

Letter to the Editor,

There have been various attempts to recall myself and council members over several weeks now.

The Constitution reads: "...or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." (1st Amendment)

But you must do it within the spirit of the law. Just because we don't agree with a politician's policy decisions is not a good reason to go through the time and expense of a ballot recall. The drive to recall me and fellow council people is for ones personal gain to try to control the growth of Quartzsite. His reason for my recall is doesn't involve criminal behavior, which to my mind would be a driving reason to recall a politician. He has listed the reason to recall me as:

1. Total disregard for the citizen input regarding replacement of mayor.
2. Moving citizen input to the end of council mtg. after decision are allready made. ( I know there are misspellings in the above reasons but that is the exact way it was written on the application for recall petition serial number – disregard, regarding and is already) Recalls are over used and have no controls. They are a waste of tax payers monies with the current system. Any one can say anything on a recall ballot-whether true or not.

The person elected has to be allowed an opportunity to implement his or her plan regardless of how much some people disagree. You shouldn't be able to recall a person because you don't agree with his political philosophy or style of governing. **What world do you live on?**

There is no way to prove it, but I believe the volatile environment that exists in politics today keeps some of the most talented people on the sidelines. What keeps talented people out of politics in Quartzsite are the criticizers and know it alls.

Example of one of them is Ed Foster who took out this petition as he states in reason #1. I will clarify my position; Town Code Chapter 2 Mayor & Council, Section 2-1-4, Vacancies In Council (Ord.No.08-09) Reads:

- A. The Council shall fill a vacancy that may occur by either of the following:
  1. Appointment for the unexpired term.
  2. Appointment until the next regularly scheduled Council election if the vacancy occurs more than thirty days before the nomination petition deadline.

B. The member appointed shall meet the qualifications established in A.R.S. §9-232.

We the council did accordingly to the town code. The group he represents requested that we hold an election as they have the right to elect the new mayor. They forget we were elected to represent the citizens and we did so by abiding by the town code. It is not only a Town code but an A.R.S. §9-235 statute. Prior to Changing Ord. No.08-09 it read The council shall fill by appointment for the unexpired term any vacancy that may occur for what reason. That means if we hadn't passed Ord. No.08-09, It would have extended my term into 2012 as that was the when the next scheduled election for mayor would have taken place. But you now get to elect a new mayor in 2010. So who knows it all?

Oh maybe the one feeding him all this miss information.

Clarification for # 2; We as a council voted to reinstall the communications/petitions,& citizens comments to the end of the Council (Business) Meetings for the same reason as stated in Ordinance No. 92-6 , section 2-4-6 Order of Business : The business of the Council may be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order which the Mayor may change or supplement in order to facilitate orderly meetings of the Council.

CALL TO ORDER  
INVOCATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
NEW BUSINESS  
OLD BUSINESS  
COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS  
REPORTS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
ADJOURNMENT

Passed and adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona this 10<sup>th</sup> of August, 1992. C. Richard Oldham, Mayor, John E. Miner, Town Manager and Gerald W. Hunt, Town Attorney

They ratified it again in Ordinance No. 92-8, when they had to add Consent Agenda to supplement the order. Date Oct 27<sup>th</sup>,1992 signed by same people. It was changed again in Ord. No. 02-06 to where it was before this last change by Verlyn Michel, Mayor Dated Feb.12<sup>th</sup> 2002. We get recalled for changing it back,” come on!” Who is leading who?

Sounds like a case of sour grapes, if you ask me. there's always going to be someone in town who 1) has nothing better to do than instigate stuff out of sheer boredom, 2) is active in the community and has an ego that's easily bruised, 3) isn't happy unless he/she complains about something or is 4) jealous of someone else who appears to be healthy, happy, young, successful and/or popular. The people who are complaining need to get a life and stop stirring up crap and costing the town money and resources to drive a recall effort.

Frankly, I want to see some fresher, younger faces on the political scene with ideas that match up to the challenges of the 21st century. I'd especially like to see more women involved in local decision-making. Holding a recall election is not going to make new highly qualified candidates suddenly appear.

If Quartzsite is to be attractive to outside businesses and people looking to relocate, then we have a massive undertaking to accomplish here. Allowing ourselves to get distracted by an unnecessary recall vote will undoubtedly put it on the back burner once again.

Walt Akin  
Mayor, Town of Quartzsite  
Real Deal, not Pro Tem

