

May 17, 2018

Report of Official Misconduct by Mayor Ed Passalugo

Please accept this as formal written notice to the Hewitt City Council of alleged Official Misconduct by Mayor Ed Passalugo.

Mayor Passalugo contacted me on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 after speaking with the City Manager about things he wanted to see in the budget. Mayor Passalugo made assertions and statements to me that gave me reason to believe he was acting in a deceptive, subversive, disruptive, and possibly illegal manner.

In this phone conversation, the Mayor told me that he had "Polled other members of the Council and the Council would not vote for a tax rate increase". The Mayor told me that he specifically talked with two other members of the Council concerning these issues.

The Mayor told me that the Council was going to get rid of "The purple haired girl" (Caz Muske, Parks & Media Coordinator) and Katie Allgood, Managing Director of Administration. Other employees were discussed as well. That phone conversation was not long.

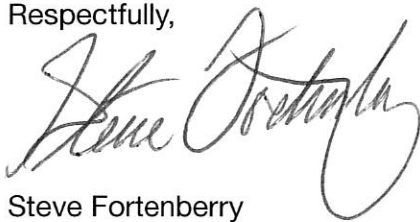
Two days later I spoke with the City Manager and learned the Mayor's actions appeared to be an attempt to circumvent State Law by creating what is known as a "Walking Quorum", which is illegal and against the open meetings act of the State of Texas.

In a subsequent conversation with Mayor Passalugo, on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, I was told by Mayor Passalugo that he had contacted at least one more Hewitt City Councilmember about these specific issues outside of a posted public meeting.

In this phone conversation, Mayor Passalugo reiterated his position that he "polled several members of the Council" and the Council would terminate the employment of certain City Employees. He invited me to a breakfast meeting with him and Councilmember Krakowian to further discuss the tax rate, budget cuts, and specific employees he wanted terminated. I did not accept the invitation to the breakfast. He indicated to me that if I were unable to go then he would attempt to contact another council member to the breakfast meeting. I am highly concerned about other Council members being implicated in Mayor Passalugo's schemes.

I have now reported these conversations, and my records of these conversations, to appropriate agencies, including the City of Hewitt, in order to rectify this situation and bring these allegations to light. I have also reported my concerns of criminal activity to the appropriate law agency. It is my opinion that his actions go against the spirit and intent of the open meetings process.

Respectfully,



Steve Fortenberry
Mayor Pro-Tem
Hewitt City Council