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Mayhar inadvertently releases his list of JEDCO members through text thread, Sample confronts him

Mike Lout

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Bob Mayhar

Photo provided by Bob Mayhar

Newly elected District 2 Councilman Bob Mayhar sent his list of proposed Jasper Economic Development Corporation board members in a group text thread last week, but failed to identify himself as the sender.

Mayhar did not respond to text queries about his identity, but when Ronnie Sample, who Mayhar defeated for the council seat, answered Sample's telephone call, Mayhar admitted he sent the text of proposed names for Monday's meeting.

Sample said he called Mayhar's attempt to have a list prepared for Monday's council meeting "slimy politics" and an attempt to control the JEDCO board.

Sample said he called Mayhar "a piece of —," to which Mayhar responded: "That is your opinion."

Contacted Sunday, Mayhar said the list of proposed names is not "set in stone" and still can be amended "as a work in progress."

Mayhar acknowledged Sample's outrage, but downplayed the conversation as being Sample's opinion.

Mayhar said the "working paper" is flexible and can be changed. He said he sees no conflict with three of the proposed board members also serving on the chamber of commerce board.

He also said one of the people proposed has not given a firm commitment, but most have.

The list places embattled retired executive director Eddie Hopkins back in the organization as a board member, and removes Jennifer Miranda, appointed by the council in August and who asked during a board meeting if JEDCO members were legally appointed.

Hopkins at the time had to admit that board members had not been approved and voted on by City Council, many serving multiple terms with no updated action.

Hopkins retired earlier this year, citing health concerns.

Mayhar said Miranda still can be added to the proposed list. He said the document has been passed to council members and the mayor for input.

The list Mayhar passed along by text, proposes to leave JEDCO board president Danny Walker, who has been on the board since 2008 and five other board members, seated, but replaces defeated Mayor Anderson Land with newly elected Mayor Clark McLane.

The document proposes to leave on the board: Anne-Marie Limbrick, Bill Snelson, Charles Warren, Chris Lanier and Willie King.

There is no mention of board members Marvin McDonald, Dr. Larry Brown, Tressie Morgan or Sid Stover.

The list also proposes to create eight one-year terms. These would be filled by Eddie Hopkins, Leslie Waxman, Maureen Bidwell, Tod Lawlis, Ross Horn, Jesse Larkin, Ray Lewis and Paul Spence.

Horn, Lawlis, and Larkin already serve on the board of the Jasper-Lake Sam Rayburn Area Chamber of Commerce.

It recommends City Manager Greg Kelley act as an ex-officio member of the JEDCO board, without voting rights.

The document reads that “Two seats will be held open for self-nomination and recommendations.”

The council is scheduled to consider the JEDCO board makeup Monday at 6:00 p.m.

In a heated exchange at the last JEDCO board meeting, Danny Walker indicated that he had put Mayhar up to running against Sample despite the fact that he has repeatedly said JEDCO should stay out of politics.



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