

From: [Elizabeth Falke](#)
To: [Foster, Chris](#)
Cc: [Hudson City Council](#)
Subject: City manager debate
Date: Monday, February 21, 2022 11:01:12 AM

Hi there,

I am unable to attend this week's city council meeting regarding the city manager position. In my absence, I am officially requesting that Chris Foster, my Ward 2 council member, read the following statement into the meeting minutes on me and my husband's behalf:

"We are fully against the forced resignation of city manager Jane Howington. In addition, we request that the city council act with transparency and disclose to the public all relevant financials regarding Howington's departure prior to its approval; taxpayers deserve to know if they're footing the bill for a buyout many didn't ask for and don't support."

Kurt & Elizabeth Falke
153 Bersham Drive

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S20 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
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February 8, 2022

Dear Members of Hudson City Council,

I, along with many of my fellow Hudson residents were puzzled to see that Council had called a Special meeting today to consider removing our City Manager. It was just October that Council awarded the City Manager a raise. The vote was 4-2, and, yes, 2 of those yes votes came from Members no longer on Council. But President Wooldridge was quoted as saying "Outstanding job" and Councilman Desaussure said this first raise since 2018 was "well deserved".

There were many successes, including clean audits and Triple A ratings from the Credit Bureaus...There was the sidewalks and trails plan, and expedited road repaving... All this leaves Hudsonites wondering what has happened in 3 months (besides a change in 2 Council seats)? With recent unflattering headlines about Hudson, and our school district having lost our well-liked Superintendent, it can't be surprising that residents are concerned about losing yet another talent. What is the reason? Please be specific.

Thank you,

Mike Donovan

2073 Stoney Hill Drive

330-310-4987

February 8, 2022

Council Members,

Mary and I are currently out of town but have been following the situation with Jane Howington.

We feel strongly that Ms. Howington has done an outstanding job as Hudson's City Manager. Her working relationship with previous council members, her leadership team and our community members has been a point of pride for Hudson.

Jane has put Hudson first without politicizing the office of City Manager.

The current effort to force her out of her leadership role is unprecedented. We hope council reconsiders this action.

Mary and Ed Sogan
403 Cutler Lane

Jane Howington Suspension Comment

Eric Hancsak <erichancsak@me.com>

Tue 2/8/2022 2:28 PM

To: Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>; Schlademan, Kate <kschlademan@hudson.oh.us>

Cc: Jane Howington <jhowington@hudson.oh.us>

Kate and Nicole,

I am submitting this note in hopes you will please read it in to the public comment record for tomorrow night (Feb 8), at the special meeting. I am very sorry, I am unable to attend in-person.

Thank you,

Eric Hancsak

Dear Council, mayor and city staff,

As a 16 year resident of Hudson, I have been lucky to have had many interactions and discussions with City Manager Jane Howington on a range of topics regarding city business and projects. I have always found her to be open, honest, knowledgeable, and an exemplary representative of our community. She has a difficult job to do and she does it well.

I might describe the charges against Jane to be comical, but they are not, because some on Council and the mayor are playing politics with a person's livelihood. I might call the charges shocking, but they are not, because some on Council and the mayor have made their intentions clear, well in advance. Manufacturing flimsy, vague, bogus claims against Jane as a first step to changing our form of government away from a City Manager and to a strong mayor, was always on their agenda. But why? What are the benefits to the residents and businesses of Hudson?

I urge council to rethink this dishonest process, and retain Jane Howington.

Sincerely,

Eric Hancsak
60 Division St.

city manager issue

Derek Van Ittersum <derek.vanittersum@gmail.com>

Tue 2/8/2022 3:40 PM

To: Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>

Hello,

I'm writing as a citizen of Hudson (2204 Olde Farm Lane, in Ward 4). I think an issue as serious as suspending the city manager should not be rushed in such a way, especially when no previous poor performance reviews are recorded. The reason we in Hudson have a city manager and not a strong mayor is to avoid political agendas from changing the course of the city every time a political group gains a majority on council. If we fire the city manager when one group takes power, then fire the next city manager when another group takes power, it's not a sustainable model for civic growth and stability.

Please read my note into the record as a comment in this meeting. Thank you,

Derek Van Ittersum

Fwd: Jane Howington

Nicole Kowalski <nicoletomak@gmail.com>

Tue 2/8/2022 2:51 PM

To: Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mimi Becker** <Mimi.Becker@unh.edu>

Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 11:20 AM

Subject: Jane Howington

To: Councilwoman Nicole Kowalski <nicole@kowalski4hudson.com>

Dear City Council,

Rarely has a city been gifted with such a gifted, committed and effective city manager. I believe that it would be wise for Hudson official to stop playing power politic, buckle down, and make Hudson citizens proud to live in this town. The City Manager is not broken because she won't let official commit to policies or practices that will harm Hudson..

please enter this into the record. Thank you.

Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker 47 Laurel Lake Drive, Hudson

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

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concerns about process surrounding city manager suspension resolution

Van Ittersum, Wendy <WVanIttersum@akronchildrens.org>

Tue 2/8/2022 3:56 PM

To: Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>

Councilwoman Kowalski,

I wanted to voice my concerns about the process initiated last night at City Council regarding the suspension of our city manager. I do not currently have an opinion about her fitness for remaining in her job, but the speed this is moving is alarming. That this resolution was brought up last evening and is set to be discussed less than 24 hours later, at a time of day where many citizens are unable or unlikely to attend on short notice, raises serious concerns regarding the transparency of this process. I understand there are clear rules to follow in this situation, but moving to initiate that process in this manner suggests that Council does not want active community participation in this process. The urgency of moving on this so quickly after the introduction of the resolution is unclear. Our mayor has made clear his dissatisfaction with the city manager for some time, and proceeding in this manner has the effect of looking underhanded, if not the actual intent. The precedent of proceeding like this without an open request to the community for input is worrisome and hopefully not indicative of how the new Council will be conducting itself on matters concerning our entire community. I call on City Council to proceed in a transparent and thoughtful manner regarding this issue.

Thank you for your consideration,
Wendy Van Ittersum

Wendy Van Ittersum, MD, FAAP

Pediatric Hospital Medicine

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine

Northeast Ohio Medical University

she/her/hers



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Letter for special meeting on 2/8/2022

Deborah Currin <momala920@aol.com>

Tue 2/8/2022 1:49 PM

To: Aparna Wheeler <awheeler@hudson.oh.us>

Cc: Shubert, Craig <cshubert@hudson.oh.us>; Foster, Chris <cfoster@hudson.oh.us>; Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>; Schlademan, Kate <kschlademan@hudson.oh.us>; Chris Banweg <cbanweg@hudson.oh.us>; Sutton, Skylar <ssutton@hudson.oh.us>; Karen Heater <kheater@hudson.oh.us>; bbingham@hudson.oh.us <bbingham@hudson.oh.us>

Ms. Wheeler,

Please read this letter at tonight's special meeting at 5:30. I also kindly request that it be made part of the public records.

Thank You,
Debbie Currin

To Mayor Schubert, Council Members Foster, Kowalski, Schlademan, Bingham, Sutton, Banweg, and Heater.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts tonight, even though I am unable to be here in person. This comes in regards to actions taken against City Manager Jane Howington.

In the 52 years that I have lived in Hudson, and been closely aligned with City business, I have had the privilege of knowing many City Managers before and after merger. Each one has brought something important to Hudson; Jane Howington is no exception. What I have witnessed in the seven and a half years that she has been our City Manager, is that she has excelled in her capacity, and Hudson has grown in positive directions. I have heard from staff that she is an excellent manager and a hard worker. Isn't that what we want?

Council brought Ms. Howington on board to do a professional job for our town...she has done that. She is trained in this area, far and above any lay person, yet is thwarted when using that knowledge to make appropriate decisions for Hudson. I appreciate that Jane works at the direction of council, and uses her expertise when needed. Now that is being used against her; making the allegations against her flimsy and unsubstantiated.

If this action is carried forth there will be some very unfortunate negative repercussions. Bringing in an interim City Manager will require a steep learning curve for whomever is selected, and cost the city time and expertise as they get up to speed on what is going on. You will have many staff that are supportive of our City Manager resentful of your actions... not the best atmosphere for productivity. You are going to put a black mark on Ms. Howington's record; something that will be detrimental to her future, and painfully unnecessary.

It is very distressing that there are two council members that have, at best, only a 2+ month association with the City Manager, and yet are asked to make a huge decision about her future. They bring no past history of Ms. Howington to their vote, except possible detrimental

here say. It would seem fair and appropriate that they abstain from voting on this issue.

It's clear that I am dead set against the actions Council is contemplating. I hope the citizenry of Hudson is aware of these actions, their destructive nature for our town, and the long reaching ramifications this will mean for future positive mindsets.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah E. Currin
32 Lennox Rd.
Hudson, OH 44236

February 8, 2022

Council Member Kate Schlademan

kschlademan@hudson.oh.us

Dear Council Member Schlademan:

I am writing to ask you to oppose the suspension of Jane Howington as City Manager of Hudson.

Ms. Howington had done an admiral job managing the City of Hudson and her suspension appears to be an unjustified political move. I request that the Council Members inform the public the reasons for the suspension and strongly consider if the reasons are justified.

Regards,

Jill Willis

4030 Longfellow Ln

Hudson, OH 44236

From: Celeste Fland <cfland@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:51 PM

To: Schlademan, Kate <kschlademan@hudson.oh.us>; Kowalski, Nicole <nkowalski@hudson.oh.us>; Bigham, Beth <bbigham@hudson.oh.us>; Sutton, Skylar <ssutton@hudson.oh.us>; Foster, Chris <cfoster@hudson.oh.us>; Chris Banweg <cbanweg@hudson.oh.us>; Karen Heater <kheater@hudson.oh.us>

Subject: City manager replacement

Hi,

I am writing to express my support of the council's decision to replace our current city manager. I am thankful for this change, particularly in light of current rising inflation and its domino effect on us all. I hope to see a new city manager who is focused on better fiscal management.

It is my hope that Councilperson Schlademan will read this into the record as she is the representative of Ward 1.

Sincerely,

Celeste Fland
Ward 1
Sent from my iPhone