

Vicky Potts

From: Craig Clymer
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:57 PM
To: James Arndt
Subject: Re: I-24 water tower

Yessir. Per Bill Robertson PWW needs authorization from City to go forward. Can it be in City agenda Tuesday? I can provide whatever info is needed.

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From: James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 12:22:13 PM
To: Craig Clymer <ccllymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>
Subject: RE: I-24 water tower

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Judge and Bill

Where do we stand on this project? Is it moving forward?

Jim

From: Craig Clymer <ccllymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Emily Vance <emilyvance82@icloud.com>; Brobertson@pwwky.com; Gerald Watkins <gwatkins@paducahky.gov>; James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>; Sandra Wilson <swilson@paducahky.gov>; Brenda McElroy <bmcElroy@paducahky.gov>; Richard Abraham <rabraham@paducahky.gov>; Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>
Cc: Roger Griffith <roger@2zboat.com>; Vebbie Griffith <veb@bellsouth.net>
Subject: RE: I-24 water tower

Dear Mrs. Vance

Thank you for your input. The entire point of the water tower artwork is to address and attempt to lessen the message that a great number of people see when they see Confederate flags flying. They see a racist message; white supremacy and black oppression. It is a black/white issue. Not a Native American, Indian American, Hispanic or any other race issue. To include other races would, accordingly, detract from the message: black/white unity instead of black/white diversity. You state: "You think a confederate flag is racist, but it is part of American history." That is correct. But it is not a part of our history of which we should be proud, nor of which we should celebrate. Black and white relationship is a prominent and divisive issue in our Country. We can do our part in demonstrating that, despite our Country's history of racism, our future is in unity. Your opinion is that a painting depicting a black person and a white person shaking hands with the United States flag in the background and "United We Stand" to the side is "much more racist" than a

Confederate flag. I just have to say; I've heard a lot of acts, words, and thoughts depicted as being racist, but none so ridiculous as this.

From: Emily Vance <emilyvance82@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:16 AM

To: Brobertson@pwwky.com; Gwatkins@paducahky.gov; Jarndt@paducahky.gov; Swilson@paducahky.gov; Bmcelroy@paducahky.gov; Rabraham@paducahky.gov; Bharless@paducahky.gov; Craig Clymer <ccllymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>

Cc: Roger Griffith <roger@2zboat.com>; Vebbie Griffith <veb@bellsouth.net>

Subject: I-24 water tower

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To whom it may concern:

My husband and I own the access road property that leads to the I-24 Reidland water tank. I was born and raised in this town. Reidland actually. I am very proud of my home town and will continue to live here for a very long time hopefully. I have been contemplating how to address the proposed art on the water tower in relation to the confederate flag across the interstate. My personal opinion, which doesn't matter much, but is highly agreed with, is that when you take and individualize 2 races on the water tower, you are saying that those 2 races are equal and the rest of the races in the nation mean nothing. And I have not met a single person that I have asked that is ok with the proposed artwork. I am ok with the American flag and the message United we Stand. But trying to represent unity will absolutely not happen by separating out 2 or 10 races from the rest. I believe what is proposed, even the several renditions I have seen, will bring discontent to the area even more so than the privately owned confederate park issue. There are multiple water towers in this town and none of them have anything on them except their location or school. It's on the interstate and we want to display what a proud town we are. Then why would we put something on there that could even remotely cause anyone to be upset. That isn't unity. That isn't my hometown. And I certainly don't want a point of contention at the end of my private driveway. I am considering starting a petition due to the number of Reidland and Paducah residents that are unhappy with the proposed artwork. I would prefer that my town and Paducah water come up with something less discriminatory to put on the water tower. Please reconsider how you are going to paint this water tower. You think a confederate flag is racist, but it is part of American history. The choice to single out 2 races and prominently display those on the side of the interstate seems much more racist to me. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please reconsider. Emily and Eric Vance

3W

Sent from my iPhone

Vicky Potts

From: Craig Clymer
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Arndt, Jim; bharless@paducahky.gov
Subject: Unity water tower

Will you put the unity message on for next commission meeting? I will speak to it if needed, and/or send you any info you would like. PWW requires the City's approval before we can move forward.

Thank you, be safe.

