

Guest Editorial: BY SCOTT DAHNE | JULY 17, 2013

Creekers Hoodwinked by John Hoeppe



I've had a difficult time the past six months deciding each week whether to just throw away the Sonoran News or to scan through it to see which local fool decided to validate their idiocy in the annals of journalistic history by actually publishing their thoughts for us all to read.

John Hoeppe's Guest Editorial last week was just too much to bear. Let's dissect it piece by piece.

First of all, John, in your "more than thirty-years of advising the world's leading brand marketers", how many of those brands went to market and managed to "deliver on their promises" **in 30 days**? I suppose you're also outraged every four years when our President fails to fix all of the problems in our country during his first month in office? Damn, I'd think with all those weapons and governments

workers at his command; he'd only need a week.

The initial action by the new Council to get rid of the Town Manager was actually a fantastic first step in the foundation of their platform. As a former member of the Cave Creek Audit Committee, I can tell you first hand that Usama was one of the biggest impediments to financial transparency in our Town. When I heard that he was going to be replaced, I could barely contain my excitement. I also knew that since the new Council had the ability to think for themselves, it was apparent that the puppet master was no longer needed.

There was no "immediate termination"; there was a 90 day notice given, along with the potential for another five months of pay and benefits. Usama had the option of assisting in the transition to show that he cared about this Town. Instead, his first action was to cancel the Taste of Cave Creek, showing that he didn't give a crap about this Town or the welfare of our community.

Accountability: First of all, nobody cares about the fact that you were an incorporator of Cave Creek. The fact that you tell everyone that before every speech you give tells me one thing. It tells me that you've done nothing else worth noting in your life.

Now about the candidate debates... The fact that nobody from the "INCUMBENT SLATE" except Ernie showed up at the first debate says to me that the incumbents didn't care about the people they represented. The people then responded by voting Ernie in during the primary and voting the rest of the "INCUMBENT SLATE" out. Yes, when you're an incumbent and get less votes than the challengers that's considered a vote of no confidence. Tom showed up at the next debate and guess what? Tom got more votes in the general election and was re-elected. Numbers don't lie and voters don't forgive.

Regarding Rodney's name coming up during the debates; maybe the challengers hadn't yet decided what to do with the existing Town Manager. Oh, and by the way, for all of you simpletons that think a bunch of candidates getting together before an election to plan strategy is an Open Meetings violation, you're just uninformed. If I were you, I'd be more concerned with the fact that we all received mailers from the "INCUMBENT SLATE" of sitting Councilmen. The fact that they had to give permission for their inclusion on that slate means that they must have talked about it. Now that's an Open Meetings violation!!

Financial Responsibility: First of all, the method of terminating the Town Manager was professional in every respect. It was the Town manager that wanted it done in public. It could have been done in

Executive Session. In fact, he could have simply tendered his resignation in return for an 8 month severance package and walked away a hero. Instead, he chose to make it into a public spectacle.

More importantly, I'm glad your "expertise" is in marketing, because it's sure as hell not in finance. No matter what the case, this Town must still pay one Town Manager, which equates to approximately \$80,000 over 8 months (using your numbers). The Town's not wasting \$160,000; it's making a financial decision to cut its losses. The former Town Manager cost this Town MILLIONS and I for one would rather pay an additional \$80,000 this year than be saddled with millions more in debts and legal settlements that he would surely have been responsible for if left in office.

Oh, and that last part where you blow your own horn again about the incorporation of this town... Get off your soap box and wake up! All you're doing is continuing to divide this Town. The same goes for the former Council Members and their lapdogs that started talking about recalls before the election was even over. I hold each and every one of you responsible for the future of this Town. One of the new Council's major hurdles is dealing with the previous Council and Town Manager's supporters, which are continuing to cause the division in this Town.

Mr. Dahne has lived in the Cave Creek area for 19 years and only writes editorials when he just can't take it anymore. It's that time again.