

Walt Leonard was told he was going to be put on trial for his job but not told why! He asked does this even remotely resemble a due process. He said this Statute — After providing the Officer with due notice and an opportunity to be heard. He said Due Notice is a good deal more than saying hey be here — we're going to have a trial and we'll tell you when you get here. He said that was absolutely wrong. He said 22.077 says — he was told at the end of the day Thursday — the Mayor did call him about 4:00 pm and he had already left the office. He said he received the letter on Friday. He said this will serve as notice and he was going to be placed on the 11-27-2017 agenda to determine the continuation and relationship between himself and the City of Reno. He said under Texas Local Government Code 22.077A you will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council. He said golly gee whiz what the devil does that mean? He said nobody has told him anything. He said he asked the Mayor what were the problems and the Mayor gave him a couple of vague notions and nothing more. He said he has had no means of preparing anything for responding. He said the opportunity to be heard — you can't know the devil of what is going on is pointless. He said in fact it is a travesty and it is illegal. He said it is a violation of both 22.077, the Texas Constitution and the US Constitution. He said Due Notice means that the charges should be specified how else can anyone respond to them. He said this is just a motion of bingo and that's it. He said this is basically trial by ambush. He said Number Two (2) there was insufficient time to inquire if he would be able to handle this or prepare for it. He said how the devil you prepare for charges that are not specified — you can't do it — everyone should know that. He said anyone that makes a motion to do that is basically participating in a kangaroo court. He said there were no charges, he needed time to prepare, he might have needed documents, might have needed witnesses. He said none of those opportunities were given. He said again denial of due process. He said Number Three (3) there are four grounds specific to this which are corruption, incompetency, misconduct or malfeasance. He said two (2) have been chosen. He said he did not know that because they also have different standards of what constitutes those things. He said he has not been given any opportunity to look into this, to prepare — anything — its just bingo be here and have something done to you. He said the only way you can interpret this is that pretty much the deal was already done. He said that makes it even more alarming. He said he has a variety of concerns about this. He said if anyone is interested he has copy of the letter that he sent to everyone on the council which he would be glad to share and about how all of this has beginning spending out. He said of all there was a letter in July this year from Mr. Basham who is a member of the Council and who is now Mayor Pro Tem indicating he was speaking with someone else on the Council talking to Alan Bojorquez it is basically defamatory. It is a collection of complaints against him most of which already been heard by this Council from Mr. Basham and others and had been found by this Council and the City to be of no merit. Therefore these are claims that are supposedly being passed on to another member of his profession indicating evils on his part which have already been known to be of no merit. He has also sent letters to other which he has been involved in legal work with similar statements. These are basically by actions by the city attempting to recruit an attorney and he is very disturbed about seeing action done by the city being done this way. He said even worse it appears that there were charges that have been supposedly floating around for some time that are supposedly the basis of this motion he presumes - although we don't know it because no one has said so. He said those charges apparently were already known so why weren't they told to him.

