

First, I want to say that I respect the complexity of the issues you all have to deal with.

Tonight I am speaking for a good number of citizens and we are ANGRY.

City manager, you have been talking about the Voter Approval Rate as though that's the gold standard, when you should be considering how you can stay at or below the NNR rate.

You talk about the importance of avoiding an election, when you should talk about the importance of not raising taxes during the worst inflation we've had in decades.

The truth is, our taxes don't have to go up in order for us to live in a city with reliable public services.

There are a number of staff additions requested that aren't necessary.

I know you could find a way to work within our means if required.

A tax increase is not within our means.

And some of YOU, council members, are not thinking of the citizens who put you in that seat.

This Council needs to start taking control of things.

That budget promo video was an insult to you and to us.

It was a perfect example of how the city manager basically tells council what to do and you do it.

You listened spellbound to that video, a one sided sales pitch designed to eliminate questions, all the while nodding and smiling.

"Look," they said, we've arranged everything. You just need to sign on the dotted line.

We deserve a council who knows that its job is to reign in the city staff and not go along with every slick ad campaign.

Have you thought about saying, "Come back to us with a budget that doesn't exceed the NNR rate?"

I know at least a couple of you are not comfortable with the budget. Why are you not speaking up?

City property tax increases require a two-thirds vote.

You only need three members to block an increase and default to the NNR rate.

Will you please represent US? Be OUR advocates?