

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader recently posted a commentary concerning the planned indoor aquatic center to be located in our small neighborhood Spellerberg Park.

There was an effort last year to vote for a properly sized outdoor pool and through questionable legal or proper means used by our city administration, it was defeated.

Even though our effort failed, we have not stopped caring about our neighborhood, park or city. The recent press conference at last week's city council informational meeting and now tonight's Item 36 continue to show the arrogance of this administration.

Where is the poll showing a 70% approval rating? Are your numbers based on the 15% of Sioux Falls voters who said no to an outdoor pool?

This Parks Department does not want anyone to be part of this plan that is not already part of their loop.

This project continues to be a moving target. Nothing is ever what it seems. The city controlled advocate education programs, in possible violation of state law, confused the voters with indoor pool plans, that cost us \$47,000, and there wasn't even an indoor pool on the ballot!

Okay we know your smoke and mirrors seemed to have worked.

Just like the Drake Springs Pool planning, the neighbors have been pushed aside. Is there an actual neighborhood representative on the Spellerberg pool planning committee? If so, who is it?

The indoor pool was to have a total cost of \$19.4 million. Once the vote happened it became \$19.8 and now we are being asked to approve \$23.7 million. This is a nearly 20% increase for what?

And that is the REAL question here. FOR WHAT?

We question the funding because the city has a track record of never telling us anything straight-up. Heck, city hall can't even tell it's own legislative body

what is going on, and when they do, the mayor scolds them for not having their own plan.

This pool is not being built with cash. We are using borrowed bond money required to be refinanced or paid back in a couple of years. You know, for those levees preventing 100 year floods. #10 on the Mayor's 2014 Wins list, for those of you following at home.

The parks department is postponing many projects to pay for this. I guess the parks won't get dumpster fences? What street won't be fixed because you want this pool? What happens to your tennis courts, we are losing our special ones.

So now we find out the previous drawings showing a 69,900 sq. ft. building and its already promised therapy pool, rec pool and more outlandish promises have been scaled back to 59,000 sq. ft.

A 15% decrease in size with a 20% increase in cost. Must have decided to go with a better siding contractor this time around?

What happened to the slides, current pool and outdoor splash patio? Why don't the change rooms even have toilets? Apparently, outdoor water activities have been eliminated? How much will it cost to add them years from now? Where in the world is the warming area for the sledders?

We continue to ask why we need another 50 meter pool to compete with the fantastic complex Sanford may be building on a very accessible street with plenty of parking planned. But if you are going to spend this much money, we are asking you to get our money's worth.

Oh, and one more minor detail, when will the city attorney ever get the promised certifiable quit claim deed answer from the General Services Administration and the Veteran's Administration so we do not build a facility the Federal government could seize due to city violations of the deed?

The city is running out of legal borrowing limits and options, why do we have to keep spending the limited credit card funds on more playthings?

Set a date of hearing and 2nd Reading for Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. for Item 36:

36. 1st Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SD, PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND CLARIFYING THE LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDOOR AQUATICS FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS (THE “PROJECT”).