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Special Edition

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**Unconscionable Tax Increases and Madeira Corruption** - In sworn testimony, Madeira Tax Commissioner, Kristie Lowndes confessed that on March 14, 2017 she signed her name purporting to be the Acting City Council Clerk, and later admitted that her boss, City Manager Thomas R. Moeller instructed her to sign Ordinance # 17-06 because "He is the City Manager", CORRUPTION, Plain and Simple. Moeller would subsequently testify that Lowndes was mistaken, he did not appoint her as the "ACTING COUNCIL CLERK". Our City Manager and City Council members were so desperate that Moeller had to throw Lowndes "Under the Bus". Current Madeira City Council members are in denial, **MADEIRA CORRUPTION** is real and **ongoing**. Two current members of Madeira City Council Scott Gehring and Chris Hilberg are running for re-election. Madeira voters can send a strong message that we won't put up with Lies and corruption, by **NOT** casting a vote for Hilberg or Gehring on November 5<sup>th</sup>. **Corruption – "dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people, such as government officials"** ([transcripts, madeiramessenger.com, page 11](#))

**Soper Leaves in Disgrace** – September 11, 2019, Steve Soper was just forced to resign as our City Treasurer. Soper was convicted in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court of Ethics Violations involving a Technology Company in which Soper had an ownership interest. Soper and City Manager Moeller signed dozens of checks made out to the Company, owned by Soper, ([court records, madeiramessenger.com Pg. 19](#)).

**Taxes going up** – *Gehring and Hilberg, candidates for re-election, will impose a new tax on every Madeira home for trash collection. The "Trash Tax" will be billed on Cincinnati and Indian Hill water bills, costing Madeira Tax Payers \$370,000 annually, while increasing the Council slush fund by \$370,000. Gehring and Hilberg have big spending plans if re-elected. Residents have been lied to and the lies continue. The Council slogan "Madeira is living paycheck to paycheck" in 2018 was a lie. In 2018 Gehring voted to impose new taxes on every member of Kenwood Country Club (Hilberg abstained, but never objected, member of KCC) and both attempted to raise our city earnings tax Gehring & Hilberg do not deserve a second four year term, Send a*

message this November 5<sup>th</sup>, Madeira deserves better, and won't stand for corruption or lies from our government. ([madeiramessenger.com](http://madeiramessenger.com) Pg. 4, 11 & 19).

**Breaking News** - Monday September 23, 2019, Madeira City Attorney Brian Fox was summoned to the Courtroom of Federal Magistrate Judge Stephanie Bowman, where Fox assured Judge Bowman that the Madeira Sign Regulations pertaining to Free Speech would be repealed that evening. Madeira Council members repealed the Unconstitutional Sign Regulations that evening and will begin rewriting new regulations soon. See, ([madeiramessenger.com](http://madeiramessenger.com) Pg. 19 for details).

**What happens on November 6<sup>th</sup>?** - Chris Hilberg and Scott Gehring if re-elected, on the day after the election will begin the process of billing Madeira residents for trash collection. The new tax for trash collection will be added to your "Water Bill".

**If you are an Indian Hill Water** customer your water bill will be taxed substantially. Madeira will add a sur charge to your water bill, so that City Council can cover the four million dollars to be borrowed for replacement of water mains. For most of the last 30 years ageing water mains that are owned by Madeira were neglected. Madeira should not own water mains. City Council has also approved a contract exceeding \$414,000 given to Brandstetter Carroll Inc. for Engineering & Design work, awarded with no competitive bids, no justification! The total water main replacement project estimated cost is \$4,000,000.

**Councilman Gehring as reported by the messenger**, has spent a substantial part of his time as a member of City Council filing Lawsuits against the City of Madeira, he wasn't satisfied that the city turned down his request for building permits that would have allowed major changes to his residence. Mr. Gehring and Mr. Hilberg both have allowed the expenditure of more than \$500,000, filing frivolous lawsuits in an effort to silence the Messenger. See page 2, 4, 9, 11, & 19 [madeiramessenger.com](http://madeiramessenger.com). Four years ago this reporter supported Gehrings candidacy, including a \$500.00 contribution to his campaign. **His lack of integrity has been disappointing.**

**Just reported** – Madeira Parks and Recreation Commission is floating a recommendation that if adopted would add about two additional acres to McDonalds Commons Park. The plans could include a new shelter house, new ADA compliant playground equipment, and other improvements at the Dawson Road Park complex. Funding for the proposed Park improvements would be financed with the \$2,000,000 balance included in the "Traditions at Camargo" TIF. See TIF explanation [madeiramessenger.com](http://madeiramessenger.com), page 2, Park story, Chris Carr page 9.