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Vicky Potts

From: Craig Clymer
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:23 AM
To: James Arndt; Brandi Harless
Subject: RE: Unity water tower

I have no doubt Bill can manage this. But the point is that he (and PW) asked for the City to decide a policy matter concerning a tower City owns. City declines. We spend a tremendous amount of time and money trying to do things that are good for the Community. Here's an opportunity to do one that is free and requires one word "yes". Why the effort to avoid saying yes when asked? The stated desire to avoid "micromanaging" PW is, as I explained before, not applicable. PW asked for the City's approval to do something that they obviously think has merit. They (as they should) want the owner of the tower and the political/policy-making body to make that choice. City's refusal to address PW's request (that the policy-making body make a policy decision) puts them back where they started. They sell water, not make policy. If there is something City sees as wrong with the project, I just would like to know what it is. Surely you do not agree with Mrs. Mazone that this project causes more harm than good and that it is one of the least important issues we face.

I take it that the City will not place this on a meeting agenda and will deny my request to present this issue in a City Council meeting. The unfortunate consequence is that the project, and I believe the City itself, is diminished by the City not affirmatively choosing to support (nor even publicly address as a government body) a strong effort to further racial unity in our Community. Please understand that I value greatly the City/County relationship and, regardless, we will continue working together for the good of the Community. I simply strongly believe that you are wrong here, and to the Community's detriment. So I speak freely and pointedly, just as I hope you would when we disagree. I'll contact Bill.

From: James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Craig Clymer <cclymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>; Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>
Subject: RE: Unity water tower

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Judge I agree with the Mayor. Bill can manage this one.

Jim

From: Craig Clymer <cclymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>; James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>
Subject: Re: Unity water tower

Whether their decision is yes or no?

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From: Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:23:23 PM
To: James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>

Cc: Craig Clymer <cclymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>

Subject: Re: Unity water tower

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Judge

I support the decision of Paducah Water.

Thank you,
Mayor Harless

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2020, at 2:28 PM, James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov> wrote:

Judge – PW can change their agreement and proceed as they desire.

Jim

From: Craig Clymer <cclymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 2:13 PM

To: James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>; Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>

Subject: RE: Unity water tower

Obviously if the City doesn't want to support this effort it does not have to. But PWW has taken the position that it will do it, if the City gives the authorization. I have the art design and wording. It is binary. They either do it or they do not. They do not require any decision from the City other than a yes or no. Only if the answer is "no" does micromanagement occur. Then the City has denied PWW their request for authorization. So then the City has, indeed micromanaged. If the City answers "yes, you have our authorization to do what you want" the City's role is complete. There is no management, micro or otherwise.

So it appears the City is not supportive of this project. I do not understand what would be the basis for the City's lack of support in promoting racial unity. PWW has expressed to me that it does not want to be involved in politics. I think that is smart. PWW provides water, not community policy. Because Paducah owns the tower, and because it is not a political body, the PWW asked for the City's authorization. My fear is that PWW will see the City's refusal to authorize the project as a reason that it should not go forward. PWW said it would do it IF the City authorizes. Does that mean PWW will not do it if the City does not authorize? Regardless of whether PWW is willing to proceed without the City authorization, the project will be diminished by the City's choice to abstain from engaging. This, as much as any other project, merits the City and County joining in support.

This is a great project for our community. Because donations will fund it, It costs our taxpayers nothing. Please consider, with the current racial tension throughout the Country and the positive publicity that has surrounded this mission: What is the message if it is not done?

It is not too late to reconsider. But if not, I request an opportunity to appear at the City's next commission meeting and address this important matter.

Respectfully,
Craig Clymer

From: James Arndt <jarndt@paducahky.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Craig Clymer <ccllymer@mccrackencountyky.gov>; Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>
Subject: RE: Unity water tower

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Judge

I discussed this with the Board last week. We do not feel it is necessary to consider this from the City's perspective. This is a Paducah Water issue. We do not want to micromanage what they paint on their water towers. I called Bill Robertson too let him know this late last week.

I will follow-up with a call to you.

Jim

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Chain 11-16 to 11-17

Vicky Potts

From: Brandi Harless <bharless@paducahky.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Craig Clymer
Cc: James Arndt
Subject: Re: Unity water tower

Attention: This email was sent from someone outside of McCracken County. Always use caution when opening attachments or clicking links from unknown senders or when receiving unexpected emails.

This isn't the first time you've disagreed with me.

I will donate \$50 personally to your fundraising effort.

Sent from my iPhone

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