

I have several questions for you tonight, mayor.

1. Why did you share these tax rates with the Northern Kentucky Tea Party in this letter before discussing them and sharing them with City Council? Isn't it customary to share these numbers with the members of Council before making statements about how "some" members will react? Members of Council did not see these numbers until later in the week.
2. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph you stated that "We have some council members that will insist we increase our tax rates." Would you care to identify who the "some council members" are?
3. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph you take credit for lowering the tax rates by saying "under my direction ...Erlanger does NOT plan to take any Compensating Rate increases". Were you part of city government last year in 2014 when in fact before your election we discussed lowering taxes for 2015 because our economy was improving and several new businesses were planning to come to Erlanger? Isn't it also true that our city staff shared our finances and economic outlook with you, and they were the ones who recommended the tax decrease to you?
4. You called for "help" in paragraph 4 for the public to speak out because "certain council members...will oppose tax rate decreases." Could you tell us who those "certain council members" are?
5. You also stated in that same paragraph that "nothing sways council's opinion better than members of the public speaking out." While it is true that we encourage citizens to communicate with us, a lot more goes into our decision making. Don't you think that we look at our budget and plan it wisely to benefit the 18,000 members of our community? We actually study the numbers in the budget. We started considering the tax rate for this year long before you were elected. Just in case you don't know, we don't make decisions based on one night's meeting. We listen to all the facts and weigh the pros and cons before making any decisions. When it comes to the budget and tax rates we keep in touch with as many of our constituents as possible and we discuss and plan for our city's future months in advance. Again, the election is over. We should all be working together to serve the citizens of Erlanger and not just making ourselves "look good" to the public.

6. In an article in the "River City News" you stated that you have "worked hard to ease tensions" and that you are "succeeding in promoting an understanding" with your "colleagues in administration and the twelve council members." Do you actually think that sending this letter to the Northern Kentucky Tea Party accomplished that? I don't think it did. It seems to me that you are once again attacking City Council by trying to make us look like the bad guys while making yourself look like Erlanger's hero. I have lived in the city of Erlanger for 42 years and have served on Council for almost 20 years and I am appalled at your actions.