

## **5<sup>th</sup> Email from Councilman Agold sent to residents on 12/31/25:**

My thoughts on city government continue...

In the USA, we are a nation of laws. I'm neither a historian nor a political scientist, but I do know that the collective wisdom of the ages has brought us here. We embrace order over lawlessness.

Benjamin Franklin was asked about our form of government after the Constitution was written, "What have we got?" Answer, "A republic, if you can keep it." We are not a direct democracy. We have representative government whether it's at the national, state, or local level.

The council members represent the interests of the population.

If the people are not happy with the council's governance, there is a solution. It's called an election. Two seats on the council were opening up earlier this year. The incumbents agreed to stay on. There were no challengers. The council now is populated until the next term of some seats.

That is the cycle of life within a government.

That is the pace of change of governance.

It seems that some of our citizens want direct democracy. We don't have that. Our system is in place. It is defined by state law. That's how the town operates. It is not within our collective power to change this. To try to institute direct democracy in our little town is not the solution.

One reason for rejecting direct democracy is called, I think, the Tyranny of the Majority.

Here's the danger, the pitfall, of this approach to governance: the majority could simply have their way. Full stop. At first glance, this seems reasonable. The majority ought to get their way. However, taken to an extreme, this majority could bring harm to the minority. The US Constitution is written in such a way as to protect the minority from the majority by ensuring the rights of each person. Representative government keeps the Tyranny of the Majority in check.

Now, back to the City Administrator position. The Council, your duly empowered representatives, decided to create that position. This cannot simply be undone by a majority of the population.

It there is a groundswell of support to make this change, it happens as follows: individual citizens run for a council seat, they win, they make motions, they vote, change happens.

Change does not happen by speaking for three minutes at the council meeting. It isn't that easy. If you have such wonderful ideas and thoughts, devote the next few years of your life to your cause. You don't get your way by simply taking a few minutes out of your month making a three minute speech.

(And, it doesn't matter how much applause you might get.)

Don Agold  
Alderman