

Dec. 5, 2019

Dear Councilman Chris Moore and the Jonesboro City Council,

Thank you so very much for your votes Monday night. I was surprised, overwhelmed and eternally grateful.

Meanwhile, I feel the need to respectfully clear up two things.

First, in my written and spoken statements, especially to the City Council, I used the word "clan." The Jonesboro City Council records will prove me right. I try to choose my words carefully when I address an issue and chose the word "clan" because of its primary meaning. I even looked it up twice so I could be clear and correct.

Second, I'm a linear learner. That's why I asked about how council members came to their voting decision and in the spirit of transparency whether they could share their rationale. I can't understand, defend or support their right to vote one way or the other if I don't know how they came to their decisions.

As a linear learner, when I see $A+B=C$, I want to know what is A and what is B that enabled the answer to be C.

It was not my intent to have councilmembers break a rule. It was not my intent to imply that the council decides how to vote behind closed doors. It was my intent to understand as a taxpayer and city resident, how the council came to its voting decisions. How $A+B=C$. That type of linear learning is equivalent to me asking "Why" when someone makes a statement.

For instance, the City budget will be on the agenda later. Theoretically, the councilmembers could vote for or against part of the budget and we could never know how or Why they came to the conclusion because a rule says they don't have to reveal why they voted the way they voted.

At the same time, this rule reminds me of how things were not in my math classes. When we were given a math problem such as $A+B=C$, we were told to "show your work." Or in other words, show how you came to get the answer "C".

Nevertheless, the Council's rule is the rule and supersedes my perceived right to have a transparent government, or freedom of information, or right to know why.

Finally, please know that I look forward to continuing to watch our democracy work in Jonesboro and respectfully getting as many answers as I can when I ask Why.

Sincerely,

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