

January 21, 2016 8:10pm



JoAnn Conner David and Jamie Orr, what exactly is your issue with me? I supported your business and referred people to you when you first came to town. I suggested you be considered for and supported you for those thousands of dollars you receive from the City of South Lake Tahoe to help business owners. You obviously have a great loyalty to our employee, the city manager, for some reason, and it is disappointing to see you resort to hateful attacks with no substance. You often criticize the very city that gave you a lot of money - you want them to do more for small business and the citizens. Perhaps you could tell the people here what you have accomplished for businesses; where their money has been put to use. It seems to me you could help with some of the things you keep saying the city should do. I hear you criticize a lot, but I don't hear solutions offered. What are your ideas and how would you make them happen?

- Jamie Orr Rent control and a large jump in the minimum wage might not be the way to go, but that certainly doesn't mean the city shouldn't take a lead in finding solutions. If an increase in minimum wage, even if applied over time, is found to be too detrimental to small business, then what about encouraging (not mandating) small businesses to at least guarantee some minimum number of hours? To encourage a developer to build affordable housing, there are incentives that the city can provide. Just because something isn't easy, doesn't mean the city is off the hook to try. The city is in the best position to take the lead on tackling these issues, to bring people and organizations to tackle the issues with them, and to really bring about real change in our community.  
Like · Reply · 1 · January 20 at 9:00am
- Perry R. Obray Let's face it, we have a finite asset in natural beauty with the closest thing to a building moratorium. Free market goes to the highest bidder. If stock market owners (about a 60% rise in the dow the last 15 years or so, hopefully I got that right) don't mind paying 20% more for restaurants, maybe this \$15 an hour will work.  
Like · Reply · 2 · January 20 at 9:23am
- JoAnn Conner How would you suggest the government "encourage" small business to give a minimum number of hours or pay better wages, Jamie Orr? Most of the small businesses in our town already give as many benefits and wages as good as they can afford. What would you do differently? .  
Like · Reply · January 20 at 10:24am
- Jamie Orr That's exactly something that's worth discussing - with the city taking the lead. I don't have all the answers either, but you keep shutting everyone down as if it can't be done. Why not work together to find a path that does work? My main point is instead of saying no to everything, let's try and be creative.  
Like · Reply · 3 · January 20 at 10:29am
- JoAnn Conner How did I shut you down? I asked you what you would suggest. You and David keep saying the city should take the lead on issues. How? What do you want us to do? You run a business that has small business owners coming to you. Have you considered starting with asking them for ideas you can bring to the city?  
Like · Reply · January 20 at 10:32am
- Jamie Orr That's exactly what I do.  
Like · Reply · 1 · January 20 at 10:35am
- JoAnn Conner Great! Then what are your suggestions?  
Like · Reply · January 20 at 10:35am
- Jamie Dahl well community outreach id a good start. Go Talk to those business owners, land owners, wage payers etc, hear their concerns and build a story/vision to work from. thats always the first task, go discover. Avoid trying to problem solve until well after you guys have received enough data to start building that story etc.  
Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 20 at 12:34pm

- Ben Damman I think it's unfortunate we have a city councilwoman who has made herself unapproachable by constantly fighting everyone. Then whining that people aren't giving her ideas, as if her lack of leadership on these issues is our fault.  
JoAnn, you're a strong representative and conduit for the people who have beef with the city, but you could be doing so much better than that.  
"I criticize by creation, not by finding fault." — Cicero  
If you produced solutions that actually help solve the problems facing this community, rather than simply whining and complaining about the faults of the present system people would have a lot more respect for you.  
I would bring you my own ideas if I felt you were capable of bringing solutions to life, but you've alienated so many people by being defensive and unkind—consistently—that I'm certain the people you'd need to collaborate with to accomplish "anything" would refuse to work with you.  
I also sincerely believe you could take corrective actions to escape the predicaments you find yourself in. You'll need to stop playing the persecuted victim card, make some genuine, humbling apologies, and start behaving and thinking like a true leader. You've got, what, 10 months or so to turn things around and produce at least one positive, implemented solution to any major problem in this community. I urge you to recognize your current approach to things is not working and to find a better way before time runs out.  
Unlike · Reply · 6 · January 20 at 11:58am
- David Orr Nah she'd rather sue the city, and impeach elected officials. It's easier to distract people through negativity. It's hard thinking up solutions to tough problems. It really is, I'm not kidding on that front.  
Like · Reply · 2 · January 20 at 4:31pm · Edited
- JoAnn Conner Ben Damman, perhaps you could try talking to me directly, a large number of people do that regularly. My number is 318-6090. I have accomplished quite a bit, actually, and I would ask you not to believe everything you read. Apologize? To whom and for what? I did not do what they said I did, do you think a person can say anything they want about you and they do not have to provide any proof? This is still America, sir, and you are required to provide proof. And just so you know, there were approximately sixty people there that day, including four former City Council members, a former Mayor, a former County Supervisor, several well known businessmen and women, representatives from the Senior Citizens, the American Legion, the South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, Tahoe 4Tahoe, Planning Commissioners, Lake Valley Fire and Board representatives, a member of the Grand Jury, a STPUD Board member, and people from the college - that were on my side. Perhaps you might want to talk to some of them instead of just the haters. I think you might be surprised.  
Like · Reply · January 21 at 7:58pm
- Ben Damman I will give you a call—probably next week when I have more time.

