

The other side of the story...

For Pete's sake

Not to belabor the point or extend the news cycle even further, but Jackson Mayor Pete Muldoon's decision to replace our President's likeness with an Indian chief's portrait says a lot. Governing style, leadership qualities, character, and much more are revealed in what some are calling a "non-issue." Whose picture is hanging in Town Hall might not be a big deal, no, but the machinations behind taking it down are alarming.

The action reveals two things immediately—the 'group think' mentality that grips so many politicians once they get into office, and the complete lack of awareness many have when it comes to the silent majority.

Mayor Muldoon ran largely on a campaign of "action" over discussion. He criticized the former mayor's all-encompassing dialogue, which he said often prevented anything from getting done.

As a man of action, the mayor took it upon himself to make the call about the Trump dump. He consulted no one but his fellow-minded, Trump-hating vice mayor and made the call on behalf of the citizens of Jackson.

The story played a sour note nationwide. Lots of locals were embarrassed and dozens of businesses are paying a price. While the man of action has made little headway on real local issues—overcrowding, traffic, conservation—he has boldly declared Jackson will stand in defiance of Trump on international climate issues and has pushed for Jackson to be an official sanctuary city.

Maybe Muldoon is yet another victim of the "Town Inc" mentality others have fallen into.

Once elected, politicians swap their campaign platform for a personal agenda or a town-as-corporation viewpoint, while providing two-faced explanations to the public so they can remain in office.

The mayor's actions are indicative of a worrisome trend today: Noisy liberals, entitled millennials, and other isolated groups are shocked, surprised and dismayed by actual headcounts. They are so sure they know what's "right" they've developed a blind intolerance for other viewpoints, all the while preaching their message of "tolerance." They're such a loud minority it's easy for them to believe they are always right. They read their own press.

*The community needs
to be kept in the loop.*

They were filled with shock and disbelief at Trump's victory. At the local level, they can't understand why the community keeps voting no to taxpayer-funded middle-class housing and buying more START buses. They miss the obvious: START is an ineffective failure at its stated goal, getting cars off the road.

Muldoon explains his decision by saying Trump is divisive so down he goes, and the USA is not a dictatorship so we shouldn't feel obligated to display a picture of our fearless leader in public buildings. It should be glaringly obvious to even him, at this point, that his actions have been both divisive and suggestive of a dictator. Hmm.

Until the day a President wins with 100% of the vote, all elections could be viewed as divisive. It takes maturity, tolerance, and ego-control to say the other side won and respect the outcome.