

A TAX INCREASE NEVER COMPLETELY GOES AWAY

NUMBERS COUNT! PLEASE JOIN US!

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OUTLINE OF CTC ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2002-2008

The Citizens Tax Committee (CTC) is a Yavapai county wide, non-partisan organization dedicated to fiscal responsibility of our leadership in our Cities, County, and State Governments.

- After the November 11th, 2008 election, the CTC Board invited our new Mayor Jack Wilson to layout his plans for the next two years. In that conversation Jack looked us straight into our eyes and told us “we are going to get a **Business License (tax) through this time**”. We were surprised, because we thought we had put that matter to bed five years ago.

When the Council first discussed this Business license (tax) in early 2009, most council members were in favor of it. **Members of the CTC board met with Council members and the Chamber of Commerce - we are now told again “The Business License is now a dead issue” - do to lack of interest by the Council.**

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- **March 22, 2006**, "Daily Courier" ran an article that explained in some detail that the **Council is contemplating a \$37.7 million public safety program bond**. This would include building a new Fire Station down town and relocating City Hall and the Police Station. The monies would be raised by raising the sales tax by .03%. If these estimates are as low as the Iron Springs Road expansion estimate then the true conservative coast would be closer to \$45 million.

Ten years ago the Fire Chief told us the, then to be built, new Fire Station would be able to handle anything downtown. So the existing downtown station was torn down and the land sold.

Now they want to build a new downtown Fire Station which would be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the best equipped station in Prescott.

They want to relocate the Police Department to Rose Cliff, City hall to the current Police Station and existing City Hall sold to the County.

CTC prepared a two page well detailed letter and met separately with several Council people and the Mayor.

At the City Council public meeting where a vote was on the agenda, for the bonding, and construction, **the motion was unanimously voted NO.**

- **April 5, 2005**, the **2005 Community Block Development Grant (CBDG)** request for \$328,520 was presented to the Prescott City Council. It was stated in the presentation that **this money was intended to be used to provide low cost housing for our essential services** workforce that cannot afford a new home in the City of Prescott. It was believed that after the expenses (including a full-time city employee), this grant would provide 23 new homes for these low-waged workers, that is \$11,000.00 per house.

CTC members have seen what a black money hole, providing low coast housing has been for other cities. **CTC wrote a letter to all council members and the Mayor** describing our concerns and making some suggestions.

The City chose to invest the money by expanding existing halfway house facilities for members of our community that are making an honest attempt at becoming productive citizens.

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- **Summer 2003**, the County Supervisors were contemplating a property tax increase to pay for a new Administration Building on Fair Street. **The new Administration Building would have been placed in the existing rodeo grounds' parking lot.** After studying the proposal, it became obvious that the new building would have a **severe** negative impact on the available parking on the rodeo grounds. The **lost** parking spaces would harm the ability of the rodeo grounds to host events such as Frontier Days and other equine events.

CTC mailed letters to members and others in the community explaining what the impact of the new building would be on the "Worlds Oldest Rodeo". We also pointed out that a substantial increase to the county in property tax revenue, had come about because of the greatly increased property values.

CTC's letter to members and others in the community generated enough calls that the **Board of Supervisors postponed the new building, and reconsidered the tax increase.**

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- **Fall 2003**, the new jail in Cottonwood was scheduled to open. The original bond had guaranteed the voters that all expenses had been included in that bond issue. It was

discovered that the operating expenses, including the personal salaries, had not been included in the original, all inclusive bond as promised.

The **County proposed a new \$6,000,000.00 sales tax bond** to be included on the March 2004 ballot. If the voters failed to pass this tax increase, the supervisors were intent on increasing the property tax. CTC drafted a letter to appear with the ballot notification

that quotes guarantees from the original Bond Statement and the newspaper articles describing the original bond promises.

The supervisors cancelled that item in the voting process, and found some “other monies” to cover the \$6,000,000.00. It was stated by a supervisor, “that CTC had nothing to do with their decision”. Six million dollars seems like a lot of money to find through a bookkeeping error (at least we would hope so).

- **Business License (tax) on each business in Prescott.**

May 28, 2003, the CTC Executive Board sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council formally requesting they withdraw their effort to establish the Business License (tax)

requirement, “before a business can do business in the City of Prescott”. The City responded by saying that the license was “a done deal” because no complaints had been received.

CTC distributed copies of that letter to members and businesses in the Prescott area. By the end of the second week, City Hall was deluged with phone calls protesting the Business License Tax. **City Council cancelled the business license proposal.**

Fall of 2003, as the new City budget was being reviewed, it became apparent that once again, the **Business License (tax) was being resurrected.** A chat with the Mayor assured CTC that the Mayor had no intention of bringing it up again.

7/29/2009