, the
9 Budget Committee vote to approve the Fire Department 2017 – 2019 budget for adoption
10 by City Council, which included the addition of two new, permanent, full-time Fire Captain
11 positions. Ms. Stempel's husband, who had been a City Fire Fighter since 2005, was
12 temporarily filling in for an injured fire chief at the time, and was ultimately promoted to
13 one of the new positions after the budget was adopted by City Council. According to Ms.
14 Stempel, she did not believe that she had a conflict of interest in this meeting, so she did
15 not announce any conflict of interest. There appears to be a preponderance of evidence
16 to indicate that Tammy Stempel failed to announce a potential conflict of interest in the
17 4/17/17 Budget Committee meeting, violating ORS 244.120(2).

18 //

1 In the 6/12/18 City Council meeting, Council voted to approve placing the renewal of the
2 City's Fire and Medical Services Operating Levy (Levy) on the November 2018 ballot for
3 voter approval. During the meeting, the Fire Chief stated that non-renewal of the Levy
4 could financially affect the Fire Department as a whole. There appears to be a
5 preponderance of evidence to indicate that Tammy Stempel failed to announce a potential
6 conflict of interest in the 6/12/18 City Council meeting, violating ORS 244.120(2).

7
8 **RELEVANT STATUTES:** The following Oregon Revised Statutes are applicable to the
9 issues addressed herein:

10
11 **ORS 244.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires
12 otherwise:

13
14 (1) "Actual conflict of interest" means any action or any decision or
15 recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of
16 which would be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the
17 person's relative or any business with which the person or a relative of the person
18 is associated unless the pecuniary benefit or detriment arises out of circumstances
19 described in subsection (13) of this section.

20
21 (13) "Potential conflict of interest" means any action or any decision or
22 recommendation by a person acting in a capacity as a public official, the effect of
23 which could be to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the person or the
24 person's relative, or a business with which the person or the person's relative is
25 associated, unless the pecuniary benefit arises out of the following:

26
27 (a) An interest or membership in a particular business, industry, occupation
28 or other class required by law as a prerequisite to the holding by the person
29 of the office or position.

30 //

31 //

1 (b) Any action in the person's official capacity which would affect to the
2 degree a class consisting of all inhabitants of the state, or a smaller class
3 consisting of an industry, occupation or other group including one of which
4 or in which the person, or the person's relative is associated, in a member
5 or is engaged * * *.

6
7 (15) "Public official" means the First Partner and any person who, when an alleged
8 violation of this chapter occurs, is serving the State of Oregon or any of its political
9 subdivisions or any other public body as defined in ORS 174.109 as an elected
10 official, appointed official, employee or agent, irrespective of whether the person is
11 compensated for the services.

12
13 (16) "Relative" means:

14 (a) The spouse, parent, stepparent, child, sibling, stepsibling, son-in-law or
15 daughter-in-law of the public official or candidate * * *.

16
17 **ORS 244.120 Methods of handling conflicts; Legislative Assembly; judges;**
18 **appointed officials; other elected officials or members of boards.** (2) An
19 elected public official, other than a member of the Legislative Assembly, or an
20 appointed public official serving on a board or commission, shall:

21
22 (a) When met with a potential conflict of interest, announce publicly the
23 nature of the potential conflict prior to taking any action thereon in the
24 capacity of a public official; or

25
26 (b) When met with an actual conflict of interest, announce publicly the
27 nature of the actual conflict and: (A) * * * [R]efrain from participating as a
28 public official in any discussion or debate on the issue out of which the
29 actual conflict arises or from voting on the issue.

30 //

1 working knowledge of issues such as conflict and bias and should not have to rely
2 on others to point it out to her. After the Budget Committee approves the budget,
3 it goes to the City Council where it is adopted. During [the 6/13/17] City Council
4 meeting, where the budget was adopted, the [C]ity [A]ttorney advise[d] Mayor
5 Stempel to recuse herself due to the conflict. Which she did. * * * [Item #17 of the
6 6/13/17 City Council meeting minutes (which were attached to the complaint)
7 confirms that Mayor Stempel declared a conflict of interest and recused [herself]
8 from participating in the Fire Department budget.]

