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## **KRA:** *'It gives me great pause on voting on this right now'*

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reviewing the Chamber's proposal and, in part, responding to it."

The process was further complicated at the Jan. 18 meeting when councilor Elizabeth Smith brought to light that KRA LLC hasn't been a registered company in the State of Oregon since 2020. According to Oregon's business registry, the company was dissolved in September of 2020, almost a year before its contract with the city expired.

This is the second time in the past five months that the council has approved a contract with a company prior to them getting registered in the state of Oregon. The council approved a contract in August with the Prothman Company, a Washington based firm hired to recruit a city manager for the city, prior to them being registered in the state.

While city attorney Shannon Johnson and interim city manager Wes Hare downplayed the issue, saying that Prothman registered in less than 30 minutes, Smith wasn't convinced.

"A dissolution of an LLC is a little bit more than just a registration with the state of Oregon. There could be additional members involved in that LLC that could have a court claim. That's not just something we go 'Not a big deal,'" Smith said. "It gives me great pause on voting on this right now."

The council appeared satisfied after Johnson said the city would ensure KRA is registered prior to signing the contract.

Additional concern was brought up by Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark that Holland, who runs KRA, had listed city employees as references on his application without their approval. At one point, Clark asked city recorder Tracy Davis if she knew that Holland had listed her as a reference, which Davis

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said she did not.

Matt Lawyer, a Parks Advisory Board member who was an initial proposal grader, submitted a written public comment that also criticized the process from start to finish. Lawyer, who said that he's participated in many proposal evaluations before, said that he initially expressed concerns to Johnson about even being on the grading committee.

"My concerns were that I have actively volunteered with both organizations, have been paid by one of them, was named as a reference for another," Lawyer wrote.

His criticism grew stronger later in the letter to councilors.

"In the case of the first (request for proposal) for the concert series, I feel like Keizer really missed the bar of excellence that I have grown to appreciate and expect. The process was disingenuous to the applicants and the participants of the evaluation committee. It caused unnecessary strife in the community, caused extra work for the staff, and probably set a very negative tone for any future applicants to participate in the Keizer community," Lawyer wrote.

The council eventually approved the contract by a vote of six to one, with councilor Kyle Juran being the one vote against.

I have lots of questions that still remained unanswered about the process and I don't know if I will ever get them fully answered.

**- SHANEY STARR**  
 Keizer City Councilor