

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099
email: mollette@mollette.info
website: www.mollette.info

Correspondence#: 06-010

January 31, 2006

Jim Kalb, Mayor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Mayor's Response to 3rd Ward Correspondence #06-005 (January 25, 2006)**

I am very disappointed and saddened after reading your response dated January 26, 2006 to the above correspondence. It indicates a lack of ability to understand and manage the resources available to address concerns raised by citizens. As Mayor and leader of the City of Portsmouth, you are demonstrating a lack of concern which is an obstacle to resolving documented concerns and issues voiced by citizens.

I find your target behind addressing the letter to both Teresa and I as "*Councilteam*" disturbing and shows a lack of professionalism on your part. You have moved from addressing the documented issues raised by me, in my job of representing my constituents of the 3rd Ward, to sidestepping the issues to launch a personal attack.

I have reviewed your responses and ask the following questions:

1. *A very large portion of your correspondence deal with issues not pertaining to the ward that you represent. This is vague at best and needs clarified. Please review my attached correspondence (#06-005 dated January 25, 2006) and identify which concerns you are referencing. This is a serious accusation.*
2. *Most of your questions and concerns have been previously answered in writing by the pertinent department heads and myself. Council minutes actually reflect that some of your questions were answered by yourself. Please review my attached correspondence and update with any pertinent information or actions taken to resolve the various topics. Communication is a must to resolve issues and guarantee accountability.*
3. *It appears that you fail to read or comprehend the time consuming information that I have previously submitted to you. Example: You had no idea that there was an 8% increase in water rates in the 2006 budget. You posted the entire "unratified, proposed" budget on your website that clearly showed an increase on the water works summary page. This increase was clearly shown on the first line on the page under "Revenues" and it was marked in two places with asterisks. You were unaware of this proposed increase until it was verbally mentioned by the Auditor at the council meeting. I did not question the 8% water rate increase in my attached correspondence but I will respond to your statement. I did review the 2006 Operating Budget and documented seventy (70) questions in correspondence #05-021 dated December 8, 2005. My first question; #1. General Comment; The 2005 Operating Budget proposed and passed by Council included a rate increase to the Sanitation Enterprise Fund. Please identify any additional rate increases that could be associated with the 2006 Budget. Your response in a letter dated December 27, 2005 "No rate increases are planned for later in the year other than possibly sanitation, which council must authorize." It was a simple question and I was surprised and thankful the Auditor redirected the question to you during the Council meeting which informed the public you included an 8% water rate increase in the 2006 Operating Budget. My belief, it was not an appropriate way to disclose a rate increase. It did not allow the utility users to be given pertinent information in advance to allow them to be a part of the solution to the problem.*
4. *You have a problem with receiving "confidential" information and maintaining that confidentially. This is a serious unsubstantiated allegation which I am requesting relevant and pertinent data to support your statement.*

5. *In just over three month's time, I have accumulated approximately three hundred pages of copies of correspondences from you, department heads and myself. Many of your correspondences are redundant and many are outside the realm of responsibility of a member of the legislative body.* I am requesting a copy of the pages you mentioned above for informational purposes and as a public records request. Also your statement concerning me working outside the realm of a member of the legislative body is a grave allegation. I am requesting you to justify your statement and refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations.

You stated any further documentation by paperwork will be done as you deem necessary. My belief, citizens are owed accountability and the respect of a follow-up to their concerns by addressing their issues.

As I informed you this morning in our casual meeting at the municipal building (prior to reading your correspondence) the previously documented issues on Layton Drive has worsened and your action is required to address this issue

After reading your correspondence I am concerned you may be attempting to punish my 3rd Ward constituents because of your personal dislike for my wife, Teresa. I suggest you resolve your issues with Teresa, who is a concerned 3rd Ward Constituent and taxpayer, and who just so happens to be married to the 3rd Ward Councilman and discontinue the unprofessional behavior.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Councilman

rwm

cc: w/attachment

Department Directors
David Kuhn, Solicitor
Charles Horner, Chief of Police
Jo Ann Aeh, City Clerk (Record)
Council (5)
Teresa Mollette, Concerned Taxpaying Citizen



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JAMES D. KALB
MAYOR

TELEPHONE: 740 / 354-8807
FAX: 740 / 354-8809

728 SECOND STREET, ROOM 1
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662

January 26, 2006

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Mollette
"Councilteam", Third Ward

Re: Correspondence #005 of 2006

Dear Teresa and Councilman Mollette:

Having reviewed your most recent list of questions and concerns I have determined the following:

1. A very large portion of your correspondences deal with issues not pertaining to the ward that you represent.
2. Most of your questions and concerns have been previously answered in writing by the pertinent department heads and myself. Council minutes actually reflect that some of your questions were answered by yourself.
3. It appears that you fail to read or comprehend the time consuming information that I have previously submitted to you. Example: You had no idea that there was an 8% increase in water rates in the 2006 budget. You posted the entire "unratified, proposed" budget on your website that clearly showed an increase on the water works summary page. This increase was clearly shown on the first line on the page under "Revenues" and it was marked in two places with asterisks. You were unaware of this proposed increase until it was verbally mentioned by the Auditor at the council meeting.
4. You have a problem with receiving "confidential" information and maintaining that confidentiality.



