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Hi and welcome to the Ogden Way Podcast, the place where we tell the story about Ogden by telling the stories about Ogden people.

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Today, I am joining a severely underdressed Mayor Nadolski

00:00:21:03 - 00:00:28:19

for a Flip the Script episode where we will go beyond the headlines, what everybody's talking about and what's been on his mind lately.

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So do we want to talk about why I'm dressed better than you?

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Well, underdressed. I prefer casual.

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I prefer field ready? Okay.

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I'm sorry.

00:00:38:14 - 00:00:39:04

Yeah.

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No, I just spent, good part of the day traveling in other cities.

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Down in, Salt Lake County, in Utah County and Davis County looking at parks, recreation and, capital upgrades of facilities

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and learning best practices from each of their staffs and looking at ideas that we can bring back to Ogden,

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including new and different ways of looking at funding models,

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partnerships and leveraging partnerships and contracts through private parties and so on.

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And we will provide the kinds of assets and experiences that we're all after.

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All right.

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That's that's great to hear.

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Yeah. I, I know that this was yeah, I remember how many months ago, weeks ago, months ago it was.

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But obviously the Taylor Canyon School property has been a hot topic.

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And I know you've met with the neighbors there, to talk about, you know what? What they'd like to see there.

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But when you spoke with city council at city Council about it, a little while later, you were talking about obviously

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doing an audit of all the parks. Is that kind of part of this right now to see exactly what overall we need? Yeah.

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For the betterment of the city. Right.

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So we are in fact, they talked about a lot of the same type of study

that we're doing, and they even referenced the same data sources

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that we use to figure out,  
like park usage and pressures and, patterns, timing,

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how many and and when and why,  
and looking for areas of high utilization and low.

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And why is it low. Right. And why is this one high?

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And they shared a lot of their findings and how they make more informed  
investments, and decisions around their park spaces

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based on those sorts of studies.

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And so we're in the  
we're in the process of, of getting armed with information.

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And that's really going to help us make a lot better decisions  
because we have,

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I don't know, call me in the number,  
but I think we have like 44 parks in our city.

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Really? Yes. We have a ton of parks and other cities don't have that.

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And so it's interesting because that seems to be, a big sticking point  
that you hear a lot right now is,

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you know, open space, open space for some space.  
It sounds like we've got more open space than than most.

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Oh, yeah.

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Maybe it's just not being utilized  
or or built up the way that it can be utilized the best.

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That kind of like. Okay, so you use the term open space. Yeah,  
I use the term parks.

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They're actually accounted for differently in our records  
and in our plans. Right.

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And that's important  
because people often associate and assume that the same.

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And so today we were looking at parks and open space in other cities.

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And our plans call for a certain metric of our general plan  
calls for two acres, per thousand residents.

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And our recreation master plan calls for three.

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And we're exceeding the two by I think we're at 2.98 right now.

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So we're like point two away from our goal in the recreation  
master plan, and we're crushing the general plan goal.

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But what we found is that we are actually categorizing those two things differently.

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And so our metrics don't include a lot of our trails and our open space on the mountain side.

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And I was visiting none of the cities  
I visit today had nearly the proximity and access that we do right.

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And so we've got to be really mindful in how we start talking about it,

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because we've not on purpose,  
but we've recognized that there's distinct distinctions.

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And that's an important distinction.

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The point is that we have a ton of parks,

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not they're not amenities the way people want.

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So is that Taylor Canyon area.  
Is that being included right now in your. Yes, yes.

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And your numbers? Yes.

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But it's not amenities basically.

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Correct. It does. It has very minimal.

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So Taylor Canyon specifically, there's a, you know, the former,

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Taylor Canyon Elementary School is a parcel that's up for discussion for, for a new park.

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And some people call parks open space.

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And so but if you look at our park distribution, it's right in between two parks.

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Yeah. Right.

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So there's Thomas Park and Lions Park  
and what you want to know why those two parks aren't being used.

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Because there's not a lot of use. Right.

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And how do we leverage use when there's a lot of demand.

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And it's pretty clear that none of those three areas are offering the kinds of amenities that people would use.

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I think that's probably what the finding will be.

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And that's kind of the case.

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I mean, we've got different patterns of use around the city in different patterns of amenities.

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Right, right. And activation through events, sports, right, community events, etc..

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Mount Ogden Park is used a lot. It's busy, busy, busy, right? Yeah.

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I'm really curious how busy that is compared to other parks too.

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Because we have a lot of parks and and what parts of our city are we serving and under?

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Serving.

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And our initial assessments have shown over the years that we're under serving the north side of town.

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And that's important because, a lot of the engagement we get is from the east side and on the south end.

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So we hear a lot of talk about Taylor Canyon, and that's important.

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We're going to get we're going to engage. We're going to do good things.

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But what about the North Side isn't engaging and it's being underserved.

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And it's our job to make sure that we're serving and representing the people that are not here to speak for themselves.

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Yeah, that's the underserved parts of communities that don't engage in the same ways.

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And when you need to be making sure that we're engaging and serving the people that need it most, too.

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And it's interesting because the people who do show up to,

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you know, speak out, they also believe that they're serving the people that aren't speaking.

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Right, right. Or that aren't there.

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It's it's it's fascinating because we kind of when you've gone through that with other issues.

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Oh yeah. That time. Right. Controversial.

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Yeah. But what they don't know.

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And like

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we just had an example right before we started recording that we got good news that we got another person housed

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and that was a person that came to us to me. Yeah, asking for help.

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And it was through a connection that we made through community engagement, particularly in the Marshall White neighborhood.

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And that's an area of need. But it was a that introduction needed to happen.

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And it's less about seeing things online and more about having that human connection that meet the person where they're at.

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Yeah.

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And when we do that, and we get to leverage my seat of authority and power that comes with it, we can help people a lot. Yeah.

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And so we have resources that are out there always doing it.

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And we often funnel them in through my office to through our engagement efforts as well as through police, etc..

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And we can

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get people housed time and time and time again.

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Yeah, it's kind of stuff that you don't hear about, right?

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You don't talk a whole lot about on online. No. And I'm not going to because that's private for that person. Correct.

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It's important we say keep privacy.

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Yeah.

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And it's interesting because and I've been on you know, I've seen both sides of it where, you know, I'll read something online and go like

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what?

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How dare they or how, how can the city do that or something like that?

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And, what's nice now is usually seen across from me on the couch.

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I'm like, hey, is this what's happening here? And you can like, that's not what's happening.

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Here's what's happening. And kind of lay it out.

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And, and I think when we

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you talked with City Council about it, a few weeks ago, just kind of the national rhetoric that we've been seeing on both sides.

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Right, right, right.

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And the and I think everybody knows that it is damaging our, our country over all this national rhetoric.

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And both sides are equally at fault. Right.

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Because we're always trying to get whatever influence they feel like they need to get.

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Well based on an issue at the national level.

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Yeah, it's it's so I mean, it wasn't just me talking about a few weeks ago that you've heard a lot of people talking about it.

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The governor's been talking about it a ton.

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He's been talking about for years, but it really ramped up, especially after the Charlie Kirk incident. Right. And so,

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following the governor's lead, you've seen lots of editorials and newspapers, different community

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leaders from from across the spectrum talking about we need to take a timeout in the social media sphere

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and the attention that it's getting it from us, and the kind of energy and toxicity and divisiveness that it's creating.

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Now, there's a big difference between toxicity and rhetoric and divisiveness, etc.,

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that are driven by algorithms through social media, right, and driven by, agendas, etc.