9
10 At the [6/12/18] Gladstone City Council meeting, the Council deliberated and voted
11 to place a Fire Services Operating Levy on the November 2018 ballot. Mayor
12 Stempel answered the roll call for this meeting. There was a unanimous vote to
13 approve the inclusion of the Fire Services Operating Levy on the ballot. No record
14 of Mayor Stempel recusing herself is noted. This is the second time Mayor Stempel
15 deliberated and voted on a matter that benefits her financially, even after having
16 previously recused herself from the [6/13/17] Council meeting. Without this Levy,
17 it is possible that the Fire Captain positions would need to be eliminated. This could
18 affect her husband's paid position as a Fire Captain. The written minutes of the
19 [4/17/17] Gladstone Budget Committee meeting, [6/13/17] Gladstone City Council
20 meeting, and the [6/12/18] Gladstone City Council meeting have been attached to
21 this complaint." (#PR1)

22
23 RESPONSE

24 On receiving notice that a complaint had been filed, on 9/13/2018, Ms. Stempel provided
25 a letter in response, which is excerpted below (a full copy was previously provided to the
26 Commissioners with the preliminary review report).

27
28 As to the allegations regarding the 4/17/17 Budget committee meeting, Ms. Stempel
29 responded:

30 //

31 //

1 ** * * * * Correct, I did not recuse myself when the Budget Committee discussed
2 and made a recommendation to approve the 2017-2019 city budget. * * * [(]
3 recused [myself] * * * from the [6/13/17] City Council discussion on the budget
4 claiming a conflict * * * upon a recommendation by our city attorney, M. David
5 Doughman. * * * * *

6
7 I did chair the [4/17/17 Budget Committee] meeting, however I did not vote.
8 Beginning with my appointment as * * * Planning Commission [chair] in 2014, my
9 policy is to only vote if there is a tie or when a roll-call vote is required * * * [or] if
10 there is an agenda item I would like to make a public statement [on] by adding my
11 vote. However, the Budget Committee is not one of those. * * * * *” (#PR2)

12
13 In response to the allegations regarding the 6/12/18 City Council meeting, Ms. Stempel’s
14 letter stated:

15
16 “That is correct. The council voted unanimously, via roll call vote, to place the Fire
17 Services Operating Levy on the November 2018 ballot. And yes, I obviously voted
18 in the positive. I would not recuse myself from a vote that impacted the fire
19 department as a whole, in matters without any financial gain or conflict. * * * First,
20 the position funded by this levy is for a full-time training coordinator * * *. My
21 husband’s job is funded by the General Fund and SAFER Grant. His position is
22 not supported by this levy.” (#PR2)

23
24 Ms. Stempel also attached copies of the following documents to her response: a City of
25 Gladstone Fire Department memo dated 8/7/17; a job description for the position of Fire
26 Captain with the City of Gladstone; a staff report on the SAFER grant dated 8/8/17; her
27 husband’s (Kirk Stempel’s) resume; the Fire Services Levy ballot measure fact sheet
28 dated September 2018; a bullying complaint filed by Mayor Stempel against the
29 complainant, Libby Wentz, dated 4/3/17; and what appears to be a Letter-to-the-Editor
30 authored by Libby Wentz and published in the Clackamas Review on 3/29/17. (#PR2)

31 //

1 During the investigation, Ms. Stempel provided additional information on this matter by
2 phone on 4/4/18 at the Commission investigator's request. The primary question was
3 whether the City Attorney specifically advised Ms. Stempel that she did not have a conflict
4 of interest in the 4/17/17 Budget Committee meeting. In response, Ms. Stempel stated
5 that the City Attorney had not specifically advised her on the matter when it came before
6 the Budget Committee, but that she did not believe a conflict existed, because the City
7 Attorney was present in the meeting and did not say anything. She added that she and
8 other City officials generally rely on the City Attorney to advise them on conflicts and
9 therefore expect the City Attorney to tell them they have one. (#INV1)

