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**Rick Wells address to city council - 11-04-2024**

**As a city Councilor, I would like to express my apologies to the City Employees for the decision made by my colleagues to not give you any raises (for the) next year.**

**I understand the concern the Council had with uncertainty of the next year's budget. However, this council has some culpability in this reckless spending of this administration, such as raising the approval limit of the Board of Works from \$5,000.00 to \$50,000.00 dollars. It was a move that I voted against.**

**At this time I would instruct the Council Attorney to prepare a proposal to re-establish this \$5,000.00 dollar limit back to what it was originally. Also, back in July I mentioned that the Council should be working on the next year's budget. I was told it was too early and it would be done later, and yes, it was finally submitted. But, unfortunately, it was way too late to try and make any sense of it!**

**Also, I would add that in August, 2024, I publicly suggested that the Council retain an auditor and three months later the council finally voted for my suggestion.**

**I truly hope that this Council holds good to its promise to re-evaluate this 2025 budget and to make all the fiscally responsible changes as needed. In the interest of transparency, I hope that in the future the presentation, discussions and agreeing upon any business concerning the City and its Citizens will be done here in this auditorium, in front of all of us and not behind closed doors as has been done in the recent past.**

**Thank you for your time concerning this matter.**