5. In just over three months time, I have accumulated approximately three hundred pages of copies of correspondences from you, department heads and myself. Many of your correspondences are redundant and many are outside the realm of responsibility of a member of the legislative body.

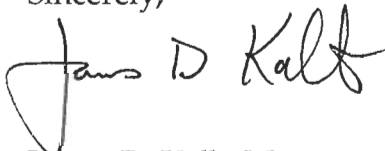
For all of the above reasons, I can no longer justify the time involved exchanging paperwork with you. I will gladly schedule a meeting with you, at your convenience, and have the proper authorities present to discuss any further questions, concerns, suggestions, complaints or anything else you feel necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the City of Portsmouth.

Any further documentation by paperwork will be done as I deem necessary. This is the procedure followed by all of the other council members and seems to be working well for everyone else.

When you feel there is a need for correspondence in the future or have issues that you wish to discuss, please call my office for an appointment.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Kalb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James D. Kalb, Mayor
City of Portsmouth

Cc: Honorable Council Members
Charles Horner, Chief of Police
David Kuhn, Solicitor
Department Directors

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

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email: mollette@mollette.info
website: www.mollette.info

Correspondence#: 06-005

January 25, 2006

Jim Kalb, Mayor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Various Problems Unresolved and Requests for Relevant Information**

During the January 9, 2006 City Council Meeting, Miscellaneous Business 3rd Ward Report, I requested pertinent information or actions on various topics. For your convenience I have assembled a list of these items in question.

1. Correspondence #05-027, dated December 30, 2005, requested your assistance to resolve the reported repeated issues of solid waste and parking at 1431 Layton Drive. I am requesting an update with any documentation for actions taken to resolve this expressed concern.
2. I am perplexed by the city's inactions to date to resolve the reported wastewater and raw sewage backup in homes in the Grandview Area. Lack of action has led to litigation against the City in an effort to resolve issues. I am requesting a plan with projected dates to resolve this issue as soon as possible. I am also requesting investigation into the potential for grants of such projects.

Various written requests still unanswered and additional information requested:

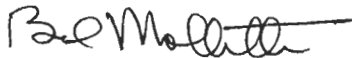
3. **#05-001** (10/03/05) Sherman Road Traffic - A request to assure citizens statements represented at City Planning Commission meetings will be enforced as needed. What actions, if any, have been taken to enforce proclamations made by SOMC representatives concerning traffic on Sherman Road?
4. **#05-002** (10/3/05) 1803 Baird Avenue – What actions have been taken to assure repeat violations do not occur and enforce misdemeanor charges as per Section 941.99(b) of the Codified Ordinances? Taxpayers of Portsmouth want to know their local government will enforce codified ordinances as needed to provide a safe and desirable environment for all.
5. **#05-005** (10/18/05) 1721 Offnere Street – A request for repair was initially made December 27, 2004. Please provide a projected date for repair.
6. **#05-006** (10/24/05) City Planning Commission – What actions have been taken to improve City Planning Commission Rules, which allow two (2) of five (5) members to approve any requests? If attendance at meetings is an issue I have interested constituents.
7. **#05-008** (10/24/05) City Infrastructure to Meet Expanding SOMC Campus – Please inform of the status of “Preliminary Drainage Plan” to be submitted to the Engineering and Wastewater Departments for the expanding SOMC Campus. Provide pertinent scope and projected schedule for the City Long Term Control Plan for Combined Sewer Overflows.
8. **#05-010** (11/02/05) Parking Issue for Residents at 17th and Waller Streets – Provide a status of any documentation submitted concerning proposed construction at the property located at 1202 17th Street.

9. **#05-012** (11/14/05) Safety Concern Expressed on Hutchins Avenue due to vehicles exceeding speed limits – List any actions or observations concerning persons violating speed limits since November 2005.
10. **#05-022** (12/12/05) Liquor Control Permit Renewal Objections – Provide any documentation of valid objections, which exist within the City.
11. **#05-023** (12/27/05) Solid Waste Facility and Potential Safety Concerns – Provide information requested within the letter concerning the status of the dumping of the side loader trucks, scale pad, and hydraulic system.
12. I requested an update at the November 28, 2005 City Council Meeting on a dilapidated structure located on the property at 1722 Baird Avenue. It was declared a public nuisance November 15, 2005 by the Engineering Department. Provide any documentation of any actions related to this property to resolve this issue.

Please forward to me any documentation or actions taken to resolve the above questions and/or comments.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation in resolving these issues.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Council

rwm

cc: David Kuhn, Solicitor
Trent Williams, Auditor
Richard Duncan, Wastewater Treatment
Christopher Murphy, Public Service Department
Charles Horner, Chief of Police
City Planning Commission
Engineering Department
Health Department
Jo Ann Aeh, City Clerk (Record)
Council (5)