

Knysna Politics Exposed

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29 November 2017 · 🌐

Monday's ordinary council meeting once again showed that the administration and political leadership are struggling to get to grips with concepts and policies. After various debates, a number of items on the agenda actually had to be withdrawn, due to them being inaccurate, inappropriate or ill thought out. Good governance still seems to be taking a back seat when it comes to issues of political expediency. The alliance between the DA and Councillor Waxa - if indeed it is an alliance - continues to drag the DA into questionable political decisions.

A brief explanation - each ward receives R350000.00 a year for capital improvements in that ward. Capital improvements should consist of improving the long term asset value of the municipality - for example - building new roads, play parks, storm water drains etc.

In addition, they receive R50000.00 for operational items - for example - parking attendant bibs, sports clubs, or worthy charities or causes.

It was revealed in the meeting, that councillor Waxa from Ward 4, has managed to get the mayor and Municipal Manager to agree to switching funds ear marked for capital improvements in his ward to buying R250000.00 worth of soccer kit. This of course is contrary to every budgeting principle and seems to have been agreed to by the mayor to buy councillor Waxa's political support.

Councillor Weideman, the new finance portfolio chairperson, revealed an astonishing lack of understanding as to what the difference between capital expenditure and operational expenditure was. This is the person who will

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Councillor Weideman, the new finance portfolio chairperson, revealed an astonishing lack of understanding as to what the difference between capital expenditure and operational expenditure was. This is the person who will take the reigns and guide the political input into the budget for next year - does the DA Knysna really think this is in the interest of the residents of Knysna? If councillors have such a lack of understanding and act against basic budgeting principles, how will we the public be safeguarded? Surely no matter what your personal feelings happen to be, you would want people who actually understand what they are doing to be giving the input and making the decisions. I think all political parties are guilty of putting candidates into position that they have no understanding of, and therefore have no right to be in. We wouldn't allow a motor mechanic to operate on a human being, not because he's not a good motor mechanic, but because he's not equipped for the surgery. Why then, do political parties chose candidates who are obviously so ill equipped to make these important decisions, which affect all of us.

The DA Knysna, have gone one step further, and actually removed the only councillor, with appropriate background, knowledge and experience of finance and governance. I saw first hand at the council meeting, an example of the consequences and we are only one month into this bad decision. I'm sure in time, I'll have even more examples to report on.

Noticeable by its absence was any report on economic development or tourism, which the mayor has taken personal responsibility for. It's now been approximately 5 months since Knysna tourism got it's funding, and there has been no information given to council or the public on that front. Is this proper oversight? Is this what is meant by transparent and accountable

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Come on DA/Waxa coalition, let's see you walk your talk.

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Margaret MacKay R250,000 for capital expenditure spent on football kits ?????? That is the most ridiculous thing I've heard. Can we stop this ??????

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1



Benjamin Daniels I also want a set soccer t shirt

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Trevor Wolf What is going on in this town is beyond belief! The DA are a total disappointment

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1