

March 27, 2012

Dear Mayor Merkes and Alderman,

I had the privilege of attending your most recent meeting on Monday March 19, 2012. I am grateful for the men and women who lead this City. I am also grateful for the VFW, the Rotary Club and all the non-profits who volunteer their time to help make our city a better place to live.

One of the decisions made at your meeting was to discontinue the 50% discount for non-profits for special city events (I have learned recently that this decision has been vetoed). This was a very heated debate with opinions and feelings expressed from both sides. But by no means did I feel that it was a personal attack against any one group or organization. This decision, in my humble opinion, was made with the intent to help minimize the tax burden on the tax payers of Menasha.

We are a City in financial crisis and for us to attack each other, in this case our Alderman who voted to discontinue the discount in order to help reduce our tax burden, and to demonize and label them, as some put it, "traders" is disturbing and wrong.

What troubles me is that we appear to be more interested in running people out of office who we disagree with than we are in holding those responsible who got us into this mess in the first place.

The job of the Mayor, City Council and elected officials is to watch out for the people of Menasha. Our focus should be to unify, not divide and destroy. We need to do cut spending wherever possible in order to get our financial house in order in order to reduce the ever growing tax burden on the people of Menasha. Our focus should also be to hold each department and department head responsible for doing their part and not allowing anyone person and/or department to be nonchalant about passing the buck on to the tax payers.

We need to come together and support our non-profits that we believe in so they can continue their positive impact on our City. We are a community of families, friends, colleagues etc. We have our differences but we are stronger together than when we are divided. I believe better days are a head, but we have work to do. In the meantime let's not ask the City what it can do for us but rather ask what we can do to help our City get back on the path to lower taxes and prosperity for all.

Respectfully yours,

Roy Kordus