The Mayor’s Memo for the month of August

Hello, citizens of the City of Jasper Texas. As Mayor of the City of Jasper, I feel it is time to speak out. This is for the benefit of those of you who use social media to make comments. Just because You don’t see me responding to comments being expressed on social media does not mean I do not see them. So, in response to questions some in the public have been asking and those on social media; Why is the city council always bickering at council meetings? In my opinion, some members do not understand Robert’s Rule of Order, the Council Meeting Rules and Procedures for the City of Jasper, and sometimes we have a difference of opinion.

Some of the public ask me why council members are being disruptive. Again, whomever you think is being disruptive you should direct your question to that person. My recommendation as Mayor of the City of Jasper is to try to end this conflict at council meetings, I have directed the City Attorney Michael Ratcliff in the coming weeks to mediate meetings with myself and each individual council member and between councilmembers one one-on-one with each other so we can have city council meetings without always being at odds. I do not think it would be beneficial for the city council to meet as a group, because it would be a quorum and I do not want to give any one individual a platform to outtalk another. Each council member will be contacted on an individual basis to come in and talk this out. This will be voluntary for each council member. The citizens must understand the city council is not going to agree on everything, but we can do better. I would like to thank you all for expressing your concern,

As City Officials I do not think it is appropriate for us to comment, make statements, or post things on social media when it comes to city business. It could mean tremendous liability and may put the city at risk for serious litigation. I implore each council to read the TML manual for Mayors and City Council Members. I think some of the comments being made by some are appalling, especially those that are threatening and Intimidating people because they do not agree with you. They are exercising their constitutional rights. I have been approached by citizens to comment on the recall, I have not gotten involved with this recall situation and will not favor one side or the other, but I am asking those on both sides of this issue to act civilly and be respectful of the other person's constitutional rights.

If we as city officials are doing something because we think it makes us look good to the public and it gives us something to brag about and say look what I did, then you are doing it for the wrong reasons. My focus is not on temporary things to play on, that only a small portion of the city can enjoy, but rather on the things that will benefit the city in the future, such as working with JEDCO to bring companies to the city that will open up employment opportunities for our citizens, working with the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission Area Agency on Aging to assist our seniors with their utility bills, and to continue to work with the city council to give more months of electric rate relief just to name a few of the thing that I as Mayor would like to see us working on. I know our youth need things to do, but we as leaders of the city need to prioritize what, when, and how we address the issues of the city and stop frivolous spending at times when think it is going endear us to our voters. Thank you very much for listening.

Mayor Anderson M. Land Jr. City of Jasper