

On Monday evening, in a stunning display of abuse of power by the Mayor, the North Bay Taxpayers' Association was prevented from making a presentation to council.

In addition, the Mayor made a number of false and slanderous accusations against me. These accusations were without basis in fact and in my opinion designed to attempt to intimidate me as well as divert attention away from the issues that the NBTA has been raising for the past two years.

Since its inception, a little over two years ago, the Mayor and council have consistently refused our invitation to discuss the City issues we see as problematic including numerous misleading and inaccurate reports being issued by staff and the financial nightmare known as the Mayor's Plan.

The Mayor and council were provided, in advance, with the details of Monday's presentation which spelled out the methods used by City staff to mislead council and public concerning the annual increases in the City's tax levy. This evidence, which was collected from City's records, is irrefutable and it appears to me may have influenced the Mayor's actions on Monday evening.

Additionally, our presentation at the previous meeting of council pointed out that wages and benefits for City employees (excluding the ABC's, Fire and Water and Sewer) had increased over 2.5 times the rate of inflation since 2010. The Mayor, who had been supplied with the details of our presentation in advance, decided that rather than address that issue would say we were inflating the numbers and the actual figures were \$944,000 lower than what our charts showed.

Our charts used the budgeted figures available at the time they were prepared. The Mayor used actual figures which are now available and are evidently \$944,000 lower. The recalculated wage increases using the lower figure indicate that the increases were 2.3 times above the rate of inflation rather than the 2.5 times previously indicated. Consequently, we stand by our original comments.

In addition, as the Mayor is surely aware, taxes collected are based on budgeted figures. By attempting to avoid the issue of exorbitant wage increases, the Mayor only succeeded in highlighting for taxpayers the fact

that almost \$1 million more than was required for wages was collected from taxpayers.

As our presentation pointed out, wages and benefits of this magnitude are unsupportable and unacceptable and it is high time that the Mayor and council started fulfilling their roles to protect the public interest in this matter instead of trying to discredit the NBTA by shooting the messenger.