

# No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing.

Volume I

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## COUNCIL DEBATES FOLLY AT SECRET "PUBLIC" MEETING

**1. The Council dilemma: IF THEY HAD SOME HAM THEY COULD HAVE HAM AND EGGS - if they had some eggs.**

Part One of Three

The illegal Saturday "Brunch" held on February 12th worked so well that you will probably see this tactic used again in the not-to-distant future. The council learned Saturday how much more fun it is to discuss public business without any of you being there. As we predicted Channel 16 did show up; but you won't be seeing the meeting on television. City Administrator Butz "banned" Channel 16 from taping the meeting. The candidates for city council were notable by their absence. Either they weren't told about the meeting or they were told but didn't care, or they were told to stay away and they did.

The Rolla Daily News did a pretty fair job on the following Tuesday of summarizing one of the most inane council discussions it has ever been our misfortune to hear. On one side: the Mayor, Butz, Owsley and Williams want Ken Kwantes to be in charge of the recreation center. Ken Kwantes does too, but he doesn't want to actually do the work because he doesn't know how, so he's in favor of hiring an "expert" but only if the expert will be in his department and under his

control. "Under Ken" is the way they kept describing it. The imagery is enough to give you a fit of the giggles or make you ill - depending.

**On Being "Butzed":** On the other side, most of the council members want anyone but Kwantes - an opinion shared by most of the population. But they let themselves be befuddled by Administration's witless proposal for a "business minded" committee of five-- ONLY business people who would have "no real authority." This noxious brew was embellished with counterfeit pros and cons cooked up by Kwantes and Butz. The-Business-Committee-With-No-Real-Authority scheme is the one Butz and the Mayor are pitching because it gives them complete control. Sooner or later the council, defeated by their ignorance of third class city law, will give up, give in, and vote for it. Butz is getting very good at "Butz-ing" the council. To soften them up he throws them several choices: some real, some invented, sometimes entirely invented and unreal. They thrash around struggling with his red herrings, never suspecting that the more appropriate and legal answer lies in the direction he is pointing them AWAY from. He keeps them running around in circles until they give up and pass what he wanted in the first place.

**Morgan's Gang of Five:** This is what will happen with the "Butz-ized" choice the council was offered. A board of five business people will be handpicked by the Mayor and rubber-stamped by the council. The five will have no authority but they are free to waste their time giving Ken

Kwantes and the new guy "under Ken" their advice, which Kwantes is free to ignore. When things go wrong and the Business Board has to go hat in hand to the council to explain the BIG recreation center deficit, Kwantes will blame it on the Business Board. Their protests that he didn't take their advice and they had no power to make him use it will fall on the deaf ears of a council faced with covering their shortfall out of street repair or sanitation or police or fire protection budgets. Any business person dumb enough to agree to be on this Board of Powerless Kwantes Advisors isn't smart enough to give useful advice on running anything. This is the plan that administration is hustling and it is the one that will be passed if the council doesn't wake up. We predicted last year that there would be some kind of handpicked board for the recreation center and we predicted Moorkamp would be in charge of it one way or another.

**The Council's "Thingy":** In a desperate attempt to keep this project away from the inept management of Kwantes, some council members tried to invent, on the spot, an alternative organizational "thingy". One that would have a professional manager but who would not be "under Ken". The council doesn't catch on quickly but they do sense when they're being fed a poison pill - they just don't know how to spit it out. The mayor, who DID NOT attend the Harvard School of Business, used the HSB to explain to Reporter Morrison later, that if the Recreation Center Director didn't report to Kwantes he wouldn't be accountable to anybody! Isn't it swell to have our Business Mayor running the town according to the wisdom of the Harvard School of Business, an institution that will freely admit it knows absolutely nothing about running a third-class city in Missouri? Butz and all other employees are accountable to the city council at all times. Is Morgan just pretending he doesn't know that both state law and city ordinance #2-169 and #2-170 says, "the city administrator shall be responsible for coordinating and generally supervising the operations of all

departments of the City"? No, after two years of Morgan we're sure that he really doesn't know - or care.

### **The progress the council and the Business Mayor have made so far:**

- The city flimflammed voters on a sales tax, which they said would: build a recreation center everyone would get to use, renovate (but not destroy) the old pool, and address some critical storm water and flooding problems. They refused to disclose details on how this would be done but asked voters to trust them and they'd reveal the little details later. The promises were forgotten when the city handed the planning of \$11.7 million over to a group of Morgan's friends. This group had been waiting in the wings and had already decided what they wanted and what everyone else would get - or else. They weren't concerned with whether anyone could afford it. A few council members were supposed to be on the committee to keep them under control. Sheffield resigned in protest because she was lied to once too often, and Jepsen gave up in disgust. Magdits was the Chairman, and snarled at anyone who dared ask HIM for accountability - even fellow council members! With Magdits guarding the backdoor against any accountability to the council and public, the Mayor and his committee were free to spend \$11.7 million like drunken sailors. And they did exactly that.

- The council let the Mayor, Magdits and Butz "manage" the city-appointed Ad Hoc Recreation Development Committee (which had been morphed out of the Recreation for Everyone Committee) at numerous illegal meetings, some at 6 a.m. The council pretended that they, **who hold the city purse strings**, had no control over the Ad Hoc Development Committee, what they planned or how they behaved to the public. The council wasn't told what was going on, didn't demand to know, and on more than one occasion they were "misled." The result: 1. The council has let them overspend on the pool construction and



but Boy Howdy, are they ever busy over where this guy will belong on the organizational chart! It's like worrying that your blinker light is stuck when you're about to be run over by a Mack truck. They hope that if they hire a professional recreation manager for the center he might be able to solve all their problems. But they can't hire one because they can't figure out which box he goes in on the chart, but if they could figure out where his box goes - then they could hire him to solve their problems. If they had some ham, they could have ham and eggs - if they had some eggs.

Coming Next - **The Council's Only Way Out:**  
THEY CAN HAVE HAM AND EGGS - but do they have the "eggs" to do it?

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