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Corruption Now A “Tradition” In Quartzsite

10 Jan

At today’s Quartzsite Town Council meeting:

There was *no objection* raised at the meeting about Carol Kelley’s imminent appointment to a council seat. Nonetheless, the vice mayor and town manager felt the need to **defend the action**.

Barbara Cowell, council member and vice mayor, **jumped the gun**. Before sponsor Alex Taft could give her introduction for the agenda item, Cowell **began a defense**. “This has been done before two other times with Dave Taylor and Chuck Busby. They were offered to their wives. This was offered to the wives before. So I just wanted to put that in there that *this is a tradition of Quartzsite*”.

Alex Taft mentioned that Carol Kelley had previously made an application for council in July. [Carol was not selected, and now **there are a dozen other applicants**].

Editorial comment: The rest of the story – is that it is also traditional for the surviving spouse to say

“THANK YOU, I AM HONORED, BUT I DECLINE”.

Video copyright Moore Photo Imaging, S.W. Desert News

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[You Need Not Apply](#)

10 Jan

A number of people in Quartzsite have observed that **you need not apply** for a position of any sort within the Quartzsite Town government. They have also observed that family members and close friends are given a favored path to hiring, without having to compete with other applicants (a “**family**” **shop**). Today the Council will have a chance to demonstrate if this is true.

The Council will vote to place **Carol Kelley** on the council. Carol is likely still mourning her husband’s death of just 10 days ago. That has not deterred her from stepping up for the job. Her late husband “**Bob**” **Kelley** left a seat open on the council. She wants it. Now.

It is likely that by the time you read this, Carol Kelley will have been appointed to her late husband’s seat on the Quartzsite Town Council. These points are left to ponder:

1. “... *I am doing what my late husband ask me to do and **in his memory** I will do it ...*” (Carol Kelley, January 9 2012.)
2. This appointment is placed on the agenda by the Town Manager, not a Town Council member. It is the job of the council to notice that a seat is vacant and act to fill it by appointment process, without allowing their own **appointee (Town Manager Alex Taft) to usurp the council’s power.**

3. Why does it appear that the council will have come to a tacit agreement to appoint Carol Kelley, with the aid of the Town Manager, without consulting other council members, all out of the public eye?
4. Consulting other council members, out of the public eye, would violate (again) the Arizona Open Meeting Laws. Consider that the population of Quartzsite is 3,700 - most citizens could qualify for this appointment.
5. **Carol Kelley is not even among the candidates now actively seeking a council seat** in the March 13 election. These 11 other people already show interest in a council position.
6. The appointment is being made without the usual procedures applied. Normally, a council vacancy is filled by soliciting applications from citizens first. Logically the best and most qualified applicant would be selected. The council has not yet even mentioned at an open meeting that there is an opening.

[1 Comment](#)

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[Election Aberration](#)

07 Jan

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE FROM TOWN OF QUARTZSITE HERE](#)

Developing story. Today's mail brought this document to the candidates for the March 13 primary election. It indicates that the Town of Quartzsite "discovered" that the candidates' petitions, alone, will determine which seat each or all candidates will seek.

The issue is this. When the candidates submitted their completed petitions, one important choice was not addressed. That was whether the candidate desired to run in the primary cycle for a four year council term – or – a two year term available in a special cycle to fill the seat left open by former council member Lizarraga. The petitions were received and processed. Then, later, the new Town Clerk Terry Frausto is said to have made telephone calls to candidates to ask for their spoken choice as to two or four years.

It is known that at least one candidate opted to run for the two year seat. Candidates are raising the issue of why the Town Clerk did not make clear that there was a choice to be made in each candidacy. Even more curiously, it is being asked why Clerk Terry Frausto would make the telephone calls.

[1 Comment](#)

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[More Jobs In Jeopardy](#)

06 Jan

Julie Pieper in purchasing department, Finance Director **Heidi Turner** and finance assistant **Peggy Ware**. All have just been placed on “administrative leave” by Alex Taft, Quartzsite Town Manager. Most employees recently placed on leave have been terminated after a hearing. As reported on Facebook.com.

