

3. Property tax relief, cont;

and, as bad as the situation is for residential owners, it is even worse for commercial applications. I can't help but think that it is difficult at best to attract large numbers of new citizens (which would do a lot to ease the tax burden for all of us) under the present situation. I also think that another 5% or even 10% reduction in city payroll and privatization of garbage and forestry services and police populations would go a long way in property tax reductions. Of all the listed "15 in 5" proposals, only one dealt with serious infrastructure issues; the rest seemed to favor more "playtime" items to attract and keep "young" folks from leaving. Don't get me wrong, I like playtime as much as the next person, but we must get the cart and the horse in the proper alignment. If all you offer is recreational in nature, they will go where they can have those things and also have jobs, streets (other than in-town gravel roads) to get to them on, and low tax burdens as homeowners.

I know I have rambled on here, Jim, but you did encourage us as citizens to give our input. I truly believe that, prior to your arrival, the city fathers took some wrong, if well intentioned, turns. The ballpark, ice arena, loss of the casino are just a few that come to mind. We are apparently about to embark on more folly in this ill-conceived plan for the inter-modal facility which is in the works. These are multi-million dollar mistakes in my opinion, mistakes which could pay for a lot of services and reduce tax burdens significantly; Bill Hoekstra may be the nicest guy in Cedar Rapids, but someone should throw a bucket of water on him! At any rate, if I can be of any help at any level, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours.