

RYAN,

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"There was some miscommunication," the mayor said. "But Director Krebs is presenting fact-based information. Transit fundings are not uniform; that is helpful to understand. That is what the transit board was asked to present tonight. It would be helpful to update without the logo."

Ryan wasn't backing down.

"I respectfully disagree," Ryan said. "We were given information for the ballot measure. This meeting should have been moved until after the ballot election."

Clark respectfully disagreed back.

"We always welcome information from all agencies," the mayor said. "We can decide what to do with the information. We have received information in the past when we've had ballot measures going. We consider them informational, like the fire district in the past. We will not be taking a stance on the ballot measure. It's appropriate to have conversation about

changes that came Sept. 8, and what levels of service will be considered that impact the community."

City Manager Chris Eppley attempted to defuse the situation.

"I will say it is a bit of an awkward conversation about an upcoming ballot measure," Eppley said. "I would ask Salem-Keizer Transit to scrub as much information about that. If we had known (this would be discussed), we would have invited the opposition. Please be as sensitive to the ballot measure as you can."

As Eppley spoke, Pollock and Krebs took off slides on their slideshow with campaign logos, which was noticed by councilor Roland Herrera.

"I do understand Councilor Ryan," Herrera said. "I didn't notice until you took (the logos) down. It is touchy. I really appreciate the information since it affects Keizer, but we have to be careful."

Krebs emphasized he was trying to be sensitive to that perspective.

"We are trying to keep within the restraints, that's what we are looking for," Krebs said.

Later in the meeting, Clark

referred to smaller buses being utilized as being "like the Uber" of transit and showed a new way to do transit. Transit board member Marcia Kelley then explained how services were cut due to a lack

"But we are still discussing ballot measure funding. I still feel that this is strongly wrong."

— Amy Ryan, Keizer

City Councilor

of funding in 2009. As Kelley spoke, an unhappy Ryan raised her hand.

"We are still discussing the ballot measure," Ryan said. "If we don't have the opposition speaking, the conversation has not changed. We are still discussing the budget for Phase 2. It's still inappropriate to

move forward with this discussion without the opposition being invited."

"Duly noted," replied Clark. "The transit district has done long-range planning to improve services and reach people in the community."

Ryan wasn't giving up. "But we are still discussing ballot measure funding," Ryan said. "I still feel this is strongly wrong. I feel this shows that council is supporting this. I want to make it clear council does not support this. I want to make sure it is noted that council does not have a position on this."

The mayor picked up on that last point.

"You are absolutely right," Clark said.

After the meeting, Ryan again explained her view.

"I think it's misleading to the public," she told the *Keizertimes*. "We are not as a council in support or opposed. Information is important, for both sides. We were told they would not be discussing the ballot measure. The timing is inappropriate. They are welcome to come back and talk about funding."

"I'm all for people to have more information to make an educated decision, but it

needs to be fair," Ryan added. "I'm strongly opposed to holding a public forum, spending taxpayer dollars to be here, and to have it be biased."

Ryan noted information presented by transit members had logos for the Nov. 3 ballot measure.

"It appears manipulative, to say the least," she said. "It makes it appear the council supports it. That is not the case. I respect everyone's decisions, but as a council we were asked not to discuss it. This is not an appropriate venue, given the fact the opposition was not invited. I feel very strongly about that."

"Obviously I'm a business advocate," Ryan added. "That's the reason I ran (for council), to support local business. I'm not opposed to or against transit in any way. I support transit very much and think their programs are excellent."

Clark reiterated afterwards such information has come to council before, contrary to Ryan's comments.

"What she's saying is that this is unique," the mayor said. "Historically, the Keizer City Council has received information from agencies that

are on the ballot. They have left us their information for informational purposes only."

When asked if that had happened in this case, Clark admitted a mistake had been made.

"Not with the presentation, that was a communication," she said. "They were supposed to leave that out. They were supposed to just hand us information. That is not uncommon. We have received information in the past. Not for the purpose of taking a position, since that would be not appropriate, but it is okay for both sides to get us information so, like all voters, we have both sides."

Clark said she wanted to hear what transit changes were implemented with the revised routes on Sept. 8, with this being the first work session since that change (last month's work session was the annual Parks Tour). The other idea was to hear about long-range possibilities.

"There will be some people who are not happy this happened during the election cycle," Clark said. "I am hearing from them right now. At the end of the day, we need to be informed about services impacting our community."

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