- JoAnn Conner David and Jamie Orr, what exactly is your issue with me? I supported your business and referred people to you when you first came to town. I suggested you be considered for and supported you for those thousands of dollars you receive from the City of South Lake Tahoe to help business owners. You obviously have a great loyalty to our employee, the city manager, for some reason, and it is disappointing to see you resort to hateful attacks with no substance. You often criticize the very city that gave you a lot of money - you want them to do more for small business and the citizens. Perhaps you could tell the people here what you have accomplished for businesses; where their money has been put to use. It seems to me you could help with some of the things you keep saying the city should do. I hear you criticize a lot, but I don't hear solutions offered. What are your ideas and how would you make them happen?  
Like · Reply · January 21 at 8:10pm · Edited
- David Orr I'm being critical of you JoAnn Conner. My last post was very snarky, so for that I apologize, but don't bring Jamie into it. You guys were having a normal conversation. Let me try and turn this around. I mean this as constructive criticism... The problem I have isn't the question of your guilt. Who cares. It's not what's important. I could be you never intended to make people uncomfortable, but that they misconstrued your actions...It's not important. My point is either way it does not matter. It's a censure. Which isn't even a big deal or a legal matter. Here's the definition of a censure.  
1. express severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement. That's not so bad. So why not just move on?. No, you can't you have to be right, you have to win. So instead you sue the city and are costing the tax payers money! Judge throws the case out (Because it's not a legal matter) and you file a motion for a new judge! What I've seen of your actions lately are not meeting my leadership expectations. I believe our leaders should be selfless in serving the community. Maybe that's a little altruistic but certainly suing the city only benefits your ego. It does nothing to improve anything. There's another path here, perhaps even a path where you could get re-elected, but if you keep up the attempt to destroy those who censure'd you, it will get you no where. Please Please move past this. Just so you know, I don't hate you. I like you even. I've found you easy to work with. But again, I'm very critical (and that is ok) of your actions past Censure. (Bos5 recall, suing the city, and the plastic bag ban). I hope you can accept an apology for my previous ill tempered post.  
Like · Reply · 1 · January 21 at 8:55pm · Edited
- Ben Damman JoAnn, you shouldn't help people and then lord it over them later, expecting things in return. And here you are once again whining that someone is being disloyal and has betrayed you, when in fact all they are doing is disagreeing with you. How ironic and intellectually dishonest it is for you to try to paint David and Jamie as anything less than action-oriented when it comes to economic development while simultaneously acknowledging they have a contract with the city for exactly that. Shame on you. It's not even a large contract!

- JoAnn Conner David Orr - do you think the city council should follow it's own laws or not? That is the point of the lawsuit.  
Like · Reply · January 22 at 1:42pm
- JoAnn Conner Ben Damman, as far as I know, I have never done anything to you or met you. If your ONLY impression of me is truly from watching the censure hearing, then I guess your impression was far different from the hundreds of people who have come up to me in stores, emailed me, called me, or pm'd me to say what a disgrace that was for the city to do to me. This all started with me sticking up for small business owners and asking questions. I suggest you watch the Council meetings before September 15th and tell me why the atmosphere changed so drastically and quickly. We were working together and getting things done. Then I asked questions on behalf of a number of business owners, and bam. Suddenly I am doing all these things I never did. You say you haven't lived here very long, but you have already made up your mind without talking to anyone on my side. How sad.  
Like · Reply · January 22 at 1:55pm
- Lara Miller "your side" "their side" "our side" You are so ridiculous JoAnn Conner. The only side should be the side of making this place even more amazing. Maybe that's why people question you and your motives. I find it amazing that exactly 0 other council members are arguing with people like you do. You have to stop. Stop arguing with people, it only makes you look really bad  
Like · Reply · 1 · January 22 at 2:27pm · Edited
- JoAnn Conner It is FOR the city and the citizens that I am doing this, Lara Miller. The city council should, more than anyone else, obey their own laws and protocols. Please read the protocols and the lawsuit.  
Like · Reply · January 22 at 2:59pm
- Lara Miller I said nothing about the lawsuit, rather that nearly every online interaction you have with people is negative. Surely, you don't mean to come across like that? I do PR for, amongst others celebrities, and I would be happy to do some media training with you if you are interested in improving on your communication style.  
Like · Reply · 2 · January 22 at 3:16pm · Edited