10
11 Ms. Stempel also added that the City recently received training from the Commission on
12 Oregon Government Ethics laws, and that she and other City officials now have a better
13 understanding of how conflicts of interest and other relevant laws apply. Ms. Stempel
14 stated that the City intends to institute an annual Government Ethics training program
15 with the Commission so that City officials can stay apprised and refreshed. (#INV1)

16
17 In both the phone call during investigation and her letter in response to the complaint, Ms.
18 Stempel stated her belief that the complaints filed against her with the Commission have
19 been politically motivated, because of the complainant's relationship with the candidate
20 who lost against her in the run for mayor in 2016. (#PR2; #INV1)

21
22 4/17/17 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING RECORDS

23 The minutes and an audio recording of the meeting were available.

24
25 Records indicate that Mayor Stempel was in attendance at this meeting as Budget
26 Committee Chair. (#PR1; #INV2)

27
28 Records indicate that during the meeting, City Fire Chief, Tom O'Connor, presented an
29 overview of the Fire Department budget. In his presentation, the Fire Chief proposed that
30 two new full-time Fire Captain positions be added to the Fire Department's budget. He
1 also proposed reprioritizing the Fire Department budget, by reducing its capital

1 expenditures in order to offset the cost of the new positions, stating that at the time of the
2 meeting the budget directed 20% to capital expenditures and 50% to personnel, whereas
3 the new proposed budget would direct 60% to personnel and only 9% to capital
4 expenditures. The Fire Chief specified that approval of the new proposed budget would
5 result in a 2.5% increase in overall Fire Department expenditures for the 2017 – 2018
6 budget year and a 5.19% increase over the current year for the 2018 – 2019 budget year.
7 (#PR1; #INV2)

8
9 Meeting records indicate that in two separate votes, the Budget Committee voted to
10 approve both the line item budget and the overall budget to City Council for adoption.
11 Councilor Wohlwend motioned, and Councilor McMahon seconded, both votes. Although
12 the meeting records show that both motions were approved unanimously, they do not
13 reflect whether Mayor Stempel voted, because only a voice vote (as opposed to a roll call
14 vote) was taken (i.e., all of members said "aye" together). (#PR1; #INV2)

15
16 None of the records available indicate that Mayor Stempel announced a conflict of interest
17 at any time during the meeting. (#PR1; #INV2)

18
19 6/12/18 CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECORDS

20 The minutes and an audio recording of the meeting were available.

21
22 Records indicate that Tammy Stempel was in attendance at this City Council meeting as
23 Mayor and a member of the governing body. (#PR1; #INV3)

24
25 Fire Chief O'Connor and Fire Chief Mike Funk presented a proposal that the City Council
26 vote to refer a ballot measure renewing the Fire Services Operating Levy (Levy) for the
27 next five-year period to the November 2018 ballot to be approved by voters. During the
28 presentation, Fire Chief Funk stated that the Levy has been approved four times in the
29 past with over 80% approval, and that part of these funds would be directed at adding a
30 third full-time position to Fire Department staff (in addition to the two positions already
31 approved in the budget by City Council in April 2017). Fire Chief O'Connor stated besides

1 adding the third position, renewing the Levy would permit the Fire Department to continue
2 operating at its current staff level, but that without the Levy the City would be required to
3 fund Fire services out of the City's general fund which could have an impact on Fire
4 Department personnel as a whole. (#PR1; #INV3)

5
6 Meeting records indicate that Councilor McMahon made the motion to place the Levy on
7 the November 2018 ballot, and Councilor Mersereau seconded. Although the meeting
8 records show that the motion was approved unanimously, they do not show whether
9 Mayor Stempel voted, because only a voice vote (as opposed to a roll call vote) was taken
10 (i.e., all of members said "aye" together). (#PR1; #INV3). However, Ms. Stempel says that
11 she voted affirmatively to place the levy on the ballot.