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whether that agenda is from an industry, from a personal agenda, a political agenda, a partizan or party agenda, whatever it is.

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Those those algorithms have been completely hijacked and totally optimized in order to drive what those,

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those users know

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that reinforces it, reinforces that drives it, and it itches

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the scratch, you know, that scratches these little itches that we have because they know that negative energy and anger

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are much easier, right, right.

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To to inflame.

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Right.

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And so when you see something, I mean, there's been times when I've seen something and I'll just be like immediately

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just how. Right, right.

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And when the facts actually come out,  
it's it's much more benign usually.

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And it's boring. Not always. You know, there is wrongdoing out there.

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No doubt, no doubt.

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And there are politicians out there  
that deserve the kind of focus they get.

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You know what I mean? Right.

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And it but I will just say I sat on a panel  
I mentioned this in City Council on Tuesday, Senate a panel on Tuesday.

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Earlier in the day with other elected officials.

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And and they said the same thing that I said,  
they're like, look, in my experience,

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the overwhelming majority of elected officials and public officials,  
elected or not, are good, decent, wholesome people trying to do good.

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And and often overwhelmingly doing good.

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But the algorithms will make you think otherwise.

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And that's not to get you to stop scrutinizing me, right?

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Like, scrutinize me, hold me accountable.  
That's what that's fine. I'm totally comfortable with that.

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But here's here's I think what the difference is.

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And I think part of it obviously is because I get to sit next  
to whenever you finally come home from whatever meeting you're at,

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and when I see something,  
I can ask the question. Sure. Right, right. And I think

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we tend to

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believe first something that you see and assume it's it's accurate

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because sometimes some of the language can get a little bit,  
you know, confusing.

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Right. And rather than question where they get that information from,  
we believe it.

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And then secondly, rather than like question your elected leaders, like  
what does this mean, what this person said this or I saw this online,

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explain this to me. So I'll give you an example.

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You had a one of the big things you talked about  
at the last city council meeting at was, just how much Ogden is doing,

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for homelessness and,  
you know, deeply affordable housing in the county.

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And compared that to, what other cities within  
the county are or are not doing right.

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And there was a question  
that was brought up at a later date or later time about,

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well, he's not actually being truthful about this  
because the state get the all these cities give us perfect model or so.

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So what I did last night, I said, what is what is  
what is this person talking about \$4.5 million coming from these cities.

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And so you explained it to me and it made sense.

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It made sense. And then I still I was able to find the  
the document that this person got their information from.

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So I'm going to ask you to explain it to me again like I'm five.

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Okay. So we do probably more than 82%

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of the homelessness and deeply affordable housing in the county.

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Right. Going through your GIS information tools that you have.

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And the next closest city is about 5%.

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Yeah. So the 82% came from a third party source.

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That's not me just making it up or reading through our records.

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But what I found out yesterday  
through GIS confirmation is that it's possible that numbers actually low

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where if I didn't has 82% of the,

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shelter beds  
and permanently subsidized and deeply affordable and etc., housing.

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Yeah, we're only 32% of the of the county population.

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I think it's actually higher than 82%. Right.

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And then that in addition to the next closest city being 5%.

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And that there are six cities that are 0%.

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And then there's another which would make seven. That's .0. 1%.

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It's effectively zero. Yeah.

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The point is it's no one's helping. Right.

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And I think you made that point very, very clear.

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So the comment was and oh, about the mitigation,  
about the mitigation, of.

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Well, yeah. But and and the comment the state reimburses.

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Well, no,  
what they said the other cities or surrounding cities, 4.5 million.

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So that should help all of the costs that you had outlined. Right.

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And then this with it, this gets to the point that,

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you know,

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there will always be critics. It's fine.

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That's kind of the job. It's I guess it's part of accountability.

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But what what that comment is referring to  
is the is the mitigation fund.

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And know that the cities around us are getting very little.

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What that is, is a collection of all cities in the state that are not,  
shelter cities or shelter city.

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And every other city that doesn't host one has to pay into that fund.

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But when you spread it out  
amongst that many cities, it's actually very little.

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And I've talked to many, many mayors who are like, oh,  
we're more than happy to cut that small check every year.

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Yeah.

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Not to deal with things from the check to the, you know,  
so they each have to say no, it's different per city.

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I think it's based on something like that. It's it's in statute,  
whatever those criteria are, I don't recall.

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But every single year at the capital,  
we have to fight for keeping those funds because that fund is always

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kind of under attack to be used for other things. Right, right.

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So you have to basically lobby. Yes.

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So you've got your people from Ogden that are lobbying for that. So, right.

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This last year we got 4.5 some odd million dollars about that. Something like that.

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Is that

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does that help with what we're dealing with? Yes.

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I mentioned that in my comments on Tuesday. Right. I said that the state helps to cover some of these cosmos.

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Not enough.

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And I said these are just some of the costs I was able to find before I came with me.

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I had a handwritten notes of some of the things I was finding it. Right. I mean, I'm not it's not completely complete. Right.

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And I and I mentioned a number of things like the,

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like the homeless court and what like the biggest vandalism and the repairs to the vandalism in the ft.

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In Parks and Rec to have to respond to all that, like, what does it cost?

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You have to close our bathrooms and the families can't use them while they're playing at the park because of the vandalism.

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What's the cost?

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There isn't one. You can't put a dollar cost on the impacts to a victim of these crimes.

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I mentioned all of the crimes that identity police are responding to, and how many of them require follow up

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that many of those are multiple repeat chronic follow up?

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There's clearly a trend there. Right.

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So the costs just continue to mount.

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And so that four point whatever million that the state gives us from the other cities, it's not even close to covering the cost

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and the impacts, not just on the city, but what about the cost, the impacts on you as taxpayers and park users.

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Right. That's the point.

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So but it also it fits really neat and snug in a nice little talking point and a nice talking point because the mayor's a liar or whatever.

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When it's incredibly complex, it's everything's complex.

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That's why when you I know this is this is why I brought all this stuff.

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It's like accounting. I don't I don't even want to think about that.

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Right.

00:16:39:06 - 00:16:43:00

And I don't want to have to either. But I need to.  
And I've got people that help me do this.

00:16:43:00 - 00:16:47:13

Right. And, because the like

00:16:47:13 - 00:16:49:15

this is the struggle.

00:16:49:15 - 00:16:51:20

Getting back to this national issue,

00:16:51:20 - 00:16:57:20

every city is dealing with it now and we are dealing with it  
more than ever in our own city, especially during silly season.

00:16:58:00 - 00:16:59:12

Right. It just comes up.

00:16:59:12 - 00:17:03:01

And so I'm getting buried with questions around,

00:17:03:01 - 00:17:07:17

are you really, corrupt in the way you finance? Are they questions.

00:17:07:17 - 00:17:09:07

Are they accusations, accusations?

00:17:09:07 - 00:17:11:10

You might mind questions. I don't mind questions.

00:17:11:10 - 00:17:12:05

No, of course not.

00:17:12:05 - 00:17:19:16

But when it's an accusation or a conspiracy theory that's floated  
and it's it's just surprising to me how quickly people will believe that

00:17:20:10 - 00:17:24:22

versus just ask, ask the question like,  
how does this work? Right. And I'm not

00:17:26:09 - 00:17:28:11

like, I can handle this.

00:17:28:11 - 00:17:31:07

I'm not a victim of any kind of it's just this is the real world.