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[I’m Just Saying ... \(Quotes and Commentary\)](#)

02 Jan

December 2011: News 13 spoke with Martin Brannan and he says he did follow some blogs online ...

Martin Brannan, December 2011: “It’s a wordpress thing and I did follow it for awhile um I think that there’s nothing threatening on there but uh it’s kinda mean spirited.” [“wordpress” is a typical internet blog format]

Martin Brannan, June 2011: “I don’t read blogs”

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A comment by one reader of this blog: “Brannan can not factually make this statement unless he **knows FOR A FACT** who the Quartzsite Bagger **ACTUALLY IS**> ” [Referring to this statement by Brannan:]

“Despite reports to the contrary, the so-called Quartzsite Bagger is not the Quartzsite Town Attorney or any other elected or appointed officer of the Town of Quartzsite...”

[No Comments](#)

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[Attorney Martin Brannan Suspected](#)

01 Jan

Attorney and Public Defender Michael Frame has issued a [CEASE AND DESIST LETTER](#) to the Town of Quartzsite. Text of the letter, addressed to Alex Taft, Town Manager:

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*“From information and belief, certain **Town of Quartzsite employee (s)** have engaged in **internet defamation, cyber bullying / intimidation, racist statements, offensive sexual comments of citizens and former town employees, anti-Semitic statements and other unprofessional, unethical and conduct unbecoming public employees.***

*I would write the Town Attorney, Martin Brannan with my legal concerns, but **I suspect Mr. Brannan** is the individual you employ who is victimizing my clients. My concerns I speak to herein are detailed in my Motion to Remove Mr. Brannan as prosecutor pending before the court.*

*Further, I suspect Mr. Brannan is **using Town of Quartzsite resources** to accomplish his malevolent goals. I demand that your employees cease and desist in the aforementioned offensive conduct.”*

[No Comments](#)

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[Robert Kelley](#)

01 Jan

Council member [Robert Kelley](#) is reported to have passed on.

[No Comments](#)

Posted in [Qtown](#)

[Special Prosecutor Coming To Qtown](#)

31 Dec



Brannan podium

Quartzsite taxpayers will suffer the **expense of a special prosecutor** which Martin Brannan says will be hired. Brannan is contracted and being paid for the job of prosecuting cases in the Magistrate Court. The town has furnished an office for him and provided him new computer equipment. He now will have to spend a considerable amount of his paid time in explaining the many **cases which he initiated, and then abandoned** – to the succeeding special prosecutor. That “special” attorney, who must come from another community, will also be well paid for hours of legal work and lots of **travel time** – from the Town cash register.

Each million dollars lost to legal busy work and judgements averages **\$270 from each of the 3,700** children, parents, relatives and neighbors in Quartzsite.

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Brannan’s Press Release

“Despite reports to the contrary, the so-called Quartzsite Bagger is not the Quartzsite Town Attorney or any other elected or appointed officer of the Town of Quartzsite. The opinions expressed on <http://quartzsitebagger.wordpress.com> do not represent the views of any elected or appointed officer of the Town of Quartzsite. No elected or appointed officer of the Town of Quartzsite profits in any way from the sale of merchandise by Cafe Press related to the “Quartzsite Bagger” blog.

*“Notwithstanding this reality, in order for the Town Attorney and other town officers to concentrate on the business of the town without the distraction this “controversy” appears to have been designed to create, the cases involving self-styled activists **Ed Foster, Jennifer Jones,***

Michael Roth, Dana Stadler and Doug Gilford are being assigned to a special prosecutor.”

[No Comments](#)

Posted in [Elections](#), [Qtown](#)

[Channel 13 Yuma KSWT Covers Qtown Prosecutor](#)

29 Dec

[No Comments](#)

Posted in [Elections](#), [Qtown](#)

[Councilman Jewitt Soothes Public](#)

27 Dec

Councilman Mike Jewitt was kind to answer a few questions at the main post office today, just hours after the

council meeting. Heckler did not seem soothed by the councilman's responses.

