

From: [Ellen Stevens](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written testimony: City Council 11/12/24
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024 9:20:30 AM

TO: City Recorder
FROM: Ellen Stevens
RE: Censure vote

Julie Hoy and Deanna Gwyn failed to recuse themselves in a land use hearing involving a developer who made donations to their respective campaigns.

This is a clear violation of the City charter.

I hope Chris Hoy will proceed with making a motion at Tuesday, November 12, 2024 meeting, to censure Julie Hoy and Deanna Gwyn.

Respectfully yours,
Ellen Stevens
Ward 8

From: [Victoria Schaaf](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 11/12 Meeting
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 3:27:32 PM
Attachments: [city council comment \(1\).docx](#)

Attached.

Thank you

Dear Salem City Council,

My name is Vik Schaaf. I am a Community Organizer and 15 year resident of Salem as well as a homeowner in Ward 7.

I want to make a public comment on the motion to publicly censure Councilors Julie Hoy and Deanna Gwyn.

Councilor Hoy, You said “As required by the Salem charter, I would like to disclose that entities connected with this land use hearing have contributed to my campaign. We’ve been told by the Salem Charter that elected officials should not participate as decision makers if it would create the appearance of bias or impropriety in the mind of a **reasonable person**.”

The Salem charter also states that campaign contributions totalling \$501 or more during the previous two years for mayor or four years for a councilor are grounds for recusing yourself from a hearing.

Reasonable. I want to stay on that word.

You opened your justification statement by acknowledging what is required of you by the Salem charter. A reasonable person would say you knew what you were doing was wrong.

Given what we know now as published by the Salem Reporter, the deal would have fallen through for Tokarski if the vote did not pass. Tokarski stood to lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, if he couldn’t sell the land to the developer. Tokarski needed that appeal to pass. A reasonable person would say you knew this and you stood to lose out on future campaign contributions if this vote did not pass.

A reasonable person would see that you received \$39,000 dollars from Tokarski and his entities in your recent run for mayor and that in approving this appeal, Tokarski stood to pass on a huge incentive to the developer worth over \$200,000 dollars. A reasonable person would say Tokarski made a great investment in supporting your run for mayor.

Reasonable people understand that our candidates can be bought and paid for and show bias. Reasonable people understand that when \$300,000 is spent to win an election for an unpaid job, the candidate is bought and paid for by special interest groups.

The people did not “by and large” hear your policies and support them. We had record low turnout for the May election. That isn’t what a reasonable person would call a by and large measurement.

Reasonable people expect you to recuse yourself when you are breaking the oath you took when you were sworn in to this council.

And I, as a reasonable person, am angry that the voters had little choice but to elect you as mayor last week. Because your record now carries both an ethics warning and a public censure. Your record proves you do show bias and you are unfit to serve.

Councilor Gwyn, your violation was equally unethical as you stated you knew the rules, but intended to break them as well. A reasonable person would say you are also bought and paid for.

And so I, a reasonable person, and taxpayer, am asking my city council to do the reasonable thing and censure or better, expel these members. And I, a reasonable person, encourage my city to recall our mayor-elect when we are eligible to do so in June.

Thank you

Vik Schaaf

From: [Robert Ford](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Sounds like there is a disgruntled Mayor
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 4:22:12 PM

Dear City Council,

I was alarmed to hear that Mayor Chris Hoy has requested that Julie Hoy and Deanna Gwyn be censured. This is absolutely ludicrous. Mayor Chris Hoy appears to be taking vengeance on Mayor Elect Julie Hoy. Why else would you include Deanna Gwyn in the censure. I believe it is because they are the two voices that think much differently than Chris Hoy. Are you trying to extinguish different thought? I believe so.

Please throw out this ludicrous request!

Sincerely,
Deanne Ford