00:17:31:07 - 00:17:37:07

But what we're what we're talking about  
is highlighting the need for us all, myself included,

00:17:37:16 - 00:17:42:03

to be critical thinkers  
when it comes to the information that we're consuming right there.

00:17:42:03 - 00:17:43:19

These algorithms are in.

00:17:43:19 - 00:17:49:19

These talking points are crafted to anger us and to accuse right without

00:17:50:09 - 00:17:54:12

accurate information

or even evidence, like I've been called in the newspaper,

00:17:54:12 - 00:17:58:14

like referred to as a criminal,  
that I'm, that I'm whatever bribes this that the other.

00:17:58:14 - 00:18:01:03

It's not just the newspaper. No. It's everywhere.

00:18:01:03 - 00:18:07:00

So but that but those sort of accusations in in the past  
would require evidence.

00:18:07:00 - 00:18:10:20

There isn't  
there isn't any evidence. No. It's just what it it's feels right.

00:18:10:20 - 00:18:16:01

And because I'm not like a public official  
that that apparently is fair game, but I hold myself and,

00:18:16:01 - 00:18:22:01

and my administration in this building holds ourselves to a higher, much  
higher standard and burden of truth, right as we should.

00:18:22:08 - 00:18:25:23

And so when you talk about finances, like when you talk about parks.

00:18:27:03 - 00:18:28:14

Just parks alone.

00:18:28:14 - 00:18:29:10

Okay.

00:18:29:10 - 00:18:30:05

That if,

00:18:30:05 - 00:18:36:13

if the allegations we're not investing in parks and this was a lot of  
this was highlighted in the city newsletter that went out last month.

00:18:36:13 - 00:18:38:06

Right, right.

00:18:38:06 - 00:18:43:16

And we did all of this without any impact or use of of tax increase  
okay.

00:18:43:16 - 00:18:44:01

Yeah.

00:18:44:01 - 00:18:50:10

It's this equals it was like it's \$7.5  
million of of investments in our parks infrastructure,

00:18:51:02 - 00:18:56:13

14 new playgrounds built in the last five years,  
many of those built in the last two years.

00:18:56:13 - 00:18:59:09

Right.

00:18:59:09 - 00:19:01:13

You went out and enjoyed the new big dog park.

00:19:01:13 - 00:19:05:00

You enjoyed it? Yes. That's that's one of them. Awesome.

00:19:05:00 - 00:19:09:08

But we're not just talk.  
I had the dog with me, too. It wasn't just me. There. Right?

00:19:09:08 - 00:19:10:23

I want to clarify. Oh, yeah. Thanks.

00:19:12:00 - 00:19:14:03

You and Boomer.

00:19:14:03 - 00:19:17:15

Yeah. But we've done irrigation system upgrades.

00:19:17:15 - 00:19:20:00

But that's also water conservation.

00:19:20:00 - 00:19:26:12

It's driving efficiencies in innovation, smart controllers and smart technology, etc., to make sure that we're saving money.

00:19:30:06 - 00:19:34:13

So we've completed these projects and beyond just the 14 playgrounds, we've done

00:19:34:13 - 00:19:40:13

40 projects of parks, recreation areas the last five years, many of which are in the last two,

00:19:40:17 - 00:19:44:00

including committing \$4 million to the Lester Park project upgrade.

00:19:44:00 - 00:19:45:05

That's going to be an amazing park.

00:19:45:05 - 00:19:47:08

That's a hugely important park.

00:19:47:08 - 00:19:57:04

The point is, we've done a ton of work that doesn't get recognized and

00:19:58:12 - 00:20:03:19

it it's partly our fault because we haven't been communicating as much as we are now.

00:20:03:19 - 00:20:04:01

Right.

00:20:04:01 - 00:20:10:17

And so there's we've kind of allowed this narrative take shape that we're not doing anything but or that when you do act or do not act,

00:20:10:17 - 00:20:12:20

it was the wrong thing. Right? Yeah.

00:20:14:06 - 00:20:20:07

But even in recreation, we've increased like coed flag football, we've increased participation by 28%.

00:20:20:07 - 00:20:23:04

Boxing increased by 122%.

00:20:23:04 - 00:20:27:06

Untamed Sports increased by 128%.

00:20:27:06 - 00:20:31:03

And participation all in the midst of national trends.

00:20:31:03 - 00:20:38:14

Don't take my word for the National Survey of Children's Health reports that US youth sports participation for ages 6 to 17 has declined.

00:20:39:07 - 00:20:45:14

Yet audience continues to increase because we're investing in our people to to create opportunities to participate, right.

00:20:46:04 - 00:20:47:21

So those are just some of the facts.

00:20:47:21 - 00:20:51:12

I mean, I can go down this whole list of all of the things

00:20:51:12 - 00:20:56:21

that we've done, the really don't add up to the talking points that you might be hearing, right?

00:20:56:21 - 00:21:05:02

That some of the things that have, you know, you see across your feed, right, whether they're, you know, from an organization or a person.

00:21:06:04 - 00:21:09:09

And it's tough because I think sometimes,

00:21:09:09 - 00:21:16:18

you know, people don't really pay attention until they see something come across as negative and then they assume that's not true.

00:21:16:22 - 00:21:21:20

That's the that's an algorithm and the desire to scratch the itch.

00:21:21:20 - 00:21:23:13

You know, I mean, right, right, right.

00:21:23:13 - 00:21:26:02

The negative energy is very infectious.

00:21:26:02 - 00:21:30:15

Energy is always infectious.

It is negative more so. And the social media companies know that.

00:21:30:15 - 00:21:36:16

And so do the professionals that use social media to drive narratives and to drive, agendas.

00:21:36:16 - 00:21:36:21

Yeah.

00:21:36:21 - 00:21:42:22

How do I how do we that's that's a that's a big reason why we're nationally so divided right now.

00:21:43:13 - 00:21:47:21

And then do you think our adversaries are taking advantage of that? That's fact.

00:21:47:21 - 00:21:50:10

Right. Our adversaries are helping to drive those wedges.

00:21:50:10 - 00:21:57:03

The rhetoric around it has indeed come down to the level of municipals.

00:21:57:07 - 00:22:00:01

Right? Oh, yeah. And it's interesting because,

00:22:01:01 - 00:22:07:01

you know, I was really hoping that, when you were elected, we'd have a reprieve

00:22:07:02 - 00:22:10:15

for a minute. Yeah, for a minute. Yeah. And it's been. I keep checking to see.

00:22:10:15 - 00:22:16:02

Are you running for. I'm not going right now. I am not on the ballot because there's some things that have been said.

00:22:16:02 - 00:22:19:06

There's been some, you know, so you've cut you've cut some strays.

00:22:19:06 - 00:22:22:16

I think, that

00:22:22:16 - 00:22:27:20

when you talk about the rhetoric, that kind of stuff because,

00:22:27:20 - 00:22:29:13

it's, it's been surprising.

00:22:29:13 - 00:22:32:06

But I guess the longer it goes on, I'm the less surprised I am.

00:22:32:06 - 00:22:37:12

And I've had to make my peace with it, unfortunately. Right, right.

00:22:37:12 - 00:22:41:00

And what I've always told you is I'll make. We can't control. We all have a vote.

00:22:42:08 - 00:22:45:17

But that control and that influence is diluted at the national level.

00:22:45:17 - 00:22:46:16

Right.

00:22:46:16 - 00:22:53:07

I mean the amount of special interests and power and it's off the charts at the national right.

00:22:53:12 - 00:22:55:01

Geopolitical things.

