

Editor, The Sun:

"He had never seen a city administrator give his opinion in a P&Z case," so said a local attorney referencing the unilateral and subjective intervention of the city of Yuma's administrator into the Planning and Zoning Commission's land use process.

While it may have been a first for the attorney, the arbitrary actions of the city's administrator are without number. Space will not permit a full accounting, however, some of the more memorable (and exceptionally egregious) include changing the venue of voter approved facilities and only informing his bosses after the work had begun.

An all time classic was his hiring of a Phoenix law firm (and paying them for a week) "prior" to the council voting to approve the hiring. This guy has chutzpah.

If city managers held their own Olympics for bungling this one would take the gold hands down. Following council approval of the CIP, of his own volition, the administrator changed the location and scope of a project, including negotiating and signing the purchase contract for real property and the issuing of earnest money, all prior to the council's knowledge.

Regrettably, the attorney is correct, this is a whole new revelation. Boards and commissions are created by the council and the respective members are appointed by the council. Moreover, they are granted powers and duties directly from the council, not the administrator, nor are they responsible to the office of city administrator. There is no provision in the charter for the administrator to infringe upon the Planning and Zoning Commission in the conduct of its duties. Per the charter, the office of administrator only has the right to take part in discussions at council meetings, not the P&Z. But then, an experienced, professional administrator would know that.

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