12
13 None of the records available indicate that Mayor Stempel announced a conflict of interest
14 at any time during the meeting. (#PR1; #INV3)

15
16 INFO RE KIRK STEMPEL'S EMPLOYMENT WITH CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

17 Kirk Stempel's resume, which was submitted with Ms. Stempel's response, shows that
18 Mr. Stempel became employed with the Gladstone Fire Department as a Fire Fighter in
19 2005 and was promoted to the title of Lieutenant in 2011. (#PR2)

20
21 In Ms. Stempel's response letter, she stated that during the time period relevant to the
22 allegations made in the complaint, her husband was not serving in a "temporary, paid Fire
23 Captain position." Rather, "[h]e was [a] Lieutenant, back filling a position created due to
24 the injury of one of the * * * full-time chief officers." (#PR2)

25
26 The memorandum from City Fire Chief, Tom O'Connor, appears to support Ms. Stempel's
27 assertion. The memo shows that the position her husband was filling at the time was a
28 "Temporary Day Officer Position," which was created to temporarily fill in for one of the
29 Fire Department chiefs. The memo also indicates that the temporary position he was
30 filling would sunset once two new Fire Captain positions were created and filled. (#PR2)

31 //

1 The staff report written by Tom O'Connor to City Council dated 8/8/17 indicates that in
2 January 2017, on approval of the City Administrator, the City Fire Department applied for
3 a FEMA SAFER grant to hire three new positions in the Fire Department, and that in July
4 2017, FEMA responded by awarding a three-year grant. The Fire Chief also documents
5 in his report that "[b]ased on * * * past experience * * * [he] considered it unlikely [that
6 they] would be awarded the grant." As a result, prior to the grant being awarded,
7 Gladstone Fire proposed that two full-time positions be added based solely on the City's
8 2017 – 2019 budget, and that the two positions were approved by the Budget Committee
9 in April 2017 and adopted by the City Council in June 2017. (#PR2)

10
11 The City's website shows that Kirk Stempel was hired full-time in one of the new Fire
12 Captain positions that were added in 2017. (#PR3)

13
14 **CONCLUSIONS:** Tammy Stempel was the Mayor and a member of the Budget
15 Committee in the City of Gladstone during the period relevant to this case. As such,
16 Tammy Stempel was a "public official" (per ORS 244.020(15)) and therefore subject to
17 ORS Chapter 244 Oregon Government Ethics law.

18
19 Kirk Stempel, as Tammy Stempel's spouse, is considered her "relative" for the purpose
20 of Oregon Government Ethics law (per ORS 244.020(16)).

21
22 A public official is met with either an actual or potential conflict of interest when
23 participating in an official capacity, in any action, decision, or recommendation, if the
24 effect would or could be to the private financial benefit or detriment of herself, a relative,
25 or any business with which she or a relative is associated (ORS 244.020(1) and (13)).

26
27 When public official who is acting as a member of governing body is met with any conflict
28 of interest, the public official must publicly announce the conflict each time it arises (i.e.,
29 once in a meeting). If the conflict is actual, the public official must also refrain from any
30 discussion, debate or vote on the issue giving rise to the conflict. If the conflict is potential,
31 she may participate in official actions following public disclosure (ORS 244.120(2)).

4/17/17 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

1
2 Official meeting records show that during this meeting, the Budget Committee heard a
3 proposal by Fire Chief O'Connor to add two new full-time Fire Captain positions to the
4 Fire Department's budget, which were to be effected by a reorganization of and increase
5 in the Fire Department's budget. The meeting records show that after hearing and
6 deliberating on the proposal, the Budget Committee then unanimously approved the Fire
7 Department budget proposal for adoption by City Council. The meeting records also show
8 that Mayor Stempel attended the meeting as Committee Chair and that she did not recuse
9 herself or announce any conflict of interest.

10
11 Available information indicates that at the time of this meeting, Mayor Stempel's husband
12 was serving in a "Temporary Day Officer Position," which had been created to fill in for
13 one of the Fire Department chiefs who had been injured. The information also shows that
14 the "Temporary Day Officer Position" was to be eliminated once the two new Fire Captain
15 positions were created and filled. Review of the City's website confirmed that Mayor
16 Stempel's husband, Kirk Stempel, has since been hired full-time in one of these new Fire
17 Captain positions.

