



VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

Knowledge is Power; and Elections have Consequences!

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If there is ANYONE BUT PITTMAN who told you this, thank them.

LEGAL SERVICES AND ADVICE

In my March 9th Email Newsletter, I stated that I would discuss the third item that was listed in the March 5th Email Newsletter (All of the previous Email Newsletters are located on my website.). Per the City Charter, Mayor and Council have sole responsibility for hiring and firing the City Manager ; City Clerk; City Judge; and City Attorney.

Mayor and Council's direct hires are directly answerable to them. Former City Attorney Brad Bowman was hired in 2014. In 2022, he hired an Assistant City Attorney. For some unknown reason, and without authority, Mayor and Council fired the newly hired Assistant City Attorney. City Attorney Bowman gave the City two weeks' notice and left. At this point, the City was without a City Attorney. Mayor and Council then hired Solicitor Weems to Interim City Attorney. Prior to becoming the Interim City Attorney, Solicitor Weems used Weems Law Firm and continues to do so. In addition to serving as Solicitor, and Interim City Attorney, Attorney Weems handles cases involving the 50 Worst Properties and provides training for the Police and Fire Department.

When I received Open Records' documented information that Solicitor Weems was receiving money as the Interim City Attorney, I discovered the following:

1. According to ORR (Open Records Request), there was no contract for the Interim City Attorney's position stating that he was hired, or at what salary or rate of pay.
2. Invoices showed that he is paid \$7,500 for Council Meetings for 25 hours per month. That comes out to be \$300 per hour.
3. Per the ORR request the City provided invoices for six months for a total amount of 146,955. Per the Finance Department, the total amount paid out to the Weems Firm is \$561,270.35.

Residents need to know:

1. What is the approved annual contracted salary is Weems paid for as Solicitor?

- 2. What is the approved contracted salary or rate schedule for Weems as Interim City Attorney?**
- 3. What is the approved contracted schedule rate for Weems Law Firm?**
- 4. What is the approved contracted schedule rate for Weems for training services for the Police and Fire Departments?**
- 5. What is the approved contracted schedule rate for Weems a providing services for the 50 Worst Properties?**
- 6. How much was Weems paid for each of the remaining approved contracts totaling \$414,315?**

There is no reason for anyone person to be working in all of these positions without valid contracts and invoices to show for the payouts by the City. Former City Attorney contracted annual salary was 138,000 per year. The Assistant City Attorney, who was illegally fired by Mayor and Council, contracted salary had to be less that \$138,000 for the year. The mismanagement of City's funds by this Mayor and Council is atrocious. East Point has the most expensive and convoluted legal arrangement than any City in Georgia. Is there any wonder that Mayor and Council is providing such poor leadership and are violating the Charter and City Ordinances at every turn.

By now, word has gotten by to the City that I have been calling Attorneys whose specialty is Local Government/Municipal Government because I spoke with two Attorneys who had to decline their services because the do work for the City. Since that information is out there, I felt that the Residents should be told also.

Residents, please be aware that my shopping for Attorney does not absolve anyone of you for standing up and holding this Mayor and Council accountable. I want to SEE some COMMITMENT from YOU BEFORE MY ASSOCIATE and I have the LAWSUIT FILED. WE WANT TO SEE SOME PROTESTING!

I AM NOT SIGNING UP FOR ANYMORE ELECTIVE OFFICES.

