

Bomer responds to Hal Brown letter

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Dear Editor:

Re: Mr. Hal Brown's letter to the editor of March 5: Facts are stubborn things. In the hands of Mr. Brown they seem very flexible.

Fact: The city could have simply given me the email that I had asked for, through a legitimate CORA request, and there would have been no lawsuit seeking legal possession of said email.

Fact: The city could have redacted a single sentence from the email that Jim Miller had asked for, through a legitimate CORA request, and given him said email. No legal claim would have resulted.

Fact: To resolve Walt Harder's complaint, the city could have simply posted the matter of his dismissal from the Salida Natural Resource Center Development Corp. board for a proper hearing and done the dismissal in the correct manner. No legal claim would have been left.

Fact: In court-ordered mediation with the city, represented by Mr. Brown, Mr. LiVecchi and Mr. Kahn, the city was utterly unwilling to "call a truce and stop the accumulation of costs on both sides." In fact, the city made every effort to run up our legal fees, hoping they could force us to capitulate.

Fact: The court ruled that I had every right to legal possession of the email that I had asked for, and that the city erred, not only in failing to give it to me, but in trying to hide the fact that it even existed. The court ordered the city to pay my reasonable expenses and fees, which they have done.

Fact: Because the court ruled that none of our complaints were "frivolous" (as Mr. Brown continues to claim), the city has no recourse to recover its considerable legal fees.

Fact: Virtually all of the financial damage, done to city coffers, referred to in Mr. Brown's letter was self-inflicted by poor judgment and bad decisions on the part of members of the past city council. Mr. Brown bears considerable personal responsibility.

The voters of Salida were wise to vote out the faction that Mr. Brown was the leader of.

Tom Bomer,

Salida