

FW: Unauthorized Release of Meeting Minutes: Update

From: Fazekas, Lynn (lynn.fazekas@cityofdekalb.com)

To: yinn422@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, February 10, 2020, 04:09 PM CST

From: Nicklas, Bill

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Fazekas, Lynn <Lynn.Fazekas@CITYOFDEKALB.com>; City Council / Mayor <CityCouncilMayor@CITYOFDEKALB.com>

Cc: Rose, Matthew <mrose@rmcj.com>; Executive Team <ExecutiveTeam@CITYOFDEKALB.com>

Subject: RE: Unauthorized Release of Meeting Minutes: Update

Good afternoon,

Judging by the tone of this note and the attachment, it appears that the Clerk assumes that she has uncovered a shocking series of errors on the part of Executive Assistant Ruth Scott. I do not know at this juncture what is fact or fiction, but the professional approach would have been to visit with Ruth and point out—in a collegial fashion—any scrivener or other errors the Clerk thought existed. The “gotcha” approach is designed to embarrass and demean a very earnest, honest, and professional colleague, and is certainly beneath what we expect of public servants.

I have asked Ruth to take valuable time away from other pressing duties in the days ahead in order to address each of the alleged errors, and will provide the Council with the results as time permits. The cataloguing of the Clerk’s errors would take much longer, but I will not abide any tit-for-tat. We are on the threshold of some very positive initiatives in DeKalb, yet we continue to be dragged down by tiresome and self-serving innuendo. The Clerk tried to embarrass the Mayor and Council with a frivolous lawsuit which was thrown out; now she is going after the person who makes her look good every day that someone is looking for the Clerk who is not here. For shame.

Bill

From: Fazekas, Lynn <Lynn.Fazekas@CITYOFDEKALB.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 3:08 PM

To: Smith, Jerry <Jerry.Smith@CITYOFDEKALB.com>

Cc: Rose, Matthew <mrose@rmcj.com>; Nicklas, Bill <bill.nicklas@CITYOFDEKALB.com>

Subject: Unauthorized Release of Meeting Minutes: Update

[Council members have been blind-copied on this email to help avoid Open Meetings Act issues.]

Dear Mayor and City Council:

As you will recall from my email in December on this subject, upon taking up the task of preparation for Council's next review of executive session meeting minutes I discovered that possibly up to 18 full or partial sets of executive session meeting minutes had been released in contravention of Council's vote on July 8, 2019, following a routine review.

Since then I have conducted an analysis of the erroneously released minutes of that date, as well as comparisons of earlier votes to actual releases going back to 2017. So far, I've found unauthorized full or partial release did occur 16 times, along with several instances of another type of error, that of "released" minutes that turned out to be topics that were authorized for executive session discussion but not actually discussed during the session.

Although I will continue spot-checking Council votes against actual releases, so far it appears the unauthorized releases are confined to meeting minutes for the period 2016-2018 and a supposed release date of July 8, 2019.

I have catalogued the errors in the attached rough chart. I've also segregated the minutes so Council members can inspect and evaluate what damage, if any, might have occurred with the unauthorized releases, considering the minutes were not only available upon request but also posted for several months on the City's website.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like to inspect these minutes.

Yours very truly,

Lynn Fazekas | City Clerk

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