

6/4/2019

For the record

Susan Hall
Ashland

Tonight, I am taking this opportunity to THANK JULIE Akins, City Councilor Akins, for her recent vote on the City Budget. Councilor Akins and three other members of the Citizens' Budget Committee DID NOT approve this Budget. I believe, they showed their integrity and honesty by NOT approving this inadequate Budget before us tonight. Clearly these four individuals feel tonight's budget lacks enough merit to be implemented as it is. And I agree.

Why did the rest of you approve it? Please don't duck this question just because the entire Budget Committee isn't sitting here...You are each responsible for your own vote.

I am astounded, disappointed but NOT surprised by some of the budget decisions made. I am shocked that you (minus Councilor Akins), as members of the Citizen's Budget Committee are burdening Ashland residents with more increases in our utilities (AGAIN) and higher property taxes.

Did you not listen to residents who spoke to you about the impact of raising utilities last time? I have sat in numerous City Council meetings with the Public asking for cuts in the City spending. Where are across the board cuts??

Over a year ago I asked "Why doesn't the CC and Mayor require each department to identify "essential" services and the costs of such services AND then "cut the fat" in each department? "

As recently as May 22, Kenneth Wilson laid out one reason our PERS expensive is massive and will only grow more massive: Wilson outlined the cost of too many employees and the expense of massive salaries...we can't afford this.

In closing:

Apparently several Budget Committee members have stated numerous times: "There is still a lot of work to do."

I say : " Then do the work!"

Do the work before submitting this type of budget. — MAY ANNUAL BUDGET CYCLE
WOULD BE MORE MANAGEABLE

Susan R Hall RN
Ashland