00:22:55:01 - 00:22:56:03

It's huge thing.

00:22:56:03 - 00:22:59:04

Those are huge deals and we can't control it here.

00:22:59:04 - 00:23:03:16

Just like I can't control macroeconomics that are thrust upon again

00:23:03:16 - 00:23:08:07

even though everybody wants me to read I do everything I can, on housing, etc.

00:23:08:07 - 00:23:10:04

those are macroeconomic things, right? Yeah.

00:23:10:04 - 00:23:15:03

But the point is, we're seeing it more and more coming into cities,

00:23:15:03 - 00:23:21:03

and it's just not just I don't know, I mean, it's it's getting bad in Ogden, but it's it's everywhere.

00:23:21:04 - 00:23:26:03

So initially I thought when I first started to see this, I assumed, I think wrongly, that

00:23:27:06 - 00:23:27:15

we were

00:23:27:15 - 00:23:33:15

seeing the rhetoric because people were upset with the National.

00:23:33:22 - 00:23:34:04

Yeah.

00:23:34:04 - 00:23:35:12

Oh yeah. Yeah.

00:23:35:12 - 00:23:40:10

But the longer this goes on I'm like, I don't think that's it.

00:23:40:10 - 00:23:45:13

I think that there's it's kind of a it's, there's a, there's a plan.

00:23:45:13 - 00:23:49:14

Oh yeah. For sure. There's a plan, there's a plan. There's a structure. It's all organized and everything. Yeah.

00:23:49:14 - 00:23:56:18

But when I talk to other elected officials from other cities, I mean, I don't know, about a month ago, I was at the,

00:23:57:04 - 00:24:03:10

state conference around, like, 260 cities and towns that come to this, and I get to talk to elected officials from all of them.

00:24:04:05 - 00:24:06:19

And without prompting,

00:24:06:19 - 00:24:12:19

I had multiple cities, numerous, I'll say, talk about the threats of violence,

00:24:13:17 - 00:24:15:04  
the harassment.

00:24:15:04 - 00:24:15:17  
Right.

00:24:15:17 - 00:24:21:17  
Like real instances in cases, because it was actually a topic,  
because there was so much security at this event, because

00:24:21:18 - 00:24:26:10  
of the collection of elected officials,  
and that we would never have had to have that before.

00:24:26:10 - 00:24:33:09  
And so it just those are all symptoms  
and responses to the ramping up of rhetoric nationally and locally.

00:24:33:10 - 00:24:34:01  
Yeah.

00:24:34:01 - 00:24:41:01  
And, none of that changes the fact that accountability is real  
and that I, that I welcome it.

00:24:41:10 - 00:24:44:03  
Yeah. I'm okay with that. Yeah. Disagreement actually.

00:24:44:03 - 00:24:46:09  
Yeah. It's real and that's okay. Right.

00:24:46:09 - 00:24:50:19  
Like some of the policies that we've implemented,  
there's plenty of room.

00:24:50:19 - 00:24:55:09  
Some people don't like the for for disagreement  
I get it. Yeah. That doesn't offend me at all. No.

00:24:55:09 - 00:24:58:17  
But if what if what does offend others.

00:24:58:17 - 00:25:01:08  
And everybody I think is the weaponization of those.

00:25:01:08 - 00:25:05:03  
And the, the optimization of the algorithm and so on.

00:25:05:03 - 00:25:11:07  
And to create the narrow talking points to capture that  
or the intentional misunderstanding of the communication that you,

00:25:11:07 - 00:25:13:19  
that you receive right to fit. Yeah.

00:25:13:19 - 00:25:14:19  
No, I understand that.

00:25:14:19 - 00:25:22:17  
So let's, let's talk about how that has kind of wound its way  
into some of the bigger issues that you're facing.

00:25:22:17 - 00:25:28:18  
Let's I thought we'd be done talking about this by now,  
but let's talk about some of the concerns raised about the Aspen House

00:25:28:18 - 00:25:39:10  
and how it and its impact on Ogden and as we kind of started this  
with the 82% and the 5%, and there was there's been an allegation,

00:25:39:10 - 00:25:47:04  
allegation, I would say, but like a, a statement made  
that the state believes that the Ogden elected officials broke the law.

00:25:47:17 - 00:25:48:12  
Yeah. Not true.

00:25:48:12 - 00:25:49:06

Not sure.

00:25:49:06 - 00:25:49:18  
Great.

00:25:49:18 - 00:25:54:22  
So do you want to speak to what actually happened with that? Sure.

00:25:54:22 - 00:25:57:06  
I there was a decision.

00:25:57:06 - 00:26:02:12  
In fact, there was a series of two decisions by the Planning Commission, which is a land use body.

00:26:02:12 - 00:26:08:12  
It's also a non-elected official, non-elected officials, they specialize in land use, zoning and ordinances and so on.

00:26:09:07 - 00:26:15:01  
And their primary role is to look at a proposed use, compare it to our,

00:26:15:01 - 00:26:20:21  
general plan and decide or recommend if it's consistent with general plan.

00:26:20:21 - 00:26:21:23  
Right? Right.

00:26:21:23 - 00:26:24:01  
So you have to interpret those zoning laws.

00:26:24:01 - 00:26:26:02  
This is every city does is

00:26:26:02 - 00:26:34:01  
and they made determination that that the proposed use for the house was not consistent with the land use and zoning for that area.

00:26:34:19 - 00:26:40:06  
And, everybody has the right to appeal a decision by a land use body like the Planning Commission.

00:26:40:06 - 00:26:43:19  
And that body is you can go to the Ombudsman.

00:26:43:19 - 00:26:44:23  
That's a third party.

00:26:44:23 - 00:26:49:04  
It's not a legal conclusion or a legal finding whatsoever right at all.

00:26:49:04 - 00:26:52:01  
It's just a determination on the land use interpretation.

00:26:53:03 - 00:26:56:23  
And so the allegation or the suggestion is that we were discriminatory

00:26:56:23 - 00:27:02:23  
in our as elected officials and that me as mayor, I'm morally corrupt or whatever.

00:27:03:00 - 00:27:08:04  
It's no, that's just a I know I read it, it made no mention of any of those things

00:27:08:04 - 00:27:14:04  
because it has nothing to because when we did it into that's not the the role of the ombudsman.

00:27:14:11 - 00:27:18:07  
Those are the duties of the courts, which it hasn't been because because it didn't exist.

00:27:18:07 - 00:27:19:18  
We haven't done that yet.

00:27:19:18 - 00:27:25:18

And the reality is that when I asked you about this,  
it had nothing to do with the final decision of

00:27:26:12 - 00:27:32:07  
allowing the House, that housing authority to write that was based on

00:27:32:07 - 00:27:38:07  
very clear state law, that the Weber Housing Authority,  
which is designed to do housing across the entire county.

00:27:38:20 - 00:27:42:12  
Outside of a city  
that has its own housing authority, like the Ogden Housing Authority

00:27:43:17 - 00:27:45:10  
or the that's how it's

00:27:45:10 - 00:27:52:01  
set up and work in state law that if the Weber Housing Authority  
wants to come from outside of Ogden and do projects inside, I didn't.

00:27:52:01 - 00:27:58:00  
They have to have the support and approval of the Ogden  
Housing Authority and the legislative body of the city,

00:27:58:22 - 00:28:03:15  
and that that's when the, that's where the decision was made.

00:28:03:15 - 00:28:04:04  
Right?

