



## **rRemarks Data for November 12, 2024 Village Council Meeting**

**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** Brandon Thiele

**Comment:** I would like to thank the Village for the placement of the stop sign for traffic North and South bound on Washington @ 41st Street. I also see this as a tacit admission that there is indeed a traffic speed and volume issue on Washington and Elm Streets. I would ask the village to confirm that every food and / or beverage freestanding drive through establishment on Ogden that abuts a residential area has only entrances and exits onto Ogden Ave. I would hope this precedent of existing use would guide the Village regarding any current proposed or future developments.

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose

**Comment:** Comment on Comm D's Library motion request

I hope Comm D will explain his reasoning for delaying until after the 2024 prez election his request for putting a referendum on the ballot asking voters to weigh in on the library board being an independent taxing body.

Does he think having more voters vote on the referendum is a bad thing? Does he think having two local referenda on the 2024 ballot was too heavy a lift for DG voters?

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose

**Comment:** Comment on CC's failure to enforce public comments be made at a microphone

I encourage CC to apologize to DG residents interested in VC meetings for his failure at VC's 22 Oct meeting to practice his usually diligent enforcement of the norm that individuals speaking at meetings speak at the microphone.

His failure to do so made much of the consultant's owner's exchanges with VC inaudible on the meeting's recording. Given the length of some of the owner's remarks, that they are inaudible is a significant omission.

Contributing to the absurdity of the failure, Doug K (I presume it was) sometimes shifted the video focus to show WHO in the audience was speaking ... though not being heard.

Did CC fail to enforce the norm because he thought the audio system would pick up the comments regardless?

Did anyone check beforehand?

For the sake of residents interested in following VC's meetings, let's hope CC doesn't drop the ball on this matter again.

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose

**Comment:** Comment about CC saying my public comment is theatre.

At the last VC meeting (22 Oct 2024), CC prevented me from making a comment in full about our world's need for peace and for me the major role played by the US in fomenting conflict.

He further suggested my comment was theatre and thereby implied it and others like it were inappropriate to VC's meeting.

Why do I consider them appropriate? Because ...

DG residents and Americans in general are willfully and/or blissfully ignorant of the connections between their personal lives and larger political economic currents.

If you are among those benefitting from the flow of those currents, as is the case for the majority of DG residents, you're not bothered by your ignorance. Indeed, you likely

believe the currents don't exist, much like the difference one feels in walking or running with the wind versus against the wind.

I contend the aptness of my commenting about the direction of the political economic currents outside DG is appropriate given VC's starting each meeting by pledging allegiance to the republic.

I'm simply trying to fill in some of the specifics of what that pledge signifies.

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose

**Comment:** Comment on Nobel Peace Prize and US warmongering

The following is the comment I tried to make at the 22 Oct meeting which I was unable to make in full:

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When we live in the age George Orwell anticipated, when political and economic leaders routinely lie and inflame such as we see in the current US Prez campaign, ...

Given my history of criticizing VC's bastardized use of phrases such as ENVIS and green this or that and given CC's personal affiliation with a political party that believes lying is simply one of the many tactics one uses to win elections, I was amused to hear CC observe at VC's 10 Oct 2024 meeting that words have meaning. (Which he explained is why VC and staff are working so hard to articulate a vision statement for the comp plan under development.)

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In our age of Orwell, morality and principles give way to simple quest for power as the basis of politics and governing. And words lose their meaning.

Notably, as Orwell forewarned, we live in a time when war is peace.

So I found it ironic that that same week Nihon Hidankyo, a group of survivors of the US bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, won the Nobel Prize for Peace ... for their decades-long campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

As I noted in public comment a few weeks ago, relative few people — American or otherwise — mobilize for peace and against war and nuke weapons these days.

Which is discouraging since we live in a world rife with nukes and other weapons of mass destruction.

With more and ‘better’ on the way.

