

Top Reasons Why Pengra Should be Fired

- 1. Job Titles:** Mayor Pengra won't disclose the job title info of Eagle Mountain's employees on Utah's transparency website as required by law. This makes it impossible for the city's citizens to compare the gross compensation figures of their employees with those in other cities.
- 2. Secret Credit Card Transactions:** On her campaign website Council Member Stephanie Gricius declared that all city credit card purchases should be made public. Despite Mayor Pengra's campaign promises to be the most transparent administration ever, the city under his leadership is still laundering its restaurant and clothing purchases through its Zions Bank credit cards and not disclosing them on the state's transparency website.
- 3. Megapark:** Mayor Pengra is spending about \$13 million to build his Megapark next to the Ivory Homes development in City Center. This money could've built the equivalent of 11 Neptune parks in our existing neighborhoods. What a waste of money!
- 4. Pili Raise:** Mayor Pengra gave City Administrator Ifo Pili a 10 percent raise even though he said the administrator didn't want it. In other words, he gave away an extra \$44k over four years even though the guy should've been fired for mismanagement of city funds.
- 5. Too Many Chiefs:** Mayor Pengra is still serving as a full-time mayor even though he has two full-time city administrators to do most of the work for him. Mayor Jackson, our previous mayor, justified all the full-time positions because she claimed she needed them in order to manage the city's natural gas and electric utilities. Now that Pengra has sold them, why hasn't the mayor gone part-time and/or reduced the number of city administrators?
- 6. Building Fraud:** Our city's building inspectors allow builders and developers to ignore the city's building codes, thus endangering the health and safety of the city's residents while increasing their repair and maintenance costs. Even after I exposed this gross incompetence and corruption, Pengra hasn't brought in professional inspectors to reform our building department.
- 7. Pengra's Salary:** City Code only allows our mayor to choose between two pay rates: part-time at \$27k per year or full-time at \$70k per year. Mayor Pengra paid himself \$70k in 2014. \$65k in 2015. \$50k in 2016 and who knows how much in fiscal year 2017.

In 2013 Pengra made a campaign promise to reduce his salary once his wife, Lianne Pengra, got full-time employment at Camp Williams. It appears that he might have done so in preparation for his re-election, but he never got council approval to receive a salary amount that is different than what is allowed in the city's code.

This extra-legal maneuver is typical of Pengra's actions in office. The law says one thing, but he just does whatever he wants.

8. Surplus Trucks: When the city sold its gas and electric utilities to Questar Gas and Rocky Mountain Power, respectively, the city inherited over a dozen relatively low mileage trucks and cars which would've supplied its vehicle needs for years. Instead of keeping these vehicles in its fleet, he sold them at auction and then bought new trucks for the city's employees. Presumably, he thought they were entitled to fancy new vehicles because this has been one of the perks the city has typically given its employees. Another monumental waste of money!

9. Wasteful Tree Purchases: In the last budget Council Member Tom Westmoreland championed a \$60k appropriation for new trees in the city and Mayor Pengra supported him. Why are we wasting more money on trees when we don't even take care of the ones we have?

Walden Park, the oldest park in the city which is right next to City Hall, has no shade trees after 20 years of management by the city. And every time a tree dies it is replaced with another tree that is equally ill-suited to the soil conditions in the city. Mayor Pengra and Tom Westmoreland waste too much money on new stuff when they can't even take care of what we already have.

10. Soaring Salaries: Under the management of City Administrator Ifo Pili the city's employee costs have rising dramatically. Mayor Pengra calls Pili a "super-star" administrator. That may be true from the employees' perspective, but certainly not from the taxpayers' perspective.

11. Outrageous GRAMA Fees: Mayor Pengra is a master of stealth. When pesky citizens want to uncover embarrassing facts about his administration, he will often use his regulatory authority over the GRAMA process (local equivalent of the federal Freedom of Information Act) to raise document fees so high that citizens can't afford them. In one especially egregious case, Pengra charged almost \$1100 for 1100 pages of statements and supporting documentation.

12. Sweetheart Deals with Developers: John Walden, the city's first developer, got a sweetheart deal in his master development agreement which reportedly allowed him to rezone his property at will. This kind of giveaway is unheard of in other cities because it allows developers to increase the density of their developments whenever they want, which inevitably produces more condos and townhomes, which inevitably attracts real estate investors who convert them into rental properties, which in turn creates transient neighborhoods where residents aren't invested in maintaining their homes.

In 2016 Mayor Pengra reportedly gave Ivory Homes the same right to rezone its properties that Walden received in 1997. Why?!?

13. CUP Water: In 2011 Mayor Heather Jackson signed a purchase agreement with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to purchase an additional 2,200 acre-feet of water that we didn't need. Our city's water bill jumped by approximately \$1 million per year. As of January 1, 2017 we hadn't made a single payment owed to CUP. Instead, we essentially defaulted and renegotiated our contract three separate times in order to "kick the can down the road" some more (Ifo Pili's words, not mine).

