

6 RECIPE FOR BAD GOVERNMENT

- Teaspoon of this, cup of that.*
- * Support and elect councilmembers who receive the majority of their campaign money from special interest groups.
 - * Bury head in sand and refuse to believe any information that puts a bad or negative light on city government or its leadership.
 - * Ignore bad laws passed by government.
 - * Allow city council and staff to selectively choose laws they will follow.
 - * Allow city attorney to interpret laws and ordinances to agree with council positions.
 - * Accept city council's position that council meetings are not proper forums for the public to become informed on issues to be voted on. Meetings should be as short as possible, but provide ample time for awards and presentations.
 - * Accept that councilmembers positions are largely ceremonial and they are "expected" to attend social functions with their spouses or significant other --paid for by taxpayers.
- Open to closed government.*
- Unfortunately, the recipe for bad government is right here in Roseville. We have gone from open government where councilmembers and the public discussed issues on the agenda to a secretive closed system of government meant to leave the public in the dark. If people know how their representatives think about issues and how and why they make their decisions, maybe they won't be so easily fooled by the propaganda used to elect those councilmembers.
- The televised meetings, in many cases, are the only way Roseville residents will have the opportunity to know what issues are being approved by the council. The original purpose of televising meetings was to allow the public a chance to see and hear the process and to learn about the issues as they were discussed. A great deal of taxpayer money is spent to provide residents this service, but it has evolved into a propaganda promotional tool.
- New ingredient.*
- At the July 9th meeting, Mayor Rockholm added an ingredient to the recipe for bad government. His comment: "We are not going to have a debate like we did at the last meeting" cuts off public input and concern. Two weeks later Mayor Protempore Gina Garbolino, reading a prepared statement, stated council meetings were not meant for the public to become fully informed about the issues on the agenda. The audience and viewers were informed they should seek out information and ask questions regarding agenda items prior to a meeting just as councilmembers do. The following meeting, Mayor Rockholm read the same statement.
- Public not informed.*
- The agenda and staff background information and recommendations are delivered to councilmembers homes Friday prior to the following Wednesday's meeting. The public may not be aware of what is on agenda until the night of the meeting. What an absolutely ridiculous expectation for the public to become fully informed prior to the city staff giving a presentation and making their recommendations on an issue.
- Slip one by.*
- It is very easy for the city staff or city council to "slip one by" the public when 80 to 90% of the decisions made by the council is on the "Consent Calendar" (agenda) that offers no verbal staff report or discussion. A very important item was done this way. The city council added section 4.56 to the municipal code limiting a claim against the the city for damages to ONE YEAR. That was the sneaky way the council was able to limit your Utility User's Tax refund (credit) to one year as opposed to two plus years.
- Recipe calls for changes.*
- It is inefficient for each councilmember or the public to seek information, discuss, debate and become influenced behind the scenes when that information should be brought out at a council meeting for all councilmembers and the public to hear.
- The recipe makes a rotten tasting cake. It is definitely time for change. Become informed, involved and vocal that you will not accept the recipe for "Bad Government" as OK.

"Government does not solve problems -- it subsidizes them." Ronald Reagan