18
19 The fact that Mayor Stempel's husband was already employed by the City as a Lieutenant
20 Fire Fighter, combined with the fact that he was filling a temporary position to perform the
21 duties of a chief officer (an even higher ranking position than captain) at the time of the
22 meeting, and that the temporary position would go away once the new fire captain
23 positions were created appears to create a reasonable probability that approval of the
24 Fire Department's proposed budget, in this case, could result in Mr. Stempel being directly
25 financially affected. Either he would be returned to his earlier lower-paying job or he might
26 be promoted into one of the new Fire Captain positions (in fact, he was promoted to
27 Captain). As a result, it appears that Mayor Stempel was met with a potential conflict of
28 interest, which she should have disclosed pursuant to the requirements in ORS
29 244.120(2).

30 //

31 //

1 In her letter in response to the complaint and in her telephone conversation with the
2 Commission investigator, Mayor Stempel stated that she did not believe she had a conflict
3 of interest, as a result of the City Attorney not informing her that one existed. It is the
4 responsibility of each public official to determine whether or not they have a conflict of
5 interest. Reliance on the City Attorney's failure to tell her that she had a conflict is not a
6 statutory defense against failure to properly dispose of a conflict of interest.

7
8 Mayor Stempel also stated in her response to the complaint that her personal policy as
9 Budget Committee Chair is to refrain from voting except in certain specific circumstances
10 and that, although she did not recuse herself, she did not vote. The City's official records
11 pertaining to this meeting do not contain or allude to that policy, and they contain no
12 evidence whether Ms. Stempel refrained from voting. In any event, Ms. Stempel
13 acknowledges that she did not announce a conflict and the records reflect that Ms.
14 Stempel failed to announce a conflict. ORS 244.130 requires that any conflict of interest
15 must be recorded in the City's official records.

16
17 As a result, there is a preponderance of the evidence to find that Tammy Stempel violated
18 ORS 244.120(2) when she failed to announce a potential conflict of interest in the 4/17/17
19 City Budget Committee meeting.

20
21 6/12/18 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

22 The complaint alleges that Mayor Stempel was present at the meeting and voted to put
23 the Fire and Medical Services Operating Levy (Levy) up for renewal on the November
24 2018 ballot, and that the matter created a conflict of interest, because without the Levy,
25 the Fire Captain positions (one of which is held by Ms. Stempel's husband) might need
26 to be eliminated.

27
28 Official meeting records show that during this meeting, City Council heard a proposal by
29 Fire Chiefs O'Connor and Funk to refer a measure to the November 2018 ballot, which
30 would renew the City's Fire and Medical Services Operating Levy (Levy) for the next five-
31 year period. In the meeting, Fire Chief O'Connor stated that the Fire Department's

1 preexisting positions are supported by the City's general fund, but that not having the
2 Levy would likely affect Fire Department staff as a whole.

3
4 It appears that non-renewal of the Levy *could* result in Mr. Stempel's position being
5 eliminated, as suggested in the complaint. Alternatively, Fire Department leadership *could*
6 also have made other changes should the levy not be referred, such as cutting employee
7 hours, pay, training or benefits. The fact that any of these changes *could* financially affect
8 Mr. Stempel as an employee of the Fire Department appears to have created a potential
9 conflict of interest for Ms. Stempel in the 6/12/18 City Council meeting.

10
11 In her letter in response to the complaint, Ms. Stempel confirmed that she was present at
12 the meeting and voted to put the Levy on the ballot. Nothing in the City records or
13 information provided by Ms. Stempel indicate that she announced any conflict of interest.

14
15 Information is sufficient to create a preponderance of evidence to find that Tammy
16 Stempel was met with a potential conflict of interest in the 6/12/18 City Council meeting,
17 which she failed to announce in violation of ORS 244.120(2).