00:28:04:04 - 00:28:10:04  
They didn't have the support and they purchased the property  
before getting our support, just like they had done on projects prior.

00:28:10:05 - 00:28:15:16  
Right. So projects prior didn't go through the legal process  
and have legal requirements.

00:28:15:16 - 00:28:21:15  
See, that's that's what's so interesting,  
so willing to believe that Ogden elected officials broke the law.

00:28:22:15 - 00:28:26:20  
The reality is another organization broke the law.

00:28:26:20 - 00:28:28:07  
Correct.

00:28:28:07 - 00:28:33:15  
And in the past, in the past and was looking to make sure that  
that they were following the law in this case.

00:28:33:15 - 00:28:34:13  
Right.

00:28:34:13 - 00:28:36:00  
Because we called it out,

00:28:36:00 - 00:28:37:10  
we actually weren't aware of the law

00:28:37:10 - 00:28:43:01  
because of the laws actually described in the definitions of statute,  
which is not where lawyers would typically look.

00:28:43:01 - 00:28:43:17  
That's kind of a,

00:28:45:10 - 00:28:46:15  
an important factor, actually.

00:28:46:15 - 00:28:52:00  
But the reason we said no is because it didn't fit within our land use.

00:28:52:00 - 00:28:57:01  
Right? Yeah. And so unfortunately,  
they had purchased the property before coming for that approval.

00:28:57:01 - 00:29:02:08

And that's why we bought it from them, because we think it's important that that mission maintains that we were housing authority.

00:29:02:08 - 00:29:03:06

Do the work.

00:29:03:06 - 00:29:05:06

They're doing important work, right.

00:29:05:06 - 00:29:09:01

They're doing good work, and they need to do that work in the county,

00:29:09:01 - 00:29:14:06

because there still need definitely there's  
and we still need to do the work to with the housing authority.

00:29:14:06 - 00:29:20:05

And coincidentally, at the same time, we actually were doing that with the Solis project, and we housed 56 people

00:29:20:16 - 00:29:23:04

in the solace project at the same time.

00:29:23:04 - 00:29:26:20

And we're working with the Ogden Housing Authority now to do another phase.

00:29:26:20 - 00:29:30:09

Because the way that that is set up and management meets our land, use it.

00:29:30:09 - 00:29:38:12

We have the ability to manage those that project, and we're preparing to make sure that we provide housing for teenagers

00:29:38:23 - 00:29:47:03

living in and group home or wherever, and making it into your, your own, your own standard living like there's a transition period.

00:29:47:03 - 00:29:48:12

That's hard. They need support. Right.

00:29:48:12 - 00:29:53:07

And we're working with the Oregon Housing Authority to provide some of that. Right at the solid House.

00:29:53:07 - 00:29:54:14

So we're focused on that.

00:29:54:14 - 00:29:56:00

And then that happens.

00:29:56:00 - 00:29:56:10

Yeah.

00:29:56:10 - 00:30:02:02

And that is kind of part and parcel to what's been happening in our city for years, decades.

00:30:02:02 - 00:30:06:16

That's why I when I did the GIS, it's like 60 something projects or whatever it was or 40 something.

00:30:06:16 - 00:30:12:08

I don't remember the number. Yeah, but they're all over the city and some of them were done by the Housing Authority.

00:30:12:08 - 00:30:14:17

And what's done is done.

00:30:14:17 - 00:30:20:03

People need to remain house, but moving forward, we're not going to stop doing what we're doing

00:30:20:03 - 00:30:24:17

and we're not gonna stop doing more,

but we are going to start expecting and demanding others do their part.

00:30:24:17 - 00:30:30:01

And I think that you made that clear at the city council meeting, because that's the problem with across the country.

00:30:30:01 - 00:30:34:10

And poverty is not everybody's lifting and it's hurting people. Right.

00:30:34:10 - 00:30:36:08

And so we're going to keep lifting.

00:30:36:08 - 00:30:39:20

And I want to share with facts of all the things we're doing, which I did. Yeah.

00:30:39:20 - 00:30:45:14

While others are held accountable, just like I'm held accountable for everything we're going to talk about.

00:30:45:14 - 00:30:46:08

Right, right.

00:30:46:08 - 00:30:47:00

No, absolutely.

00:30:47:00 - 00:30:53:02

And I think that, you know, another thing that, you know, you often hear, when you talk about the rhetoric, is that

00:30:53:15 - 00:30:59:02

the city council members are just rubber stamping some of the problems, some of the projects.

00:31:00:16 - 00:31:06:12

But then you came home the other night and mentioned that you got shot down pretty hard on a project that you presented to them.

00:31:06:12 - 00:31:10:22

Well,  
I mean, if seven. Oh against what I was recommending. Seven. Oh, yeah.

00:31:10:22 - 00:31:14:16

Yeah, that's they were professional about it 100%. Yeah.

00:31:14:16 - 00:31:16:00

And they were right actually. Yeah.

00:31:16:00 - 00:31:21:03

So I mean, we do a ton of things here in the building and we take them up for review and approval at the council.

00:31:21:03 - 00:31:23:04

And we had a project.

00:31:23:04 - 00:31:27:20

It was the while Avenue corridor plan by the Union Station. Yeah. By you in session.

00:31:27:20 - 00:31:29:18

We need to have a Union Station.

00:31:29:18 - 00:31:30:05

Yeah.

00:31:30:05 - 00:31:35:07

We're not even have time. There's so many things, but the point is that we put a plan in front of them.

00:31:35:07 - 00:31:38:19

The public, pointed out some things. Rightly so.

00:31:38:19 - 00:31:42:12

The council pointed out some things, and they said, this is not ready for prime time.

00:31:42:12 - 00:31:44:01

This thing needs more work.

00:31:44:01 - 00:31:48:18

And a vote of seven. And oh, they pushed it back to me.  
And I have more work to do on it. Right.

00:31:48:18 - 00:31:51:17

And they did it professionally and respectfully and just said,

00:31:53:02 - 00:31:56:04

we look forward to a report from our executive director,  
I think, on the 18th.

00:31:56:04 - 00:31:57:11

And so what the next steps are,

00:31:57:11 - 00:32:03:20

and we look forward to a report back from the administration on how  
this can be and will be improved before we are willing to approve it.

00:32:04:01 - 00:32:08:11

Right. That's just that's the professionalism of checks and balances.

00:32:08:11 - 00:32:10:02

Now Washington. See that's not how it works.

00:32:10:02 - 00:32:13:13

You know, gets back to all the talk about the rhetoric  
and the algorithms.

00:32:13:13 - 00:32:18:21

And I think that's just not what our city council does.  
They work in a very professional way.

00:32:18:21 - 00:32:22:19

And that's just grown up governance. Yeah.

00:32:22:19 - 00:32:28:18

And it's like, you know,  
I keep thinking like the complexities are there,

00:32:29:11 - 00:32:36:02

but when you can have genuine conversations  
and work together and collaborate

00:32:37:02 - 00:32:39:04

just and really just communicate.

00:32:39:04 - 00:32:39:11

Yeah.

00:32:39:11 - 00:32:45:04

And you come to better decisions, even if you disagree,  
you're still going to get to a better place. Right?

00:32:45:04 - 00:32:50:17

And I feel like so what is the for a place like Ogden  
or any of these all, all these other smaller cities

00:32:50:17 - 00:32:56:22

that are dealing with the effects of rhetoric and what,  
you know, people's ire is turned on because of whatever.

