

Because you deserve to hear from me on this, versus what others claim to have heard from or about me, or the candidates I publicly support.

In response to the recent accusations made publicly and privately by our opponents and their supporters against my, Mayor Pearson's, and Council Member Bloyer's character; while disappointed in our opponents' choices and behavior, sadly, I am not surprised, and at this point, unfortunately, expect more of the same to follow.

For the record, I continue to stand with and fully support Mayor Pearson and Council Member Bloyer. I will not dignify such juvenile accusations made by others for political gain beyond this initial response, as it is neither worthy of your time or mine.

More importantly, **we respect you** too much to suggest you are not smart enough to see it for exactly what it is.

I think this city has far more pressing issues to address, and furthermore, I wish Anne Smith and her family nothing but the best, and thank her for her service.

As for the Fliflet-led majority's 11th hour attempt to re-institute the video recorded committee and workshop meetings **just three weeks** from the election (and after they were the ones who removed such a right immediately upon taking office in 2015), and after **two years of the citizens** repeatedly calling for it....

Again, **we will not disrespect you** by suggesting you do not see exactly what is going on and why.

This is **not** happening because Brett Emmons or Ben Roth *finally* admitted it was needed just **two days** ago when pressed for an answer at a public forum (and as suggested by Council Member Fliflet while grandstanding during the 10/18/16 city council meeting) - that is further insult to the **two years** of hard work and advocacy for such transparency by citizens devoted to democracy, as well as the illegal censure that Council Member Bloyer has been enduring for advocating for fiscal transparency more than a year ago (a censure that still remains in place by the Fliflet-led majority, in spite of being illegal).

Actions (or in this case, inactions) are louder than words.

Thank you to every citizen who put in the hard work and had the courage to ensure transparency remained a priority. Let us hope we never forget this important lesson again.

Beyond that, please do not take any refusal to engage in negative rhetoric, or silence on future accusations and untruths being spread about me, or Mayor Pearson, or Council Member Bloyer, as admission of some sort of guilt. Rest assured, we will answer only to you, the constituents of Lake Elmo, when and if the situation calls for it, not in response to sad campaign shenanigans. We respect and trust in your intelligence to make the right decision about who we are, and what we stand for.

Thank you!