

As an Alderwoman, I am tired of council being portrayed as blind sheep being led to slaughter, by a City Manager and a Mayor who are supposedly lying to council and the public with misleading statements and supposed facts.

The City Manager hired by a previous Council, is in fact responsible to the current Council and to the citizen's of Llano who have elected us to office. The City Manager has never failed to be available; be it answering questions, listening to comments and/or recommendations from council or any citizen of Llano. The number of public information requests has been staggering and necessitated much of city staff to provide answers in many forms, both verbally, physically and via emails with attachments.

Numerous individuals have asked me personally about the horrific and erroneous ad in last week's Llano News with no name attached and if you notice no name attached to the website indicated to see more which, by the way, shows numerous public information requests provided. Such things as salary spreadsheets are always confidential and becoming public could trigger a source of discontent among employees.

These are the facts regarding the salary of Mr. deGraffenreid. At the beginning of the fiscal year 2012, council conducted a performance review of Mr. deGraffenreid, discussed same in an executive session and upon returning to open session voted 5 to 0 to approve the performance and compensation package of City Manager Mr. deGraffenreid. Using a salary range table for exempt employees that increase was a merit raise based on the review and on the superior and timely actions that he had taken from May to October (that's 6 months), during the exceptional drought and water crisis experienced last summer in Llano and along the Llano River basin. A new water source is uppermost in all of our minds and we are working toward a solution as we promised we would, last summer. We're not there yet but we are ever working on it.

The budget process this year has been difficult at best, but the city staff is exceptional at what they do and although all things are never perfect, they deserve council's respect and citizen's as well.