00:32:56:22 - 00:33:02:22

It's the algorithm or the flier, you getting it in your in your mailbox,  
or you heard from somebody like,

00:33:02:23 - 00:33:09:16

I like the pilot you brought from our mailbox that I brought that I,  
I was yeah, you're gonna see a lot of those in your mailbox right now.

00:33:10:02 - 00:33:12:21

Yeah, yeah.

00:33:12:21 - 00:33:15:08

What is the solution?

00:33:15:08 - 00:33:19:04

Because I think people are starting to see the rhetoric for what it is.

00:33:20:22 - 00:33:22:05

But again, you've got a

00:33:22:05 - 00:33:28:22

machine in social media and algorithms  
and all of these things that the goal is this.

00:33:28:22 - 00:33:34:12

And I, we're always going to push towards that. So,

00:33:34:12 - 00:33:42:05

what is the solution for people for taxpayers and voters to say like,  
like how do we actually find out the truth or find out what's going on?

00:33:42:05 - 00:33:46:19

Well, I think and then no one wants to sit through a 2.5 hour city  
council meeting that very few people.

00:33:46:19 - 00:33:48:06

I can't believe I sometimes watch it.

00:33:48:06 - 00:33:53:03

Okay, so a lot of that responsibility is on me to be transparent  
and forthcoming to share information.

00:33:53:03 - 00:33:55:23

And that was the point of why I brought these books in.

00:33:55:23 - 00:34:02:07

Just on my way in to here, I stopped at our comptroller's office  
and I said, hey, dude, I got to borrow your Gatsby standards books.

00:34:02:16 - 00:34:07:14

Yeah, because I know that he's in his office  
reading these things for a reason. Right?

00:34:07:14 - 00:34:13:05

Because the the, the points they're being made are going to be like,  
we're going to find something you care deeply about

00:34:13:05 - 00:34:18:19

that we know everybody loves and wants that I want and love and want,  
and so does the council as well.

00:34:19:18 - 00:34:21:09

And we're going to make it.

00:34:21:09 - 00:34:22:19

We're going to make a point that you're not getting it.

00:34:22:19 - 00:34:28:08

And this and they're going to have these suggestions why even though

00:34:28:08 - 00:34:31:20

all the facts in the information are otherwise.  
But I don't even have time to read through all these.

00:34:31:20 - 00:34:34:17

There's so many accomplishments and investments, right.

00:34:34:17 - 00:34:39:22

And more to come. But they're only going to focus on the cherry pick  
something. Yeah. Yeah.

00:34:39:22 - 00:34:43:15

That is yeah. That's going to get a bunch of people. Yes. But what.

00:34:43:15 - 00:34:49:15

But what it fails to recognize and this is important because like you.

00:34:50:09 - 00:34:55:01

Oftentimes it'll be whether it's about parks or it's about finances.

00:34:55:01 - 00:35:03:00

They're going to suggest that we're corrupt or,  
you know, lighting my own parks or whatever the loaded terms are.

00:35:03:08 - 00:35:05:04

That's right. Let's give an example.

00:35:05:04 - 00:35:07:03

Right. That's rhetoric from Taylor Canyon.

00:35:07:03 - 00:35:13:11

When they came to city Council, made it very, very clear they don't want, high density housing apartments.

00:35:14:02 - 00:35:15:10

Right. So someone went out there.

00:35:15:10 - 00:35:16:23

Someone said that. Correct.

00:35:16:23 - 00:35:21:06

When it hasn't even been a discussion ever. Well, and it wasn't even. Yeah. Ever approved that.

00:35:21:06 - 00:35:25:06

And and something like that is scary to some people.

00:35:25:06 - 00:35:25:12

Yeah.

00:35:25:12 - 00:35:30:19

And it fills the chambers and then we have to unpack it and unwind it and, but it's still going to stay in their mind.

00:35:30:19 - 00:35:35:02

And they're still going to be hearing that from whomever they're getting their information. Right.

00:35:35:02 - 00:35:40:17

And that was a very strategic plant of a talking point. It's there's just no way in hell that's going to happen.

00:35:40:17 - 00:35:46:17

I know it's a it's a brilliant job, but because then, well, now they were you were able to prevent them

00:35:46:17 - 00:35:50:18

from the city council from acting on this, even though there was never anything to act on. Right,

00:35:51:18 - 00:35:52:10

I guess.

00:35:52:10 - 00:35:53:19

Right. Well, yeah.

00:35:53:19 - 00:35:56:10

I haven't heard all of the rumors, but

00:35:56:10 - 00:36:01:12

you get online, it's fun actually, as you know, I try not to,

00:36:01:12 - 00:36:05:09

but it kind of often traces back to how we manage our finances.

00:36:05:09 - 00:36:08:19

And that's why I brought this is like

00:36:08:19 - 00:36:12:02

the sort of the allegation is that

00:36:12:02 - 00:36:18:01

that the BDO lease revenue was supposed to be used for critical infrastructure.

00:36:18:01 - 00:36:23:23

That's a misplay on words because the ordinance specifically says capital improvement projects.

00:36:23:23 - 00:36:30:06

What is a capital improvement project like to the untrained right or or unaware.

00:36:30:21 - 00:36:35:23

They might not recognize that that's a project that's listed in our capital improvement plan.

00:36:35:23 - 00:36:42:12

So this is a document that has to go through scrutiny from the city council to ensure transparency and accountability.

00:36:42:14 - 00:36:43:16

Right.

00:36:43:16 - 00:36:50:00

And it clearly outlines all of the projects that are CIP capital improvement plan projects.

00:36:50:00 - 00:36:50:15

Right, right.

00:36:52:02 - 00:36:55:13

And that that is all required in ordinance.

00:36:55:13 - 00:37:04:13

And when I say ordinance, I'm talking about law, city law that, at least 50% of the proceeds received from lease revenue must be used on

00:37:04:13 - 00:37:12:04

capital improvement projects, not necessarily critical infrastructure, although there's a ton of critical infrastructure project in here.

00:37:12:04 - 00:37:14:05

Right, right.

00:37:14:05 - 00:37:20:01

And so as we look to our capital improvement plan and our ordinance

00:37:20:01 - 00:37:26:01

to choose what we are looking to fund, there are some reasons that we choose some over others.

00:37:26:09 - 00:37:29:05

And that example is not going to make everybody happy obviously.

00:37:29:05 - 00:37:34:15

Maybe not, but it should make them happy when I leverage their dollars five times over with the grant. Right?

00:37:34:15 - 00:37:38:05

That's one of the criterias. How many how much are you leveraging this \$1

00:37:39:04 - 00:37:40:15

with outside funding.

00:37:40:15 - 00:37:41:16

Right, right.

00:37:41:16 - 00:37:46:09

So airport is an area that's were being critiqued.

00:37:46:09 - 00:37:51:02

We have done more leveraging of outside funding, particularly from the FAA and federal funds.

00:37:51:02 - 00:37:52:16

Those are going to go somewhere.

00:37:52:16 - 00:37:53:23

They might as well come here.

00:37:53:23 - 00:37:58:20

And you do that by being competitive and providing matching and seed funds. Right.

00:37:58:20 - 00:38:02:01

And we're doing a better job at that than ever. Right now.

00:38:02:01 - 00:38:07:06

And so I've leveraged five times  
to one the funding for the airport terminal project.

00:38:07:06 - 00:38:10:02  
We put a little bit of money in that and we got a ton.

00:38:10:02 - 00:38:15:04  
Yeah. In return,  
how does the average citizen know that and understand that?

