

NEWSLETTER
January 7, 2008

To my friends,

It has been five days since I have been sworn in as your new City Councilman and what a day it was.

It was one of the largest turnouts that I had seen in a while. Other than a few of the normal local businessmen and regulars, the rest were there to support me and Craig Lutz, the other newly elected Councilman. Along with a number of my supporters, my wife had to take some time off of work to attend the 9:30 A.M. City Council Meeting.

Speaking of 9:30 A.M. City Council Meetings. The agenda was short and sweet. There were only three items and number three was: **Discussion – Dates and times of Meetings**. This was about Ordinance 303-C (Prescribing the Regular Meeting Times and Places of the City Council).

As soon as the City Attorney finished his comments, Craig Lutz motioned to amend ordinance 303-C, which currently reads:

- (a) “regular work session meetings. . .held upon the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.”
- (b) “regular voting meetings. . .held upon the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.”

to now read:

- (a) “regular work session meetings. . .held upon the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.”
- (b) “regular voting meetings. . .held upon the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.”

Then I second the motion and the Mayor opened up the floor for discussion. You can view Craig Lutz’s comments at vote4lutz.com, and mine at vote4fetterman.com, both were added to the official minutes that should be posted soon on flowerybranchga.org. Both of our comments were defending, you the citizens of Flowery Branch, the right to voice your opinions at a time that would make it easier for you to participate with and comment to your city representatives.

Once Craig and I spoke, there were no other comments and the vote was 3-2 – the motion failed.

What I found bizarre, there were no comments from the other three council members, who voted to leave the Council Meetings at 9:30 A.M. There was not one comment to defend why they voted to leave the Council Meetings at their current times - just a 3-2 vote, silencing the working citizen of Flowery Branch. Why? You may already have the answer.

Please come to the meetings, if you can, and speak up, or write a letter to the Mayor and Council and take it to City Hall and have it notarized by the City Clerk, or email at chrisffb@bellsouth.net and it would be my honor to pass your thoughts to the Mayor and other City Council Members. You have until January 23, 2008, during the next council meeting, to get your letters and comments prepared.

I believe that many of you have been left in the dark about your Flowery Branch government and the timing of many public meetings was set to silence your voice. By voting Craig Lutz and myself into office, you stated that you wanted change, and change you will get. I will speak up at City Council Meetings, post on my website, send out quarterly newsletters, and respond to your emails and phone calls. Wow – isn't that what a public servant supposed to do. Answer to their customer – you the citizens of Flowery Branch.

How many of you heard about the 120% increase to house the Planning Department and a few other city officials. Yep – the last City Council pushed through a new lease agreement through during the last Council Meeting of 2007 without any public comment. I wanted to speak, but I was not allowed to. The really interesting part is one of the owners of the company who owns the new offices located at 5512 Main Street – he ran a recent unsuccessful bid for City Council. This is the same person who was openly supported by 4 of the 5 previous council members.

These are just some examples of what I want you to be aware of so you are an informed citizen.

It will be hard for Craig Lutz and myself to get things done that are, what I believe, in your best interest unless each of you get involved in our meetings, email, or call.

Please pass this letter on to your friends and neighbors. I know politics is boring subject to many people until election time, but check up on your government every couple of weeks by going to a City Council Meeting, if possible, as well as discuss politics with your family, friends, and neighbors to make sure you are all abreast of the events that affect your daily lives.

Please, at anytime visit my site at vote4fetterman.com, email me at chrisffb@bellsouth.net, or call me at 678-677-5759. I will let you know what is going on. I promise!

Chris Fetterman

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