

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION:

minimizing,

misleading,

untruthfulness

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Former city manager Chris Eppley shown at a Keizer City Council budget committee meeting in 2016.

FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes



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EPPLEY GUNSHOT FALLOUT

Asked about accountability, City officials opt to muddy the waters

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

After an internal investigation regarding the form city manager firing a gun in his office was released to the public, *Keizertimes* submitted a list of questions to city officials and Mayor Cathy Clark hoping to fill in gaps in the final report and what steps the city would be taking in the aftermath of the incident.

We are presenting our questions alongside the city officials' responses (with one editor's clarification) in their entirety.

Keizertimes: Will there be any consequences for current Keizer employees who knew Mr. Eppley had

violated city policy well before the March 4 incident?

City's response: The City of Keizer does not comment on employee personnel matters except as required by law.

KT: Why was there a 13-day delay between the incident and contacting the Oregon State Police to request an investigation?

CR: Consistent with the findings in the Oregon State Police report there did not appear to have been a crime committed that would require immediate police attention.

KT: The Oregon State Police appear only to have investigated whether Mr. Eppley had been

"reckless" in his discharge of a weapon in his office.

ORS 166.370, possession of firearm or dangerous weapon in public building or court facility, states any person who intentionally possesses a loaded or unloaded firearm or any other instrument used as a dangerous weapon, while in or on a public building, shall upon conviction be guilty of a Class C felony. The mere act of taking a firearm into his office appears to violate Oregon law.

Why is this not addressed in the internal investigation report or elsewhere?

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