00:38:15:04 - 00:38:19:20  
If they have to ask the questions and read the documents  
and that's that's the hard thing.

00:38:19:20 - 00:38:20:18  
Yeah.

00:38:20:18 - 00:38:25:01  
I have a hard story to tell. Like,  
because I'm not even close to done right now.

00:38:25:01 - 00:38:26:20  
Yeah. Because what happens is

00:38:27:20 - 00:38:31:13  
these expenditures and all expenditures across our city

00:38:31:13 - 00:38:37:11  
are required by law to follow guidelines, all of which are in here.

00:38:37:11 - 00:38:42:08  
This is the original.  
This is the initial book. It it it, expired in 2011.

00:38:42:08 - 00:38:43:04  
Oh my gosh.

00:38:43:04 - 00:38:49:12  
So look, instead of printing a new book every year since 2011,  
they've been printing all of the elements of change.

00:38:49:22 - 00:38:52:15  
So some of this books still relevant.

00:38:52:15 - 00:38:55:10  
Much of it's been updated

00:38:55:10 - 00:38:57:14  
piece by piece by piece by piece.

00:38:57:14 - 00:39:00:12  
And and the new in here. Okay.

00:39:00:12 - 00:39:05:20  
These are all the accounting standards  
that we have to follow in government accounting.

00:39:05:20 - 00:39:07:05  
Right.

00:39:07:05 - 00:39:12:08  
And but you can't assume that that's happening  
because I have a city council that holds me accountable on a,

00:39:12:08 - 00:39:15:02  
on an annual check for these things across the board.

00:39:15:02 - 00:39:18:22  
The whole accounting system, not just sips. Right. And

00:39:20:10 - 00:39:22:23  
the guidelines for how to do that are here.

00:39:22:23 - 00:39:24:00  
Okay.

00:39:24:00 - 00:39:28:20  
And so the but you can't just trust me.

00:39:28:20 - 00:39:33:11

There's a reason that we're set up to have checks and balances just because we're not fighting over it

00:39:33:11 - 00:39:36:21

and creating headlines of dysfunction doesn't mean we're not accountable.

00:39:36:21 - 00:39:41:16

So we are required to answer to a third party auditor.

00:39:41:16 - 00:39:44:23

Every year. That auditor is hired by the city council to audit us.

00:39:44:23 - 00:39:50:02

In me, it's my responsibility to make sure that we're following all these things, right?

00:39:50:02 - 00:39:52:08

And more involved than you think.

00:39:52:08 - 00:39:54:21

But I know about these things because I know of all this.

00:39:54:21 - 00:39:55:13

Right?

00:39:55:13 - 00:40:01:00

And that third party presents an audit findings or audit summary. Right.

00:40:01:00 - 00:40:03:22

And we have had no findings last year.

00:40:03:22 - 00:40:05:07

We had no findings, really.

00:40:05:07 - 00:40:09:09

And yet outside this room, there's a wall with a plaque

00:40:09:09 - 00:40:16:11

with probably ten years of awards for the high level of rigor in accounting that we that we show here.

00:40:16:12 - 00:40:18:14

Yep, that's worth bragging about.

00:40:18:14 - 00:40:20:18

People should feel confident in what we're doing.

00:40:20:18 - 00:40:25:13

Not because I say so right, but because the Oregon City Council holds me accountable

00:40:25:13 - 00:40:29:04

and that I'm not going to wait until we get there to be like, oh yeah, I'll fix it.

00:40:29:04 - 00:40:33:18

I'll fix I make promises. No. Yeah. Third party verified. Yeah. Right.

00:40:33:18 - 00:40:39:22

When people have complaints about how a budget item or line out or whatever it is, how it's spent.

00:40:43:02 - 00:40:44:08

What what I just heard you

00:40:44:08 - 00:40:50:12

tell me was the auditors have said that that meets standards of the.

00:40:50:14 - 00:40:51:21

Yes, absolutely.

00:40:51:21 - 00:41:00:04

And so you it's maybe it's less about not liking how the city chose to do this or that.

00:41:00:13 - 00:41:02:14

You don't like the law

00:41:02:14 - 00:41:07:06

or the accusations,  
and I'm not following the law, but I'm a criminal with it.

00:41:07:06 - 00:41:08:16

Yeah, but the law.

00:41:08:16 - 00:41:13:07

But that's not the case, right?  
There's no evidence. And I have tons of evidence to the contrary.

00:41:13:07 - 00:41:18:23

Right, right. Now, you might not like to believe you're a criminal.  
You might not like the decisions we're making. There's room for that.

00:41:18:23 - 00:41:20:22

I understand that it's okay.

00:41:20:22 - 00:41:25:17

Right? Yeah,  
but talk about it in plain language. And be accurate and right.

00:41:25:17 - 00:41:26:17

About that.

00:41:26:17 - 00:41:31:18

So what would you say is as we're talking about this,  
what would you say.

00:41:31:18 - 00:41:34:18

Kind of going back to my first question or my question is.

00:41:37:00 - 00:41:43:14

How do how does someone that's on social media  
and has seen these things,

00:41:43:14 - 00:41:51:13

how do they figure out how to stop the rhetoric  
or tone the rhetoric down or find out what the answer actually is?

00:41:51:13 - 00:41:57:13

Because I will tell you that trying to get into a discussion or argument

00:41:57:19 - 00:42:01:18

with someone online, it's not it's, you know, I was mindful about it.

00:42:01:18 - 00:42:08:03

I think my boss, he said, you know, you don't want to get into  
an argument online ever, because it's like wrestling a pig.

00:42:08:11 - 00:42:11:17

I'm not saying that the people online are pigs.  
They'll just stay with the metaphor.

00:42:11:17 - 00:42:14:06

If the fireworks pop, pop, pop, popcorn, here we go.

00:42:14:06 - 00:42:17:21

But like, because you both just get muddy, right?

00:42:17:21 - 00:42:21:04

But the pig likes it again. No one's a pig online.

00:42:21:04 - 00:42:22:02

Yeah, yeah.

00:42:22:02 - 00:42:23:10

Careful. I have to be right.

00:42:23:10 - 00:42:30:03

So how how should we in Ogden as citizens, fix this?

00:42:32:02 - 00:42:37:13

So, like I started to say before, if part of that responsibility  
is on me to make these kinds of things. No.

00:42:37:13 - 00:42:38:14

Right, right.

00:42:38:14 - 00:42:43:20

I I'm not showing all this so that people are, like, overwhelmed and that they won't look into others. Right?

00:42:43:20 - 00:42:46:10

I'm I'm totally comfortable

00:42:46:10 - 00:42:48:13

proving up. Right.

00:42:48:13 - 00:42:51:16

And in fact, don't you know, take my word for it.

00:42:51:16 - 00:42:55:03

Take the third party word for you when you have nothing to hide a third party isn't a problem.

00:42:55:03 - 00:42:59:06

Right, right. And that third party has legal requirements to.

00:42:59:06 - 00:43:04:14

And it wouldn't be an operation if they were breaking the law all the time just to do me some kind of favor. Right.

00:43:04:14 - 00:43:09:14

And so but I think that the responsibility it's mine to follow the law.

00:43:09:14 - 00:43:14:07

Right. Clearly, plain and simple, unapologetic. I'm all in on it.

00:43:15:15 - 00:43:18:17

But I think the responsibility for all of us

00:43:18:17 - 00:43:21:22

is to make sure that we recognize that

00:43:21:22 - 00:43:29:17

identify rhetoric, identify emotional triggers, identify the recognize the algorithms, and recognize that there's more information out there.

