

OPEN FORUM

Writer's attack on council member unwarranted

Re: "Councilwoman's lack of decorum at council meeting unprofessional," May 22, Page A4

Once again the Times-Call has seen fit to publish another inflammatory column by Mr. Chris Rodriguez. This time his target is Councilwoman Sarah Levison for perceived sins of rudeness and breach of decorum committed during the May 18 meeting.

Let's peek at the facts to see just what brought the author to such a froth, shocking him with conduct beyond anything ever seen in "all the years" he has observed council's meetings.

Early on in the discussion of the Longmont Fair Campaign Practices Act, there was a brief exchange between Mayor Baum and

Councilwoman Levison regarding the time a councilperson was permitted to speak. The entire discussion held fewer than 30 words, took perhaps 15 seconds and ended with Ms. Levison shrugging, "Well, OK."

Shortly after, Mayor Baum complimented Ms. Levison for her grasp of LFCPA, and the meeting continued peacefully. Ms. Levison was articulate, knowledgeable, in command of her position and professional in every aspect. A vote was cast and council moved on.

It's unfortunate that our community must endure this type of attack. It's even more unfortunate that our community newspaper lends credence and ink to such character assassination.

DON COULSON
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Rodriguez slinging mud

Re: "Councilwoman's lack of decorum at council meeting unprofessional," May 22, Page 4A

I thought the local elections were over. I have not been hearing any nasty comments about City Council members since the election. Now it appears boredom has set in for Chris Rodriguez and the Times-Call. Here comes the need to start slinging mud on people again. This type and manner of criticism is uncalled for.

Most of us were taught that to throw verbal arrows at people is not the way to work through issues or express things we do not like, and that is what we teach our children. Why is it acceptable for Mr. Rodriguez, with the blessings of the Times-Call, to do otherwise? To state things the way that Mr.

Rodriguez did is uncalled for, and the Times-Call should apologize for allowing his piece published.

If Mr. Rodriguez wants to blither on in his blog about everything and everyone he does not like, that is fine. For the Times-Call to continue to publish his nasty dribble is ridiculous. Whether you like or dislike someone on City Council, they have a right to express their ideas and actions, and we as a community do not need the Rodriguez police criticizing them with the blessing of the Times-Call.

The Times-Call's policy says they do not publish personal attacks. They need to review things the way they used to for content, intention and freedom of expression without oppression to others.

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