

Secret Emails Exposed - #3 – Support Documentation

Smoking gun email: City Manager calls resident who is asking questions about his \$9,000 raise, a “Korihor soldier”,

by Cedar Hills Citizens for Responsible Government – Oct. 12, 2012

This is the third in a series of illegal Secret Emails exposed via GRAMA request.

In September of 2011, then City Council candidate Angela Johnson began asking questions and making GRAMA requests of the City about a new pay raise of approximately \$9,000 to then City Manager Konrad Hildebrandt.

Mrs. Johnson was persistent in trying to learn how he could've received a \$9,000 raise in August, when there was no public discussion during a Council Meeting about it. If the pay raise discussion happened at all, it appears to have happened illegally during a closed-door Executive Session. No one would explain it satisfactorily to her.

Also during this period, at a September 2011 city Council Meeting, then City Recorder Kim Holindrake reminded then Mayor Eric Richardson, that she is required to maintain a copy of all City contracts. She explained to the Mayor and Council that she had no current contract for City Manager Konrad Hildebrandt. The Mayor declared there was a contract. Holindrake insisted that the only contract she had for him was his original \$63,000 annual salary contract from 2002.

Mrs. Johnson called City Attorney Eric Johnson who confirmed he had no new contract for Hildebrandt. This contradicted the Mayor's public declaration to the contrary. At the Mayor's request, Ms. Holindrake was grounded from all future City Council meetings, a City Recorder responsibility and service she had performed for 20 years. Why? Because Holindrake told the truth.

Reportedly, Holindrake came to the next meeting but as a Cedar Hills resident, said, nothing, and simply sat in the back of the room. The Mayor was greatly displeased. The next day, at the Mayor's request, Holindrake was put on a 6-month probation by Hildebrandt. May 1, 2012, she, along with Hildebrandt and Building Inspector Brad Kearl “resigned”, each with a severance package. Two days later, Holindrake provided a Press Release declaring that she did not resign, but was forced out for “political reasons”. *(For this and severance contracts, see May 8 & 24, 2012 blog entries at www.CedarHillsCitizens.org)*

The mystery surrounding Hildebrandt's pay raise was never satisfactorily explained. Though it appears, according to helpful inside sources, that he also enjoyed a generous expense account that included paid lunches, and gas money even for personal family use and trips, etc., most of which was put on his personal credit card and billed back to the City. Presumably the use of his personal credit card was done for sky miles, and/or cash refunds for his personal benefit, when City policy was to only use City credit cards for City purchases and provide the perks back to the City.

Mr. Hildebrandt was hired in 2002 by then Mayor Brad Sears with a \$63,000 salary, plus some reasonable benefits. We believe that along with misleading the Council regarding the financial success of the golf course, over the years he facilitated growing personal pay raises, with the most recent \$9,000 pay raise in a August 2011 not publicly discussed and voted on. This brought his pay and benefits up to over \$155,000. No wonder Hildebrandt's email asked the Council to help "calm her [Ms. Johnson] troubled heart". While this is inappropriate, there is no excuse, and it is disturbing to label her, and presumably all members of Cedar Hills Citizens for Responsible Government, "Korihor soldiers".

The question that remains is, "Why won't the current Council expose these details, apologize for intentionally or unintentionally misleading the public at the last election, and finally publish the year by year Cedar Hills taxpayer subsidy details on the front page of the City Newsletter?"

The golf course has never made a profit in any year, and in fact has averaged over \$550,000 per year in losses, which had to be paid by Cedar Hills residents via taxpayer subsidy. These details have never been published by the City, nor has the fact that Mayor Gygi, the entire Council, and all City Staff are offered unlimited free golf. Former Mayor Brad Sears, has also continued to receive free golf.

Action Item: Please contact the Council and ask them to correct the record, apologize to Angela Johnson, publish year-by-year golf course subsidies, and CANCEL ALL FREE GOLF.

Who is really watching out for the interests of Cedar Hills families? We know Angela Johnson has tried. Thanks Angela! "Open, honest and transparent" Cedar Hills government? You decide.

Be watching for the next "Secret Emails Exposed - #4", soon to be posted at www.CedarHillsCitizens.org.