

"I know of no safe depository of the powers of society but the people themselves." ... Thomas Jefferson

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### **ROSEVILLE CITY COUNCIL: Year 2003 report card.**

During the year 2003, the Roseville city council made many decisions affecting the quality of life and the future of all Roseville residents. Following are some of those decisions and our comments.

**SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** - The council, after much discussion, opted to allow the public to speak at a public comment period prior to regular business, but for only three minutes per person with a 25-minute limit. Three minutes is not adequate time for people to express their views. **GRADE C.**

**IN-LIEU FRANCHISE FEE** - In the face of three court rulings that the city stop imposing and collecting the fee, the city changed the name of fee twice and continued to collect it. It was only after the filing of a contempt of court case that the city put together a study which found that water, sewer, and solid waste trucks damaged the roadways. The need for the utilities to pay some cost for road repair was not an issue. It was the city's arrogant manner of spending taxpayers money to defend a fee they could have proven necessary. **GRADE F.**

**UTILITY USER'S TAX** - The council voting to refund one year's UUT (March 1, 2002 to March 1, 2003) is like a bank robber who after being found guilty returns only part of his ill gotten money. The period of refund should have been from the November 2000 election to March 1, 2003. **GRADE F.**

**CITY MANAGER'S SHADOW** - Knowing where the corporate key is important. But, hiring former city manager Al Johnson to shadow new city manager Craig Robinson is a totally unnecessary expense. Robinson has spent years following Johnson's actions and is no outsider. He has the corporate key. **GRADE D.**

**SALES TAX GIVEAWAY** - Roseville gained two Wal Mart stores in 2003 and Rocklin lost its Wal Mart. However, Roseville is giving Rocklin nearly \$2 million in sales-tax revenue over three years. With Roseville crying that losing the utility user's tax cuts public safety, the Rocklin gift is mind boggling. Idiot scheme - **GRADE F.**

**ROSEVILLE BUSINESS AS USUAL** - The city budget approved in June 2002 was "we will continue business as usual". That meant spending without regard to a possible loss of the utility user's tax (about \$8.8 million) and continued into 2003. No effort was made to increase reserves or cut programs. Those two actions would have allowed Roseville to be weaned from the tax. Business as usual - **GRADE F.**

**ROSEVILLE'S USUAL BUDGET PLOY** - Roseville historically underestimates income by 15% and overestimates expenditures by 20%. Example, Roseville's 1,000 employees are each budgeted at the highest pay step. That inflates the expense side of the ledger. The city boasts of the high sales and property taxes, but put lesser numbers on the income side of the ledger. For misleading the public - **GRADE F.**

**ROSEVILLE CONFRONTS POTENTIAL BUDGET LOSSES** - Early in 2003 Roseville might suffer revenue losses - utility user's tax, impact of the State's projected \$38 billion deficit and vehicle license fee. What has turned out was that the possible losses was the forerunner of the city's campaign that it could not live without the utility user's tax. Admitting to possible losses - **GRADE A.** Campaigning for a tax - **GRADE D.**

**CITY WAGE DISPARITY** - Over 25% salary increases to the city manager and staff members gave the police salary negotiations a bad taste. The police were offered 2%, a new top grade and eligible officers were offered 5%.

*"Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely." Thomas Babington Macaulay*