00:43:30:01 - 00:43:32:20

Like, if you wanted to understand all this, you're more than welcome.

00:43:32:20 - 00:43:37:02

Yeah, we put our budget out there every year in full. Yeah. Right.

00:43:37:02 - 00:43:39:18

And we go through comprehensive audits and so on.

00:43:39:18 - 00:43:44:22

And if something seems particularly inflammatory and you've never heard it before, right.

00:43:44:22 - 00:43:47:20

Maybe look into it a little bit more. There's probably more to the story.

00:43:47:20 - 00:43:48:20

Yeah.

00:43:48:20 - 00:43:54:06

And I just don't want I don't want people to come away from this discussion feeling like,

00:43:54:06 - 00:43:57:22

oh, the mayor's just telling everybody, don't worry, I got it right.

00:43:57:22 - 00:44:01:03

That's not the point. Now, I know even like,

00:44:02:03 - 00:44:02:20

these things are

00:44:02:20 - 00:44:08:20

in place for a reason,  
because there have been examples of abuse, right?

00:44:08:23 - 00:44:09:16  
Right.

00:44:09:16 - 00:44:15:16  
And we would be naive  
and we would be misleading if we said that it's not ever possible here.

00:44:16:09 - 00:44:17:09  
Right? Right.

00:44:17:09 - 00:44:21:20  
I mean, working in government is hard.

00:44:21:20 - 00:44:26:16  
Working in public  
administration is a completely different set of rules. Yeah. Right.

00:44:26:16 - 00:44:30:22  
And we're always working to improve ourselves.

00:44:30:22 - 00:44:33:19  
Right? Absolutely. There's just a lot to it. Yeah.

00:44:33:19 - 00:44:40:09  
And some of these discussions should, I would hope, make  
people more comfortable that it's not just taking me and my word for it.

00:44:41:00 - 00:44:44:06  
I've got staff that are professionals. They're experts in these things.

00:44:44:06 - 00:44:47:01  
But that's not enough either.

00:44:47:01 - 00:44:51:15  
That's why we have standards right. Yeah.  
And then that's why we have audits. Yeah.

00:44:51:15 - 00:44:55:10  
And that's why I have a city council  
that hires their own auditor. Right.

00:44:55:10 - 00:44:59:11  
To ensure that I am following all these standards  
and that that's all my experts.

00:44:59:11 - 00:45:06:00  
There's systems in place to ensure that we minimize the abuse and fraud  
and waste, etc., as much as possible.

00:45:06:03 - 00:45:11:11  
Right. And you cannot compare our budget to the federal budget  
and all of the quote.

00:45:11:11 - 00:45:14:19  
Yeah, waste and fraud and abuse and bloat whatever. Yeah.

00:45:14:19 - 00:45:16:09  
But and there's always room.

00:45:16:09 - 00:45:20:20  
I'm still I'm driving an enormous initiative to find efficiencies  
fiscally. Yeah. All the time.

00:45:20:20 - 00:45:25:16  
Absolutely right. And it's hard to communicate all of that  
because it's just so so much.

00:45:25:16 - 00:45:32:09  
So maybe what the, the, citizens could do is just, hey,  
ask the question, email it, send a question.

00:45:32:09 - 00:45:40:04  
And you've got a lot of different ways that you can contact  
someone in the city or you, I've had plenty of friends say, hey,

00:45:40:11 - 00:45:44:06

what's going on with this? I don't know, let me ask then. Right, right.

00:45:44:06 - 00:45:45:20

We appreciate your time.

00:45:45:20 - 00:45:50:03

Thank you for,  
you know, talking about kind of calling it out. I think it's important.

00:45:50:03 - 00:45:52:11

I think that a lot of people have appreciated that

00:45:52:11 - 00:45:59:13

and that we can make this a better community by, you know, being open  
and, you know, ask, ask the questions, don't assume the worst,

00:46:00:19 - 00:46:01:15

but call it out.

00:46:01:15 - 00:46:02:22

If you do see see an issue.

00:46:02:22 - 00:46:05:16

Well, I get it gets back to a point.

00:46:05:16 - 00:46:13:09

I've said before and how I was raised and I remember distinctly  
it was in the humanities class in seventh grade taught by Mr.

00:46:13:09 - 00:46:17:16

Volvic, and he asked us the question. He challenged us.  
It was a critical thinking thing.

00:46:17:16 - 00:46:20:23

His men, inherently evil or inherently good.

00:46:20:23 - 00:46:24:05

And that was a discussion that went on for weeks in our class.

00:46:24:05 - 00:46:27:19

And I remember going home  
asking my parents about it and reflecting on it.

00:46:27:19 - 00:46:32:17

And I am raised and I live my life

00:46:32:17 - 00:46:34:08

believing in people.

00:46:34:08 - 00:46:35:10

It doesn't mean I'm naive.

00:46:35:10 - 00:46:40:20

It doesn't mean that I, I don't double check or, you know, I mean,

00:46:40:20 - 00:46:43:10

but if if we all assume that we're all evil,

00:46:44:16 - 00:46:45:22

that's all you're ever going to think.

00:46:45:22 - 00:46:48:06

Because it's all you're ever going to see.  
Because that's all you ever think.

00:46:48:06 - 00:46:50:13

Yeah. I mean, if you're looking for it, you're going to find it.

00:46:50:13 - 00:46:51:02

You're going to see it.

00:46:51:02 - 00:46:55:11

That's all you get, because that's all you're capable of seeing  
if that's what you think anybody and everybody is.

00:46:55:11 - 00:47:01:03

Yeah, right. And it's out there

I get it. It is. That's why we have these things, right, right, right.

00:47:01:03 - 00:47:04:02

But anyway, the point is it,

00:47:04:02 - 00:47:08:11

you know, like for a call to action, let's all take a deep breath.

00:47:08:11 - 00:47:14:06

Let's all think more critically, recognize  
what's happening at the national level,

00:47:14:06 - 00:47:19:05

and learn to spot it even here at the  
and and maybe understand where things are coming from. Right.

00:47:19:05 - 00:47:22:19

Where did that come from? And you,  
you have your right to cast your vote, to have your opinion.

00:47:22:19 - 00:47:26:17

That's okay. Yeah.  
Whether it's an informed thing or not, it's your right.

00:47:26:17 - 00:47:29:11

Right. Yep. And you can say what you want to say online.

00:47:30:14 - 00:47:31:05

It's your right.

00:47:31:05 - 00:47:35:04

Just be aware that when you you know, when you read those things,

00:47:35:04 - 00:47:39:05

take it, take a step back, like I said,  
I mean just think about what else don't I know.

00:47:39:05 - 00:47:44:06

And and I think hopefully listening to this discussion  
has been helpful for some.

00:47:44:06 - 00:47:47:07

Right? Yeah, maybe. So thanks for asking.

00:47:47:07 - 00:47:50:14

This will let me talk so much. Yeah. Thanks for dressing up.

00:47:50:14 - 00:47:54:09

You see, if I deal with.

00:47:54:09 - 00:47:59:05

Well, I appreciate you guys tuning into to today's podcast and,  
you know, please share this.

00:47:59:05 - 00:48:06:23

And again, ask questions when you when you see things, ask questions  
and then make sure you vote

00:48:08:06 - 00:48:12:05

and go trick or treating. I guess maybe because it's October.

00:48:12:05 - 00:48:14:18

There you go okay okay. Thanks everybody.