Walt Leonard asked why he was denied the opportunity to respond to them, to talk to them to try say anything about them instead of just having it sprung at him as a conclusion of that he is supposedly guilty of misconduct and malfeasance whatever the devil those are because no one has said what they are and what the basis is for it. He said again why conceal them? The only reason is either one (1) nobody has a clear idea and don't care or it's an attempt to cause him damage by surprise. He said again this suggests this is a strong political action caused by a new change in administration. He said this is trial by ambush – why is there little notice – why is this kangaroo court. He has nothing the council just simply purposes they are going to have a hearing and they are going to talk about whether he can continue. He said if this was a vote of no confidence that might be appropriate – that takes four (4) votes – no reason actually has to be given just tired of looking at him. He said if there is cause then this is basically saying he has done something wrong. He said he is being accused of something and he bloody be able – allowed to find out what it is and be told what it is – elementary due process according to the State of Texas, United States and according to this Ordinance requires it. He said it hasn't been done. He said at this point technically he is still City Attorney and he needs to remind them you should not proceed to damage anyone which case they are creating a denial of due process. At this point this whole process is tainted by an obvious disregard of the rules and an intent to create a result rather than determining whether there is a problem and to allow the council to review it which is why it's in this book - it hasn't been done. He said what they have here is a pattern of political attack and defamation by the city or agent's of the city in the name of the city or by the city. He said he would also note – this is significant in other matters that he is a potential witness and he has had to withdraw from his representation of the city and other matters involving in this case the City Administrator. He said since he has announced and withdrawn on those parts now he is being attacked and his job has been placed in jeopardy upon the most specious – non existence grounds without any sort of any proper representation without any proper indication of what the problem is and as a witness he has to wonder whether or not this is some sort of retaliation or an attempt to bring pressure upon him because of that. He said there is no other real reason could substitute this for what the city is attempting to do because they are simply not following the most elementary rules of fair play. He said this is simply an attempt to assassinate in a figure of sense. He said he doesn't know what to say – he has never seen anything quite this blatant. He said it is pathetic – he would dare say if you have legal counsel they could consult with them long and hard as to whether or not you should proceed with this at this time or proceed with it at all because what has happened here is there seems to be an interesting proposition there is something wrong and the motion here is simply they went straight to misconduct and malfeasance and let's do it. He said this giving him an opportunity to speak doesn't do anything – how does he know what to answer – to say what is wrong – to justify whatever he has done or to point out other facts or witnesses or anything else – that's not being done. He said any action that is taken by this body now is challengeable – it's probably illegal – and certainly in terms of 22.077, the State Constitution and of the Federal Constitution as the City Attorney he has to warn them this is doing something very clearly result in adverse consequences for the city.

Mayor Hunter said it is interesting that TML didn't bring any of that out. He said he laid down for them exactly what he sent him, read it to them and what he was placing on the agenda and he asked them if there was anything that he was not doing that he was supposed to do – that he must do – he there anything he is doing that he cannot do or should not do and they said no. He said they said he was doing everything he is required to do

Lynda Stokes said they don't have the right to find out what it is

Mayor Pro Tem Basham said point of order

Lynda Stokes said point of order

Mayor Hunter said point of order - he asked could she be recognize by the Chair first.

Lynda Stokes asked if she could speak.

Mayor Hunter said not yet. He said that was his conversation with TML.

Walt Leonard said where there were no specifications. He cited Ridgeway vs. Fort Worth.

Mayor Pro Tem Basham said Mr. Leonard brought up the fact that you had discussed a number of these items and told him what he would be facing. He asked could he share the conversation as far as what the Mayor conveyed to him.

Mayor Hunter said some of the items he witnessed firsthand were the conversation Walt Leonard and he had when he said there may have been as open case. He said there was a candidate and he said shouldn't we get that to trial and get a disposition on it. He said Walt Leonard's response was it's better for Bonnie Black if we hold that trial or charge over her head through the election.

Walt Leonard said okay he would be glad to address that in totality.

Mayor Hunter said he didn't know it at the time but he has had several attorneys say ..

Walt Leonard said Mr. Basham has also complained but he never knew what the problem was or why anyone felt... He said here are the facts

Mayor Hunter said to hold on a minute.

Walt Leonard said he is the one accused.

Mayor Hunter said Walt Leonard told him that. He asked Walt Leonard if he was denying that.

Walt Leonard said he was joking. He said let me tell you what...

Mayor Hunter said he was joking!

Walt Leonard said yes because and he will be glad to explain the totality of the circumstances which he has not been given the opportunity to do. He said first of all he said let me give you the facts of that situation. This was a situation in which Mr. Basham and Mrs. Basham dog bit a little girl next door – in the neighborhood – he wasn't sure if she lived next door. He said according to the police this wasn't the first time this has happened. He said they attempted to give the ticket to Mr. Basham but he refused to accept it and he said to give it to his wife.

Mayor Hunter said Mr. Leonard....