18
19 **RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Commission should make a preliminary finding that Tammy
20 Stempel committed two (2) violations of ORS 244.120(2) [Motion 10].

21 //
22 //
23 //
24 //
25 //
26 //
27 //
28 //
29 //
30 //
31 //

1 **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:**

2 #PR1 Complaint and attachments filed electronically by Libby Wentz, received 9/3/18.

3 #PR2 Response letter and attachments from complainant, Tamara Stempel, received
4 9/13/18.

5 #PR3 Screen shot of City of Gladstone Fire Department website's Staff webpage at
6 <https://www.ci.gladstone.or.us/fire/page/career-staff>, viewed 9/27/18.

7 #INV1 Commission investigator's memo summarizing telephone contact with Tammy
8 Stempel on 4/4/19.

9 #INV2 Minutes and audio recording of the 4/17/17 Budget Committee meeting obtained
10 from the City of Gladstone website.

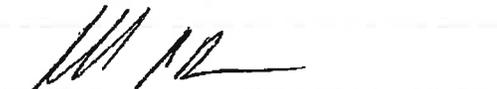
11 #INV3 Minutes and audio recording of the 6/12/18 City Council meeting obtained from
12 City of Gladstone website.
13

PREPARED BY


Hayley Weedn
Investigator

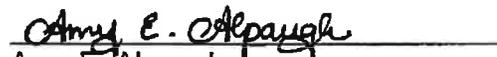
4/10/19
Date

APPROVED BY


Ronald A. Bersin
Executive Director

4/10/19
Date

REVIEWED BY


Amy E. Alpaugh
Assistant Attorney General

4/11/19
Date

Tami Bannick

From: Linda Neace <neace26@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Tami Bannick
Subject: Please add to packet

Councilor Linda Neace – statement to the Gladstone City Council, 10/13/2020

To my fellow councilors, the Mayor, and the citizens of Gladstone:

It's difficult for me to stand before you today to defend myself yet again against another unwarranted attack by five-time failed candidate Bill Osburn. A little more than two years ago, I stood before the council in response to another attack by professional candidate Osburn. I nearly resigned my seat to avoid his continued harassment, but after the earlier matter was resolved and the Secretary of State ruled against his false accusations against me, I falsely assumed we had moved past these politically motivated attacks. Apparently I underestimated Osburn's desperation to finally win a seat on the council by any means necessary – including attempting to force me out of my seat before the end of my term in January.

Filing complaints and recalls against Gladstone City Councilors has become something of a profession for Osburn, who describes his occupation as a "consultant," despite having no business registration with the Oregon Secretary of State. The Mayor, who recently endorsed Osburn, less than a year ago attacked him in the Clackamas Review after he filed ethics charges against her for what he deemed a violation of public meeting laws. Osburn was motivated to file the charges after he was denied access to an executive session, claiming a press credential obtained online and a blog about his activities qualified him as a professional journalist.

The mayor mocked Osburn's complaint by claiming she had suddenly become a professional journalist by getting the same "press credentials" that any citizen like Osburn is able to download instantly through a website.

"I went and took 30 seconds to get a press pass," she said. "I'm also a minister, and I have zero credentials. And I'm an FBI agent. All of that was done with the click of the mouse on the internet."

According to the 2016 memo issued by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, media allowed to attend executive sessions must belong to "an entity that is formally organized for the purpose of gathering and disseminating news." That decision went against Osburn, and here is again, going after me.

I want to apologize to the Council for not responding sooner regarding Osburn's latest complaint against me. I found out about the Secretary of State charges at the same time that you received your copies. The signature gathering in question took place in September and I understood it to be resolved. I was surprised to find Osburn's complaint was still active, or had been re-activated. I have now filed a formal appeal. I just received notice that the appeal is set for [Nov. 6, 2020](#).

As this matter has not been resolved with the Secretary of State, and given Bill Osburn's divisive attacks on me and other members of this Council, I respectfully request the Council's patience until this is resolved.

Sincerely,

Linda Neace
City Councilor