

THE RECORD SHOWS ...

The Mayor's leadership has seriously harmed Florence, and his actions show a consistent disdain for the opinions of the people he was elected to represent. As Mayor, he is responsible for the actions of City staff which, either through action or inaction, ultimately are working under his direction. He conducts too much of the "business of the people" outside -- and too often, in defiance of -- the public process.

Taken alone, each of these actions may seem minor, and could be easily explained away by a skillful salesman. But taken as a whole, it shows a systematic unraveling of the democratic process.

He has, for years, allowed, and even encouraged, land use decisions based on a comprehensive plan that he knows has not been legally adopted, creating confusion and uncertainty for residents and developers alike.

He ignored the voice of the people of Florence, and pushed an unwanted 3 cents a gallon gas tax, which had to be overturned by the voters.

He allowed a public hearing based on an anonymous letter about a fellow city councilor. Never before had the city council placed anonymous complaints on the agenda. It is believed by many that the sole purpose of this unprecedented action was to tarnish the reputation of a councilor who disagreed with the Mayor's political goals. The Oregon State Ethics Commission, after a thorough investigation, ruled the anonymous accusations were unfounded.

Stillwater
He held private meetings with individual planning commissioners about the Stillwater permit. Many believe he did this in order to avoid the Public Meetings Laws which would require notice to the public and the keeping of minutes, and to convince commissioners not to conduct a public hearing. Since no meeting minutes were kept, we will never know for certain. The public hearing, if it had been held, would have been "quasi-judicial" and it may have been legally inappropriate for either the mayor or city manager to have this type of pre-hearing discussions with the planning commissioners.

He terminated adoption of the State-endorsed Model Development Code revision for Florence, preventing any input from a volunteer group that had worked on the effort for over a year. Adoption of the Model Development Code would have required more responsible, orderly, development in Florence.

His actions on Stillwater allowed the city manager to make a back-room deal with the Stillwater developers - a deal which prevented public due process:
no public hearing,
no public comment, no public input,
no right of appeal.

He was instrumental in canceling an agreement with a property owner which would have given the city - free of charge - a buffer zone between the casino property and the golf course to the north, thereby preventing any further northward expansion of the non-taxpaying casino developments which will ultimately conflict with, and unfairly compete with, local businesses who have no choice but to pay taxes and obey local laws.

He allowed the city manager to create a legal loophole, a 'vote of silence', that allowed Stillwater condos to block the view of the Glenada Dune. A stop work order could have been issued and the developer could have been forced to live up to their publicly-made promise that their project would not block the view from the bridge. Instead, the Mayor claimed there was nothing the city could do, and is currently aiding the city manager in re-writing history.

He ignored the advice and requests of city residents to promote from within the department when it was time to hire a new chief of police.

He allowed a city manager to remain in power for seven more months after he was fired.