[No Comments](#)

Posted in [Elections](#), [Qtown](#)

Outrageous Council Actions Today

27 Dec

First, no prayer.

Next, no discussion by the public at meetings desired. Mayor Lizzarga motioned to restore public comments at meetings. No second by any council member. Motion dead – no public comments at future meetings.

Third, the council openly defied the instructions of Arizona AttorneyGeneral Horne: “The council will discuss the concerns in this letter with its counsel in open session during a . . . public meeting.” Instead, they entered Executive Session in another room, and made no comment to the public.

Video (c) courtesy S.W. Desert News, Moore Photo Imaging

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[It Continues](#)

25 Dec



Roth Arrest June 14

Quartzsite taxpayers are under legal attack. The taxpayers must pay attorney fees and the amounts of any court judgements. **One more claim for misconduct has been served on the town.** The improper actions of the current elected officials, and of their appointees, will now directly create financial burdens to taxpayers.

Another ([Click to See](#)) [Notice of Claim Letter](#) in the amount of **\$350,000** originating in the **law office of Stewart Rhodes**, has been served this month on behalf of his client **Michael Roth**. Potentially, Roth could bring suit against the Town of Quartzsite and certain individual employees. The claim arises from a well

publicized incident at Quartzsite Town Council meeting last June 14. Roth was arrested after he was allegedly assaulted twice by others. The incident took place just a few feet from current Quartzsite Police Chief Jeff Gilbert, who participated.

[WATCH THE INCIDENT](#)

More such claims and potential civil lawsuits against the town and its leaders are expected to follow by others. A Notice of Claim Letter is typically a required legal step. It is a demand against another, for damages. Typically, the claim is ignored or denied. The lawsuit then can follow. Individuals are planning suits or actually in action to bring suits against the Town and its leadership. Circulated video recordings have demonstrated many incidents involving the Town's representatives, involved in **questionable behavior**.



Gilbert Jeff

[No Comments](#)

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[Town Prosecutor Brannan Attacked By Fellow Lawyer](#)

23 Dec



Brannan podium

Michael Frame, public defender for **Ed Foster**, former mayor of Quartzsite, has filed a 17 page motion in Foster's criminal case before **Judge Larry King** in Quartzsite Magistrate Court. Frame seeks to have Quartzsite Town Prosecutor **Martin Brannan removed from the case. Brannan is accused** of a number of **ethical violations** and conflicted interests.

[READ HERE – Full Text of Motion to Remove Brannan as Prosecutor](#)

Current Police Chief **Gilbert is mentioned eight times** in the motion. Gilbert is said to “have brought many charges against some of the above named defendants which have been **turned down** for felony prosecution by the County Attorney's office”.

“Mr. Brannan though Chief of Police Jeff Gilbert, and the Town administration (Alex Taft & Al Johnson) have set the tone and standard for prosecution in Quartzsite. The defendant asserts that the **Office of the prosecutor is being used as a weapon...**”



Gilbert J

[No Comments](#)

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[“Carpetbagger” – \[kahr-pit-bag-er\]](#)

23 Dec

“Carpetbagger” [“bagger”] – Outsider who comes to exploit, loot and plunder. Often leaves before the passing of one year.

[No Comments](#)

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[Quartzsite Taxpayers Lose Another One](#)

23 Dec

State vs. Roth. **Michael Roth** was arrested in 2010 in the presence of current Quartzsite Police Chief **Jeff Gilbert**, at a public council meeting. Michael Roth was tried and convicted of Disorderly Conduct on 2 counts. A felony charge of Resisting Arrest was dismissed at trial.

But yesterday, an **appeal court** said that Roth should not have been convicted in the La Paz County Superior Court. Therefore, **Roth never did anything wrong** to deserve the arrest by Quartzsite Police, and prosecution was faulty.

Many such events end up in civil courts, where individuals find relief from such abuse in the form of money awards from local governments such as the Town of Quartzsite. **Taxpayers are ultimately responsible** for the acts of their police chief and prosecutor. [READ WHAT THE APPEAL COURT SAID](#)



Gilbert

[No Comments](#)

Posted in [Elections](#), [Qtown](#)

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