

Review of Councilman Donald Williams' term (Dec. 2019 – September 2022)

I tried to stay true to my campaign goals---respect for our small town heritage, and reconnecting the public with their council. Here are some of the topics I worked on (those with an "I" were initiated by me.)

Connecting the public and its council

- *Issuing agendas 7 instead of 4 days prior to meetings, for greater public exposure (I)
- *Encouraging new members to participate on Green and Transportation Committees
- *Sponsorship of essay contest (I)
- *Use of more inclusive language for criteria awarding grants (I)
- *Encouraging staff recommendations that *request*, not mandate, council direction (I)
- *Proposed discussion about term limits (council declined to consider it) (I)
- *Periodic tabling at Farmers' Market to connect with residents
- *Periodic newsletters updating residents about local topics (I)

Respecting small town heritage

- *Council adopted code mandating cessation of building if 90% of our water/sewer capacity is reached (not 95% as staff had proposed) (I)
- *Council acknowledged its eight goals to have *equal* value (including "enhancing Calistoga's small-town character"), and adopted this objective regarding new projects: "Review scale of proposal with preference towards smaller alternatives when feasible." (I)

Respecting our environment (all approved by the council):

- *Adoption of a 500 foot buffer around our reservoir (not 200 feet as county proposed) (I)
- *Resurrection of the Green Committee
- *Removal of flammable vegetation on Mt. Washington within city limits
- *Resolution of the Calistoga Council requesting Napa County limit tree-cutting in oak woodlands
- *Improved traffic control (electronic speed signs)

Improving business, monitoring public funds

- *Encourage economic diversification (council approved) (I)
- *Waive business license tax (council declined) (I)
- *Approval of Indian Springs expansion (project conformed to codes and zoning)
- *Opposed parklet/sidewalk-replacement on Washington St at \$90K
- *Opposed \$400K and \$500K on marketing in 2021 and 2022 (I find no evidence it makes much difference; council approved) (I)
- *Opposed \$190K on a water pipe under Pioneer Park bridge (it is not needed nor expected to be needed; council approved)
- *Encouraged crosswalk between city hall and the police station
- *Encouraged resumption of fairgrounds discussions with the county
- *Proposed discounting or rebating water bills (council declined) (I)

Most issues the city council considers are brought to it by staff at city hall. But to be proactive and better serve our residents, many times I took the initiative and proposed policies to the council. Some efforts succeeded, others did not. Below is a summary:

Some of What I Encouraged (and it actually happened):

- *Issuing agendas 7 instead of 4 days prior to meetings, for greater public exposure (I)
- *A 500 foot buffer around our reservoir (not 200 feet as county proposed) (I)
- *Greater traffic control (electronic speed signs)
- *Code mandating cessation of building if 90% of our water/sewer capacity is reached (not 95% as staff had proposed) (I)
- *New members to participate on Green and Transportation Committees
- *City council's eight goals to be considered to have equal value, including "enhancing Calistoga's small-town character" and this objective: "Review scale of proposal with preference towards smaller alternatives when feasible." (I)
- * Sponsorship of essay contest (I)
- *Use of less exclusive language for criteria awarding grants (I)
- *Economic diversification (I)
- *Crosswalk between city hall and the police station
- *Resurrection of the Green Committee (I)
- *Resolution of the Calistoga Council requesting Napa County limit tree-cutting in oak woodlands (I)
- *Resuming fairgrounds discussions with the county (I)
- *Staff recommendations on agendas that *request*, not mandate, council direction (I)
- *Removal of flammable vegetation on Mt. Washington within city limits (I)

Some of What I Encouraged (but the council did not agree):

- **Not* buying a parklet/sidewalk replacement on Washington St at \$90K (soon the parklet may be removed)
- **Not* repaving tennis court for \$18K (the cracks reappeared within a month)
- **Not* allocating \$400K and \$500K on marketing in 2021 and 2022 (there's no evidence it makes any difference)
- **Not* spending \$200K on a water pipe under Pioneer Park bridge (it is not needed nor expected to be needed)
- *Waiving business license tax (council declined)
- *Discounting or rebating water bills (council declined)
- *Discussion about term limits (council declined to consider it)
- *Reminder to county to enforce limited-food-service rules at wineries, to protect cities' restaurants (council declined to consider it)
- *Acknowledging the Grand Jury's criticisms of Napa County's Climate Action Committee, on which Calistoga participates (the council responded defensively, mostly dismissing the Grand Jury's remarks)