

Jeannette,

The questions focus on identifying a single decision point and framing the filing as an isolated action. That does not reflect how this issue developed or how municipal legal decisions are made.

The decision to file the complaint was the result of a multi-year process, not a singular moment or meeting. Victor has spent years working to resolve issues under the existing wastewater agreement, including the documented and well-reported concerns related to compliance, cost sharing, and contract compliance. Victor pursued negotiation, independent financial review, and mediation in an effort to reach a solution.

Legal action became the appropriate mechanism to resolve the outstanding obligations in a structured, objective forum. The City's intention is to bring resolution to those issues and ensure that Victor's ratepayers are not saddled with liabilities or costs, brought about by actions and inactions by third parties.

With respect to process, Idaho law is explicit about how municipalities handle legal matters. Discussions involving litigation, contracts, and negotiations are conducted in executive session to protect the City's legal position and the public interest. That is not a departure from transparency; it is a required part of responsible and good governance.

Throughout this process, Council members have been engaged in discussions regarding the status of negotiations and potential next steps, including the possibility of legal action. As is appropriate, some of those discussions occurred within the state's legal framework governing executive session. Formal Council actions associated with the filing and its costs are being addressed through the City's standard public processes.

Despite sustained effort, the two cities were not able to reach agreement on key issues over an extended period. That lack of resolution, not the absence of process, is what ultimately drove decisions toward legal action.

We understand and appreciate the continued interest and recognize that Victor looks like the protagonist in this, but that overemphasizes one side of a two-party issue. Victor's actions must be understood in the context of Drigg's inaction and unwillingness to work towards a two-party solution. That inaction is ultimately what drove Victor's actions, including the lawsuit. We hope your reporting presents that side of the story, so our community gets a more complete picture than what has been presented to date. We are not aware of any public records request made of Driggs to explore their deliberations or process as it relates to the issue, for example.

The City of Victor's responsibility, which elected and staff all take with the utmost seriousness, is to act within the law, protect its ratepayers, and ensure that its legal and

financial obligations are clearly defined. Your reporting will find that the City has done so here, consistent with both statutory requirements and standard municipal practice.