

July 18, 2017 I went to Medical Lake city hall for a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting that was scheduled for 5:30pm. I looked for the meeting and was told that the Parks and Recreation coordinator was off so there wouldn't be a meeting. No one had called me to tell me there was no meeting. At this point, Destiny Stein, another council member walked in and we walked past Mayor John Higgins office. John Higgins jumped up and started yelling "hey, hey come here!!" I thought he was trying to get Mrs. Steins attention because I have only talked with the Mayor approximately 4 times, one on one, in the last 6 years. The Mayor made it clear that he was trying to talk to me, so I went into his office and he had some sheets of paper from my Mayoral webpage and a few words were highlighted. He was angry that I had written "to an open, professional and honest city government" on my online speech for Mayor.(attachment of the whole sentence below.). He said that people where calling the city and were questioning him about the city being open, professional and honest. He said it was because of what I had written for my run as the next Mayor that they were calling him.. He continued to berate and yell at me about this for a few minutes. I tried to reason with him, but he was still irate and I felt threatened and bullied.I explained that out of all the people I have talked to during my campaign, 199 out of 200 said that they had a problem with the city hall. I explained what I see as the issue and explained it as " It isn't the ordinances or fines people are angry with, it is how they are treated and the interpersonal relationships or lack there- of when people come into city hall to do business or complain" the Mayor said "I don't know why people would complain about the ladies in the front, they are very friendly"..Finally he calmed down, and I sat in the City Managers office and waited for my next meeting that was to start at 6pm. Shirley Maike, another candidate for Mayor came in, and the Mayor welcomed her in and spoke very friendly and nicely to her for a few minutes. Then they both got up and went into another room to have a private conversation.

At 6:30pm we went upstairs to our regular city council meeting. There were a lot of people present who supported Shirley Maike in the front row, and the Sheriff was there(this was arranged a few days before our meeting was to be held).Two people there for Shirley Maike stood up and talked about " how great the sheriffs department has been and that we don't need to look at other options for policing for our city." The sheriff also got up and spoke about how well their agency has been working for our city. Looking into other options is a part of my platform. To review our contract with the Sheriffs department and look at all other public safety issues. Ms. Maikes platform is to "keep the Sheriffs department because it is working well." This all seemed like an orchestrated event, set up to show Ms. Maike and her political views in a positive light.

I stated some of my views during the meeting and i felt very uncomfortable, and it was a uninviting and hostile environment.

When the meeting was over all the people there for Ms. Maike went up to talk to the Mayor and her.

Violations: The management staff using public resources in a manner that promotes or opposes a candidate or a ballot measure.

Shall not coordinate informational activities with campaign efforts, in a manner that makes the agency appear to be supporting or opposing a ballot or a candidate.Wac 390-050273.

Allegation 1: city official may not promote or oppose a candidate during work hours. Mayor Higgins emotional oppositional display in regards to my Mayoral bid webpage statement was in violation because we were at the city hall during work hours (scheduled committee meeting and city council meeting).

Witnesses: Doug Ross city manager and Destiny Stein, city councilmember.

Allegation 2: violation of RCW.17A.555, for using public facilities, staff, and funds for unauthorized benefit of a political campaign. Mayor John Higgins, City Manager Doug Ross, Councilmember John Pikuli and Councilmember Shirley Maike violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using public facilities for the direct or indirect purpose of assisting a campaign for election. Alleged that these 4 individuals coordinated their efforts using public facilities, before and during the city council meeting held on July 18, 2017, to promote councilmember Maikes bid for Mayor. Sheriff's presence, Ms. Maikes entourage, policing of Medical lake, fire pit ordinance. In order to "show" that the city supports Shirley Maikes bid for Mayor.

Witnesses: Gerri Johnson, Terry Harbolt, Miguel Sungia, Ted Olsen, John Merrick, and a lot of other citizens in the audience of the city council meeting.

My webpage is www.facebook.com/formedicallakemayorlauraparsons/



Laura Parsons for Medical Lake

MAYOR updated their status.

Apr 23 at 10:18pm • 🌐

Hi, my name is Laura Parsons and I am running for Mayor. I have been elected 4 times to the city council and I am currently serving my 14th year. I have lived in Medical Lake for 30 years, it is a fantastic place to raise a family. There is a lot to do here, we have the lake, the walking paths, our festivals, our schools and so much more.

According to the survey that the School District and Re*Imagine Medical Lake presented in the Fall, some of our citizens concerns are in regards to providing a well-rounded community center, public safety, police reponse time, to an open, professional and honest city government. I can and will address these concerns as Mayor. I will see to it that all the cities ordinances will be available online. I also want to look at the feasibility of returning to having our own police force, and also looking into developing a regional Fire Department. We all deserve to feel safe and comfortable in our city.

I envision upgrading our city parks and continuing to establish more activities for children and our elderly