

June 22, 2015

City of Marathon Utility Department

RECEIVED

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D.E.P. Marathon

TO: Michael Puto, Mayor, Chris Bull, Mark Senmartin, Richard Keating, Dr. Dan Zieg, Bill Kelly

I have considered writing this for some time now. I regret having to write it under anonymity but I will surely lose my job if I don't. Every time I think about writing this, it is because something else has happened in our utility department that was swept under the rug and hidden from council and/or DEP, or we received information about deficiencies from contractors and ignored it and then tried to blame the contractors when it became an emergency, or I sat home watching a council meeting and Zully tells council outright lies or stumbles through questions with no legitimate answer but then been praised for what a great job she is doing. Then I go to work the next day and have to see Zully and all she gets away with and I lose my nerve for fear of my job.

But, here goes.

Council is continually being lied to, intentionally about the operations of the utility department. On multiple occasions the charts and graphs that show flows and process numbers were copy/pasted from a previous month to hide problems in the process. Earlier this year, we had a pretty big spill at SA6 plant that we were told to clean up as best we could and cover it up with clean stone. In a recent report to council, Zully highlights high nitrates at the SA3 WWTP. In the next paragraph, she says the operator just needs to turn up the air to deal with the super high loading on the plant. I am not sure if she is intentionally lying to you here or if this is just another example of her ignorance of wastewater treatment operation. One of the first things you learn about process control is that an increase in air will result in an increase in nitrate. That is why the last two contract operators had reported multiple times that the loading was too high to adequately treat. She has told you that the salinity is way lower than it is. It has not dropped significantly as she has told you. Zully had her attorney get up and give a comment as a citizen saying that we have 19 or 20 years average experience in our department. Our operators have 12.6 years average experience. One of us is a lab tech for most of that time, one of us has been a truck driver not an operator the whole time he has been licensed, one got a license barely 2 years ago and was told by Zully to work for ST so he could get experience and give her time to convince council to let her pay him what he wanted (least experienced operator making the most in the department), and the other 2 got their licenses in prison after killing people.

We have a job posting for operators that says applicants MUST have a drivers license and MUST pass a criminal background check. Yet we hired two felons on parole, one can never have a drivers license and the other one is violent and confrontational. If on parole, you can't say he has served his debt because he HAS



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South District

NOT. Seriously, how do you ever serve your debt for murdering two police officers? US Water was going to fire him but lost the contract so ST ended up with him. ST found him doing illegal stuff at the plant on top of sexual harassment of female employee and let him go. We hired him and he has already been caught red handed violating state law doing the very thing Severn Trent warned us he would do. DEP catches him again he will lose his license and we will get hefty fines which the city has to pay and he may go back to prison because it is criminal act. He is belligerent and out of control at work. He never stays at his plant, we would be surprised if he is actually there 3 hours a day (FDEP requires 6 hours a day, we required ST to be there 9 hours a day). Since he is not held accountable for anything, we will never know.

As stated in the newspaper article, we have all been told to not consult with Erin Arnette. Zully does not want anyone at city hall knowing what we do, that was the reason for Zully having Brian make separate e mail accounts that she then told him to delete when she was afraid access would have to be given up. We were also told repeatedly to create whatever kind of issues possible to make it more difficult for US Water and for Severn Trent to succeed. Zully herself has slipped in mentioning that she has turned off pumps at plants to try and create problems.

LEGAL AND FISCAL STUFF

A quick google search and you will find several people fined, fired and or in jail in Florida for the stuff Zully did and directed to be done in regards to the **Sunshine Law violations**. It has been in the paper multiple times and it has apparently been well documented in City Hall as well. She directed Brian to create the mthutil.org stuff then she admits telling him to delete it when she was asked for access. We ALL thought that was finally the last coffin nail...nope, she got a day off and you fired Brian for doing what he was told to do by Zully. A real city would have turned this over to State Attorneys office in order to limit our own liability.....Now we are as guilty as she is.

An audit would show that Zully has spent probably hundreds of thousands of dollars of the City's money on privately owned systems. She constantly complained about how much money US Water charged for overtime but a lot of it was her directing them to work on private systems. One of the most common would be Galway Bay. She would panic and beg US Water to do what ever it takes to keep the Galway buffer pits from overflowing. When Severn Trent told her they would not take the liability of working on private systems without contract, Zully got very angry. She then paid WRT to go out and do work in Galway Bay private lift stations, creating issues in the collection system and probably sending sewage out with the tide. **WHY ARE MY TAX DOLLARS GOING TO PAY FOR A PRIVATE BUSINESS TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION???????????????**

No one knows or is able to understand what it is Zully has going for her. But her actions make it clear to everyone working for the City that she can do no wrong. By allowing this obviously illegal behavior, how will the city leadership ever be able to reprimand anyone ever again? It took the city 4 months to decide that "probation" was the proper course of action for a jailable offense. This is just the

one you caught her on, imagine what all goes on that you haven't seen. She refuses to stock parts (violation of Florida statutes and DEP rules), The City has not filed the required reports for the EPCRA community right to know act (violation of federal law under EPA) even after one of the contract operators offered to help her do it. Because of Zully, the area 5 plant operated for months without a permit because she didn't get the application in until the permit was almost expired even though the DEP sent out several reminders. Now we are going to end up with another plant operating without a permit for the SAME REASON. Eventually DEP is going to have enough and just start handing fines out. DEP believes there is no worse violation than a plant operating without a permit.

I am sorry that this rambles on but there is soooooo much that goes on that shouldn't. Councilmen, you guys praise Zully at almost every meeting. Some of you so much so that it becomes almost awkward. She has absolutely no experience operating a plant or a collections system. She has no license, background, education or credentials in the industry. She tried to test for a license once but failed. She is verbally abusive to all of us on her staff except her favorites. She is even worse to most of city hall employees. With no contract operators here the city of Marathon has no oversight of its wastewater system. You guys hang on her every word and do not even know what to ask to see if you are being bs'ed. This is the most expensive thing the city owns. You should have someone in there that at least understands it. I am not sure what will happen if FKAA comes in with my job but as a member of this community I say something different has to happen for our sakes. If you are hell bent on not wanting a contractor here, find someone with a clue to replace her or bring in FKAA and quit wasting tax payer money on this experiment. Seriously, does she have pictures of one of you at a party or something?

Signed

Job Scared

CC:

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Scott Black

FDEP Devon Villareal, Gus Rios, Jon Iglehart, Gary Maier

Fl St Attorney Catherine Vogel

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi

Florida Auditor General David W. Martin

US EPA Susan Shinkman, Kenneth Schefski

City Utility Czar, Zully Hemeyer

Sara Matthis, Keys Weekly

FCAA, Kirk Zuelch

Severn Trent, Sean Hauser, Bob Dick

US Water, Dewayne Dousay, Jon Meyer, Gary Deremer