How can Mayor Pengra justify not paying our water bills while spending millions of dollars on a Megapark by the new middle school?

14. Poor Road Planning: The city has long known that a new middle school and a new high school would be built in the empty fields between City Center and the Ranches. To make matters worse, the city has also known that Ivory Homes would be building a huge development in the same area.

So why hasn't the city already expanded its narrow two-lane road into a proper four-lane road to accommodate the huge increase of new traffic in the area?

The city could've taken some of the approximately \$25 million it got from the sale of its utilities and widened this road long before the traffic started snarling. Now we are playing catch-up.

15. Youth Programs: For years city residents have complained about the city's inadequate youth programs and the director who can't run them properly.

Why can't mayor Pengra just fire employees who can't do their jobs? He is so loyal to his employees that he will doom generations of youth to inadequate opportunities instead of taking care of the personnel problems in the city.

16. HR Director: According to a leaked city email (see link below), Jessica Alvarez, the current director of the city's human resource department, was involved in a scandal in which a whistleblower reported finding out that some of the late fees on Alvarez' personal utility account had been illegally waived while she worked in the city's utility billing office. After the city administrator found out, Alvarez reportedly paid them back and was allowed to keep her job.

In this same email Alvarez was also accused of harassing a whistleblower who had turned in another employee whose utility account was allegedly over \$3000 delinquent but never had any late fees or disconnect fees charged to it.

Why would Pengra allow someone who is an alleged whistleblower harasser and potential thief to be the director of human resources in the city?

Link to leaked email: <http://eagleshare.org/pdfs/dev-utopia/utility-billing-dept-theft-annotated.pdf>

17. Secret Salary Surveys: During a recent controversy about City Administrator Ifo Pili's 10 percent raise Mayor Pengra often cited a city-produced salary survey as the justification for the massive raise. Yet no one outside of City Hall has seen this survey because the city claims it's a protected document. Rubbish.

The city's own employee handbook states that the secret salary surveys contain the following information: [include excerpt here]

Utah's GRAMA law specifically states that all of this information is public: [include excerpt here]

Why is Mayor Pengra hiding the salary surveys which have been constantly used as the main justification for raising our payroll expenses over the years?

18. Employee Meals: According to the Federal Office of Budget Management taxpayer money can only be used for purchases that have actual value to taxpayers. Although Eagle Mountain is not governed by federal law in this matter, the federal guideline should be adopted by the city because it is such a clear and reasonable standard.

Unfortunately, Mayor Pengra still uses taxpayer money to pay for employee meals that have nothing to do with their job responsibilities. The most egregious case are the meals council members get between their regular work meetings and the public council sessions that the public attends. According to state law, no official business can be conducted in this in-between

time because it is not an official meeting. This means it's essentially a private social event but the food is still bought with taxpayer money anyway.

To make matter worse, Pengra is still budgeting thousands of dollars every year for employees to have work meetings in area restaurants even though these meetings could more easily be held in the city's conference rooms.

And to make it even worse, Mayor Pengra has made it harder for citizens to learn of these "meetings" because employees now seem to be taking their own personal vehicles instead of using city vehicles as they did in the past. Presumably, employees are then given a mileage reimbursement, which is undoubtedly costs taxpayers more than if employees just used city vehicles that could be identified in restaurant parking lots.

Pengra has obviously directed this change in transportation choices to make it much harder for residents to embarrass his administration.

19. Inflated Garbage Fees: In early 2017 Ace Disposal lowered the fees it charged Eagle Mountain to collect the city's trash but Mayor Pengra decided to not pass along this savings to the city's residents in the form of lower fees on their utility bills. Thanks Mayor!

20. Rodeo Fraud: Mayor Pengra has negotiated at least three separate contracts with the city's Pony Express Days Rodeo Committee in which they were obligated to pay for the police, ambulance, and fire protection as well as all utility costs. To date, it does not appear the Rodeo Committee has ever paid any of these costs as contractually obligated. Could this be because Wendy Lojik, the owner of the *Crossroads Journal*, is one of the leading figures in the committee and Mayor Pengra wants to curry favor with the press at our expense?

21. Walden Swamp: When I first moved to the City Center area of Eagle Mountain I was entranced by one of the city's ecological wonders: Walden Swamp. Just east of Walden Park by City Hall there was a water catchment basin that was home to a large population of desert bullfrogs. During the summer rains the frogs would emerge from the muck and fill City Center with their melodious croaking. It was a truly special experience to listen to this amphibian symphony hidden among the rushes and cattails of the swamp.

But one day I came home from work to discover that Pengra had used some of the money from the city's utility sale to bulldoze the entire swamp and turn it into yet another grassy lawn, which no one can truly enjoy because they city still doesn't know how to plant shade trees and keep them alive. I know it was probably an inadvertent ecological disaster on his part, but I miss my amphibian friends that were ground into oblivion by Pengra's bulldozers.

(This doc was edited on July 27, 2017 to clarify point #16. A link to the referenced leaked email was also added so readers can judge for themselves whether the allegations have any merit.)