Indeed, in the two main conflicts currently raging, and a third one American leaders seem keen to heat up, the idea of using nuke weapons is deemed simply a tactical and strategic option not a doomsday scenario to be avoided at all costs.

Americans seemingly are inured to the possibility of being incinerated or irradiated. Or perhaps presume we’ll get them before they get us, so we’ll be okay.

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US leaders have of course worked hard to persuade the population ours is a peace-loving nation and a benign force for good in the world.

In fact the opposite is quite self-evident. From the nation’s very beginning. For those willing to see.

Which most citizens are not.

Was the atomic bombing of Japan, for example, done to subdue Japan and end the war in the Pacific or to threaten the Soviet Union (and everyone else) about how to behave after the war was over? War ends; the Soviets go from ally of convenience back to mortal enemy.

In the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the US destroyed villages to save them from the dreaded specter of communism.

9/11 was purportedly an unprovoked attack on the US, demonstrating Muslims and Arabs hate us for our freedom. That attack opened the door for the US military to wage a Global War on Terror, starting with Iraq because 9/11 happened because Saddam had weapons of mass destruction.

That 'war' is still going and from the US perspective need never end ... because when the enemy is a concept, the US can always find someone to attack in preemptive self defense.

By the US telling, Russia's special military operation in Ukraine is an unprovoked attack, demonstrating Putin and Russians' innate hatred of democracy. NATO led by the US did nothing to threaten Russia's security or overthrow its government.

By similar telling, Oct 7 of last year was another unprovoked attack, demonstrating Muslims' and Arabs' innate hatred of Jews and ongoing hatred of Americans. That instance conveniently opened a backdoor for US proxy Israel to recommence open war on its neighbors, pursuing thereby the Zionist dream of Israel conquering the region and the US goal of keeping the region's oil reserves under US control.

Their depraved conduct this past year has now demolished whatever modicum of moral authority and credibility the US and Israel had around the world.

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At root these conflicts are the deadly combination of two elements; 1) the more powerful disrespecting if not hating the less powerful as lesser beings needing to be dominated for one's own use, (so long as they remain useful and subservient),

AND, 2) the ECOUnS way of living in rich nations, which necessitates a never-ending search for resources to maintain that way of living, which necessarily entails tapping the resources of lands occupied by lesser beings who have no or a less valuable use for those resources (so far as the more powerful are concerned).

Our species' technological cleverness does not preclude our need to live ECOS.

Thanks to that cleverness, our species has come to dominate the material life of the planet.

Indeed, we've reached the historic moment when US elites' desire to remain rich and grow even richer risks ending life as we know it, either quickly — by fomenting exchange of the world's stockpile of mega-weapons — or more slowly — by continuing to disrupt the planet's rates, rhythms, and relationships until they exceed their tipping points.

Either one yields ecological chaos.

US leaders at every level of government, including here in DG, have shown little desire or ability to deal with the reality of our need to live ECOS. Bush41 declared years ago: the American way of life is not negotiable.

The divisions within the country and between US and the rest of the world are widening precisely because hitting resource limits aggravates the effects of the neocon push (in recent decades) to increase class inequality, believing as they do that restraining inequality violates a law of nature.

Thus far, we in the US have failed to negate the neocon way of thinking and acting and so have been unable to find a peaceful way to resolve either our domestic or global divisions.

The ominous concern is that peaceful resolutions either cannot be developed or will not be developed in time to avoid unimaginable disaster.

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Logically it's obvious: the current way of living in the US and other rich nations cannot be ECOS because only in recent decades have we even begun to ponder if it is.

People are concerned, but not enough to want to change enough.

Which begs the question, How much more death and destruction will it take before we in rich nations grudgingly accept we need to change our way of living?

That's what I take to be Orwell's warning: When words have lost their meaning, that time has come.

Or extending Orwell, do we prefer to believe "(species) self-destruction is (the only path to) sustainability"?

