

Dear Council Members,

I present this paper as citizen input to City Manager Brenton Lewis' appraisal.

My primary concerns with Mr. Lewis' performance are bad staff work, unethical behavior, and total lack of involvement of the citizens.

I believe the strife between some citizens and council is due to the bad staff work by, and distrust of, Brenton Lewis. Examples of bad staff work: city property license agreement, solar ordinance, water meter contracts, zoning changes, website contract, fountains, business licenses, zoning ordinance overhaul, and the Comprehensive Plan. These are not just bad staff work examples but examples of his innate inability and desire to work with citizens. Why would anyone write a solar agreement ordinance and not discuss it with the three citizens who have them, or the local company that installs them – even when told to by council?

I believe Brenton Lewis is not an ethical person, as I have documented in the past and on LlanoWatch. He is an habitual liar and will defend lies all the way to the Texas Third Court of Appeals with a perjurious affidavit and spend \$18,000 (taxpayer money) in legal fees to prevent exposure. Other examples: Giving himself an illegal \$10,000 raise; secretly submitting his wife for an executive position; changing citizens water meters to charge \$40/month extra and then saying the citizen requested it; threats and intimidation of Jason Keese and contradicting the violation letter; preferential treatment to a city employee; stating variances are just for setbacks and not for square footage; and many Open Meeting Act and Open Records violations- one which the mayor admitted to on videotape in a recorded council meeting.

He even claimed that City Attorney Bovey's billing records were confidential and not subject to PIA requests, when the law says otherwise. It took a complaint to the Attorney General to get them, although this is still an ongoing dispute.

Ethical lapses lead to distrust. Mr. Lewis manages a \$12M budget along with over \$3M in loans. How will citizens trust that his staff work, business cases, and contracts will lead council to make spending decisions that are in Llano citizens' best interest? For example, Mr. Lewis presented council a choice of a basic information website or a transactional website from only one vendor - on a full agenda that included water meters. This is irresponsible and led to a wasteful, illegal, ~\$60K (10 year) expenditure. Llano can't afford and doesn't need a transactional website. We already have auto-payment and just need better information and organization on the city website. Llano High School students could do that for an already budgeted \$240/year. A responsible city manager would have included that as an option.

Another example is fountains. How did we end up with three fountains when council approved 3 aerators and 2 fountains? Lewis called these fountains aerators and claimed that the city did not know the manufacturer or model numbers.

His lack of project management skill leads to waste and poor execution. Council voted for the comprehensive website development package in order to get online billing. The website still does not have online billing and all records show that he has not even attempted to schedule the implementation. The website is poor and

embarrassing. It doesn't work on smart phones, has multiple confusing repositories, information on the site is minimal and late, and violates the standards of a good user interface.

On the dredging, he did not examine the site after contractor claimed completion, thus the contractor was not held accountable for leaving a mess – leaving a road in the river, destroying a once usable public river access, and leaving mounds of dirt. He ignored a citizen request to have the contractor repair the damage during the current project.

He apparently has difficulty managing contractors, as well, for Two-Pro Golf Management quit claiming a hostile environment.

His communication and involvement with citizens is pitiful. He doesn't accept input or respond to complaints. He abhors workshops. His presentation at the water workshop was just titles – no information. He scheduled a committee volunteer meeting at Lantex and had 13 volunteers to finish the previous citizen Comprehensive Plan effort and then didn't organize the committee. Instead, he secretly had Doris Messier try to finish it. That didn't work so last week he put a grant application on the council agenda without saying it was for the Comprehensive Plan so citizens wouldn't know that the effort was started without citizen participation.

I want the city services to be improved just like you all do. I want water loss to be solved. I want more water sources. I want a reliable, clean sewer system. We don't disagree on the goals, just the methods to get there. We do not have to be wasteful and lawless to have Llano be a better-run city. I believe Brenton Lewis has the wrong values and practices to manage our city services, gain the trust of citizens, and support council with sound staff work and business cases. With Brenton Lewis, will we have to change our city motto to "The Way Texas Used to Be – Lawless and Broke?" Actually, it seems Llano has dropped that slogan.

I offer to meet individually, or in the Tuesday closed meeting, to discuss and provide backup on any of my accusations. I will correct any reported errors in the paper.

Marc Sewell