

**THE AGENDA ITEM REPEALING THE COUNCIL RULES  
OF PROCEDURE CALLS FOR “GREATER  
TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVED CUSTOMER  
SERVICE.” BUT IS THIS MERELY LIP SERVICE?**

**LEGISLATORS SHOULD NOT TRY TO SHORT-CIRCUIT  
THE VOTERS’ VOICES BY MAKING IT HARDER TO  
SPEAK TO THE FULL COUNCIL OR TO CONTACT  
INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS VIA EMAIL.**

**LET’S BE CLEAR. THESE CHANGES WOULD RAISE  
THE THRESHOLD FOR INTRODUCING LEGISLATION**

REQUIRE APPROVAL OF A COUNCIL MAJORITY  
PRIOR TO BEING PLACED ON THE AGENDA. THIS  
WILL CHANGE THE CHARTER'S INTENTION OF BEING  
A "NON-PARTISAN" COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEMBERS  
TO A "MINORITY/MAJORITY" FORM OF  
GOVERNMENT. JUST LIKE JEFFERSON CITY.

THAT IS NOT WHAT THE CITY CHARTER WAS BASED  
ON. THE GOOD GOVERNMENT LEAGUE FOUGHT FOR  
A NON-PARTISAN COUNCIL AND A WEAK MAYOR  
FORM OF GOVERNMENT. "STRONG MAYORS" HAD  
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THEIR SITUATIONS SO

**CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM FLOURISHED. CITY CONTRACTS, CITY EMPLOYMENT AND CITY COMMITTEES WERE STACKED WITH ONLY THOSE THAT AGREED WITH THOSE “STRONG MAYOR’S” AGENDAS. THIS WILL MAKE INDEPENDENCE POLITICS EVEN MORE DIVISIVE.**

**THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE CHANGES STATE THAT “EVERY MEMBER MUST HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING.” CREATING MAJORITY/MINORITY VOTING MEMBERS WILL ENSURE ANYTHING BUT THAT. THIS**

**IS EVERYTHING THE GOOD GOVERNMENT LEAGUE**  
**WORKED AGAINST.**

**THE CHARTER CLEARLY STATES THAT ALL SEVEN**  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE AN EQUAL VOICE. THE**  
**MAYOR IS MERELY A CHAIRMAN, NOT THE SOLE**  
**AUTHORITY. <sup>COUNCIL MEMBERS</sup> ~~YOU~~ WERE ELECTED TO CREATE**  
**LEGISLATION. DON'T RELINQUISH THAT RIGHT.**

**THESE PROPOSED CHANGES SMELL LIKE A "FUNKY"**  
**POWER GRAB. THIS INFLEXIBILITY PREVENTS THE**  
**COUNCIL FROM PRESENTING DIFFERING OPINIONS.**

**FORMER KANSAS CITY MAYOR MARK FUNKHOUSER  
TRIED THIS TYPE OF EXPERIMENT. HE AND COUNCIL  
MEMBERS ENDED UP JAMMING FINGERS IN ONE  
ANOTHERS' EYES AND CONTINUED TO STIR BAD  
BLOOD BETWEEN THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND  
HIMSELF.**

**THE COUNCIL MEMBERS BECAME SO INGRAINED, SO  
INSTINCTIVE, THAT THEY OPPOSED HIM WITHOUT  
EVEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT IT MEANT FOR THE  
CITY. FUNKHOUSER QUICKLY GAINED A**

**REPUTATION AS A DIVISIVE, MEDDLESOME AND  
CONTROLLING FIGURE AT CITY HALL.**

**THE WYANDOTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JUST  
VOTED TO REDUCE THEIR MAYOR'S POWER AND  
REMOVED HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR AGENDA  
ITEMS TOO. SO WHY IS INDEPENDENCE GOING IN  
THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION?**

**OUR CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO LET THE CHARTER  
COMMITTEE MEET AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.  
DON'T TRY TO REINVENT THE WHEEL BEFORE THAT**

**COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO FORMULATE ANY**  
**PROPOSED CHANGES. THE JACKSON COUNTY**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES HAS 27 FOLDERS OF**  
**FORMER MAYOR BARBARA POTTS ABOUT A**  
**CHARTER REVISION. THIS STUFF IS ROCKET**  
**SCIENCE AND REQUIRES MORE THAN ONE PERSON'S**  
**OPINION.**

**ANOTHER "FUNKY" EXAMPLE IS CHANGING THE**  
**CITIZENS' ABILITY TO SPEAK AT MEETINGS. THE**  
**FIRST PROPOSED CHANGES WANTED TO MOVE THE**

**SPEAKERS TO THE END OF THE MEETING AND THE COUNCIL THANKFULLY VOTED THAT DOWN.**

**UNFORTUNATELY THESE LATEST PROPOSED CHANGES REDUCE THE AVAILABLE TIME TO 30 MINUTES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**“(QUOTE) THE PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION OF THE MEETING WILL RUN NO LONGER THAN 30 MINUTES.”**

**THIS WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FIRST TIME TOPIC 5 MINUTE SPEAKERS TO A MAXIMUM OF 6**



**CITIZEN SPEAKERS A MEETING, TWICE A MONTH.**

**ONLY TWELVE OUT OF A CITY OF 120 THOUSAND**

**RESIDENTS, NOT COUNTING WHEN YOU WAIVE**

**COUNCIL RULES TO ALLOW NON-RESIDENTS TO**

**SPEAK.**

**I ATTENDED THE SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL**

**MEETING ON THURSDAY JAN. 12<sup>TH</sup>. THE TOPIC WAS**

**THE MARIJUANA TAX, HOW TO WORD THE BALLOT**

**LANGUAGE AND HOW TO SPEND THAT MONEY IF**

**THAT TAX WAS APPROVED.**

**THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED TO USE THOSE TAX DOLLARS TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE POLICE DEPT. FULLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THESE DOLLARS WOULD NOT FUND A NEW IPD BUILDING.**

**THE COUNCIL ADMITTED THAT THEY WOULD NEED A BOND AND THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS TO APPROVE THAT BOND ISSUE BEFORE THE BUILDING COULD BE BUILT. THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST AND HAVE OPEN DIALOGS WITH THE CITIZENS.**

**THESE PROPOSED COUNCIL PROCEDURE CHANGES**  
**WILL LIMIT THAT DIALOG. THEY WILL SUPPRESS**  
**THE VOICES OF THE VERY VOTERS YOU HOPE TO**  
**ENGAGE FOR SUPPORTING A POSSIBLY \$90 MILLION**  
**DOLLAR BOND ISSUE.**

**IS THAT THE ATMOSPHERE YOU WANT TO CREATE**  
**BEFORE YOU EVEN START THAT PROCESS? TO TELL**  
**THE CITIZENS THAT YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO**  
**LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS UNLESS IT FITS INTO A**  
**30 MINUTE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY?**

**EMPOWERING ALL RESIDENTS IS A SMART THING.**

**IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BEGIN TO THINK**

**ABOUT FUNDING A NEW IPD BUILDING. THE**

**COUNCIL NEEDS TO BE BUILDING AUTHENTIC**

**RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH TRUTH, TRANSPARENCY**

**AND REALLY LISTENING TO ALL OF THE CITIZENS IN**

**INDEPENDENCE, NOT JUST THOSE THAT HAVE YOUR**

**EAR.**

**PLEASE VOTE DOWN BILL 23-001.**