



A Call for Change and Honest Discussion February 21, 2011

I wanted to spend my council comments to speak about the unfortunate and troubling event that occurred at our last council work session. I've been doing a lot of praying over this issue. The issue is adherence to rules and procedures of council. Last work session, myself and other members of council left the work session after Mayor Pittman unilaterally decided to change the procedural rules without authority of full council.

It must be remembered that our roles as council and Mayor are defined by our Charter. The Charter does not give the Mayor or any single council member the authority to circumvent Rules that govern council meetings. We can not allow a precedence to exist where any Mayor in the future can singularly dictate which rules to adhere to at any given moment. I have to say the easy path would have been to ignore the Mayors transgressions and not rock the boat, but after much prayer and thought, I realized that I have to lead by example.

Our nation and the civilized world adhere to the rule of law for the very reason that without it, we invite anarchy and chaos.

I'm disappointed that too much energy and time is spent on politics of personality when our citizens have placed so much of their hopes and aspirations of East Point on our shoulders. Regardless if its a "bloc squad", "gang of 6" or "dictator of one", if at any point any member of council feels the rules should change, there is a mechanism and procedure in place that must be respected by all.

I respectfully call on Mayor Pittman to adhere to the rules that govern council meetings and to set a proper example that no single person is above the rules and laws that govern our society and that we move on with our energy focused on making our city the best it can be.