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose

**Comment:** Comment about writing in candidates in IL elections

If you voted in last week's election, you know that the ballot included only three candidates for president, the two major parties' candidates and Robert F Kennedy Jr.

Unlike in the past, neither the Green Party nor the Libertarian Party had a prez candidate on the 2024 ballot.

There was a line to write in a candidate however. But ...

I would venture to guess few IL voters know anything about the rules regarding write-in candidates.

I didn't.

My curiosity was peaked because I knew both Greens and Libertarians had nominated candidates, and another well-known individual Cornel West was also running.

However, when I looked for the election results for Illinois, at least in the places I looked I saw no votes for prez for anyone other than the named three.

I had seen a news report somewhere at some point prior to the election that the Green's Jill Stein was a "registered write-in candidate." The reference caught my eye because it was the first time I had EVER come across that phrase!

Looking further after the election, I discovered that for someone to be a write-in candidate in IL for whom votes will be counted one must be "registered."

So did no one in Illinois vote for Stein? Not even Green Party members?

Searching still further, I discovered that Winnebago County actually posted on its website a list of 'registered' write-in candidates for prez and vice-prez. Which included the Green's candidates. Among others.

[https://wincoil.gov/images/WRITE-IN\\_NOV\\_5\\_2024.pdf](https://wincoil.gov/images/WRITE-IN_NOV_5_2024.pdf)

Is it the only county in IL that provides this info? I have not taken the time to check further.

Interestingly, voting results for Winnebago County did NOT break down which write-in candidates got votes; it reported only the total number of write-in votes:

<https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/WRC/Winnebago/122827/Web02.348044/#/>

[Click on 'Federal' to see the results.]

Which begged for me an obvious question — with an obvious answer: why are voters in Illinois NOT informed of this set of people and how to write them in?

Why is this important? Because if you voted for someone not in that set, your vote wasn't counted.

Furthermore, according to information on the Illinois Green Party website, you had to write in "Jill Stein and Rudolph Ware" if you wanted your vote for the Green Party to be counted.

I found nothing on the Illinois Libertarian Party website instructing how to write in their prez and vp candidates.

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So what's the takeaway here?

For me, this is just another example suggesting how screwed up our decentralized voting system is and how inadequate TV media coverage of it is.

Why mention media coverage? Because instead of being impartial reporters about so-called third party candidates, write-in candidates and write-in voting procedures, the media say little to nothing.

Why? Presumably because doing so risks incurring the wrath of the two major parties and their donors, and thereby a potential loss of all the political ad money that makes TV media owners so fat and happy every four years.

Much like the reason neither of the two major parties wants to see elections use ranked choice voting. That method of voting would eliminate the major parties' routine dismissal of third party candidate as spoilers.

Ironically, Trump's takeover of the Repub Party reveals it's the Dems since George McGovern in 1972 who seem more afraid of party takeovers by someone unacceptable to party bosses, and have in place structures to prevent it. As the results of the last three Dem prez primaries suggest.

Which means as presently constituted, Dem prez primaries are just political theatre.



Which likely contributed greatly to their 2024 loss.

Is it any wonder so many people across the political spectrum believe American democracy is in trouble?

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** Marge Mark

**Comment:** My comment is in regards to the referendum item proposing that DGPL becoming an independent unit of government.

I'm concerned this will increase the money taxpayers will be paying, with the library losing the discounts they receive currently, such as not paying for electricity and utilizing the shared services of bookkeeping and auditing just to name two.

Also would this change DGPL being part of SWAN & RAILS?

We are extremely lucky to live in a community that has an outstanding library with a 5 star rating!!

I worry that this move would set the library back, instead of continuing to grow and flourish.

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**Agenda Section & Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** Kelly Dahle

**Comment:** As a resident I am concerned about the village considering an elected library board in that taxpayers would pay more for the same library service if the library were an independent taxing body. The library as part of the Village saves money.

Additionally, elections cost money. I am concerned cost would create a barrier to citizens wanting to serve on the board vs the current method used by the Council for boards.