

President Waldron indicates he hasn't "been deaf to the criticisms of my style" and that maybe he will be "a bit more" aggressive

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government January 22, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on City Government* 

<https://youtu.be/dO-aUGdgR-E>

At City Council last night, President Waldron once again responds to concerns about his soft-gavel style:

- I take this position seriously; I'm honored to serve for another term.
- I stand by my legacy in the work that I did in my role over the last two years and hope to build on that.
- I will continue to encourage as much public comment as possible as well as healthy debate among members of council.
- I have brought in the live-streaming in an effort to get more people engaged.
- I have made attempts to interact a bit more with the speakers in a way . . . to try to answer some questions whenever it is appropriate and try to have a small dialog.
- I haven't been deaf to the criticisms of my style of allowing a very long leash and using a soft gavel, and I'll continue to try to reflect on that in ways to help guide the conversation in a more positive and productive way.
- I'm serious in my commitment to listening to my members of Council and hearing their feedback on my management of the meetings.
- I would say that generally most of the criticisms directed at me for not managing a specific member of Council and not silencing them or gaveling them down.
- Which I think is a fair criticism; however, I have made attempts to guide that conversation to be a bit more productive, and those attempts have not been successful.
- Ultimately I think if there's a single bad actor, that doesn't reflect negatively upon Council.

- I think that reflects upon that individual, and those comments are representative of that certain person, not of the entire Council.
- I will, however, try to continue and maybe a bit more aggressively help try to push that conversation to a productive one.
- It's my hope that everybody can continue to work together, we have a generally good working relationship among Council and the administration, and I hope that we can continue that over the next two years.
- I think the City is in great shape, and a lot of that has to do with these relationships.
- I thank members of Council and the public for their support.
- I am very open to having a dialog and a conversation about how we can continue to improve things here at City Council meetings as well as in the City as a whole.