



**Minutes of the Special Meeting  
of the Cedar Springs City Council**

**Friday, May 29, 2015  
7:30 p.m.**

**Cedar Springs City Hall  
66 S. Main St.  
Cedar Springs, Michigan**

1. The Meeting was Called to Order by Mayor Pro Tem **Pamela Conley** at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. <u>ROLL CALL:</u>	Mr. Daniel Clark	Present
	Mr. Perry Hopkins	Present
	Mrs. Molly Nixon	Present
	Mrs. Rose Ellen Powell	Present
	Mr. Robert Truesdale	Present
	Mrs. Pamela Conley, Mayor Pro Tem	Present
	Mr. Gerald Hall, Mayor	Absent

**Motion by Nixon, supported by Clark, to excuse Hall's absence.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

**Patricia Troost**, read a prepared statement which she asked to be a part of the minutes. **(attached Item A)**

**Kathy Bremmer**, as far as anyone knows, the lawsuit with the Red Flannel Festival still stands; this was a backdoor attempt to bully the City to use the Red Flannel logo. If the Council instructs the City Manager to hang this logo, you are in violation of the law, she said.

**Steve McBride**, came to the meeting tonight with a happy heart. This shroud of darkness is overwhelming. This was a good positive step to move forward. There is nothing more American than red flannels.

**Mark Fankhauser**, 91 W. Muskegon St., commended the Red Flannel Festival in honoring Ronny Merlington. To Shirley Merlington: it was an honor to be her neighbor. Ronny was a phenomenal individual. Both the City and Festival can survive independently. There was no need to blend both logos. Let's not confuse what we are here for tonight – to honor Ronny Merlington.

4. **Motion by Nixon, supported by Hopkins, to approve the agenda.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

5. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Red Flannel Festival presentation of medallion in honor of former Mayor Ronny Merlington.

**Conley** stated tonight's meeting was a discussion of the medallion as an informational item, to honor Ronny Merlington. The Council would vote on acceptance of the medallion at the June Council meeting.

**Nixon** said she did not know Ronny personally; but knew he loved the community and cared deeply for it; she was honored to be on a Council that was honoring him.

**Powell** stated red flannels were not a logo; but a symbol of the community and its' culture and history.

**Truesdale** said we have to move on no matter who likes you or doesn't like you; we need to move on to be a town that helps one another.

**Hopkins** said it was great to honor a mayor and it was great the Red Flannel Festival did something to honor Ronny. He hoped the cease and desist order could be removed so that this medallion could be hung on the wall.

**Clark** said he never knew Ronny Merlington; but he knew Ronny wouldn't have wanted what has happened. However that works out he hopes that hanging this medallion would provide some unification in the community.

**Conley** said she served on the City Council with Ronny; they shared a love of education. She had a great fondness for him. He was an educator, an active community leader who touched a number of lives. He had provided almost 30 years of service to the city.

**Michele Andres**, president of the Red Flannel Festival Board of Directors, thanked the Council for scheduling the special meeting. She recognized Shirley Merlington who is the Festival's Grand Marshall this year. She stated this medallion was a positive collaborative effort and hoped the Council would vote unanimously in June to honor Ronny Merlington.

**Shirley Merlington** thanked everyone for being at the meeting that evening; she and Ronny were so shook up when the former medallion was ripped off the wall and was happy to see this new medallion.

6. There was no other business to come before the Council.

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

**Powell** - thanked Pam Conley for her comments.

8. **Motion by Nixon, supported by Powell, to adjourn.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

The Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Linda Christensen, City Clerk

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Pamela Conley, Mayor Pro Tem

City Council May 29, 2015

At last night's training, I was beyond emotional as it had come to light, that what had been said about Ashley and myself during this recall and last election and what some of you accused us of and what was told the voters was proven not the truth. Even as much as you want to block me out, ignore or try to twist the words of the trainer to get an answer that you wanted to hear; in an attempt to try and clear your conscience did not happen as we all learned that Ashley and I did nothing wrong. When actually what you accused prior Council members of – you my friends are doing.

Since the election you have also proven that there is only one agenda and that is of the Red Flannel Board. By going to meetings as a representative of the City and trying to come up with a contract outside of the public's eyes is against the law, by handing out Red Flannel material at a function as a City Council member is also against the law; and you have now jeopardized the 5013C requirements for Red Flannel.

I want to remind council that the festival still happened in 2012, 2013 and 2014 without the City using their logo. But the Red Flannel board figured out pretty quickly that they just lost all their free advertisements and have done nothing but try to get their hold back on the City and this is just another way of doing just that.

Since the election, there is not one concern you have addressed except for that of the agenda of the Red Flannel Board. You have proven that you cannot be a mother of a Red Flannel Board member and also be the best friend to a board member to have an open mind as to what is truly happening. Because you have now isolated yourselves from the community as a whole that you are supposed to represent. I also want to remind you that it was not the City that tried to sue the Red Flannel, that on August 6, 2012; it was the Red Flannel that sent the cease and desist to the City and the City only obeyed that demand.

By accepting and/or even hanging this, you do so under a cloud of dishonesty and lies.

For members who claim to be Christians and people of faith, not once did you show Jesus' love and compassion. You lied, gossiped, were deceitful and downright cruel to get your way, but God knows you and knows your heart and you cannot hide from him.

*Colossians 3:12-13* So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you!

This is how I try to live my life, but for some reason, I have been trying so hard to prove that good always overcomes evil; and I needed you to admit that what you did was wrong; but because of Jesus' love shown upon me, God has helped me realize that I don't need anything from any of you, that I need to truly forgive you, which I now do. I need to let God handle the rest as I can now truly let all of this go.

To sum this up, we are all instructed to be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. -I Peter 3:8-9.

With that I also ask for forgiveness from you for holding grudges against some of you. I also pray for blessings and will show forgiveness for all of you and I will put my trust in God as I know he doesn't want this for me and I know he has way better things in stored for me as being **Right settles nothing**, but being **Grace-Full shows everything!**

Thank you  
Patricia Troost,  
Please put in the council minutes.