
Re: Sexism and the City

1 message

! Laut, Julie <jrlaut@urbanailinois.us>

Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 4:39 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: "Marlin, Diane" <dwmarlin@urbanailinois.us>, !City Council <CityCouncil@urbanailinois.us>, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I'll allow our words to stand as is, since they are clearly very public at this point.

Julie

Julie Laut, PhD
(She/Her)
Ward 2 Council Member
513-544-2682

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 3:46 PM
To: ! Laut, Julie
Cc: Marlin, Diane; !City Council; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Sexism and the City

Julie,

I am saddened that you would deliberately distort my words, and I will not let that distortion stand uncorrected.

You are correct when you state that I asserted that the city clerk sounded "possibly drunk or impaired." Her conduct and tone struck me as odd, not to mention way out of line for a public official, and this seemed like a possible explanation.

You are incorrect when you state that I "accuse[d] her of impairment".

I did not. And to twist my words is offensive and unacceptable. I encourage you to think hard about this and ultimately offer an apology for knowingly misrepresenting my statement.

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Oct 6, 2020 at 2:17 PM ! Laut, Julie <jrlaut@urbanailinois.us<mailto:jrlaut@urbanailinois.us>> wrote:
[REDACTED]

Though I was unable to attend last night's meeting due to illness, I did listen to this section of the discussion this afternoon after reading your email.

Your assertion that our city clerk sounded "possibly drunk or impaired" is way out of line. You can disagree with her ability to express her opinion based on DECADES as an elected official in our city government, but you have no right to accuse her of impairment based simply on the sound of her voice on a zoom meeting.

I hope that you will think hard about this and ultimately offer an apology for making such an embarrassing and insulting accusation in your email.

Julie

Julie Laut, PhD
(She/Her)
Ward 2 Council Member
513-544-2682

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:46 AM
To: Marlin, Diane; !City Council
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sexism and the City

City Council and Mayor Marlin,

At this evening's City Council meeting (October 5, 2020), Urbana city clerk Phyllis Clark engaged in conduct that, as a member of the public, I found highly inappropriate, and in fact, objectively speaking, sexist and offensive.

Sounding possibly drunk or otherwise impaired, Ms Clark cut into the meeting, interrupted Alderman Jared Miller who was in mid-sentence and who was speaking about certain conditional elements in the language of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, wrongly disputed the point he was making, and addressed him patronizingly as "dear," and then, as "darling."

Ms Clark's interruption was rude, pointless, and introduced a tone of toxic "reverse" sexism into the meeting culture.

Had the roles been reversed, had Mr Miller interrupted Ms Clark, telling her, "You are wrong, dear," and in response to her expression of surprise, "You are, Darlin'," she would have grounds for a complaint, and he would likely be issuing an apology by daybreak tomorrow at the latest.

I expect Mr Miller is too much of a gentleman to take issue with Ms Clark's conduct, but I can tell you that it does not sit well with the public to witness city staff demean a council member, and one is a consistently vocal voice of the Urbana people at that, and who was in the process of carefully articulating a legitimate and important point in support of government transparency.

City leadership is declaring as its mission to police "tone" and "intimidation" in verbal commentary during public meetings.

Please start this project with your own city staff.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]