

## scott041825part2

### Transcribed

[Speaker 2]

I'm your host, The Man with the Golden Voice, Ted Whitsitt. And now, here's your host, Scott Spear. Thank you, ma'am of the Golden Voice, Ted Williams.

[Speaker 1]

Scott Spear's coming at you here on a getaway Friday, Friday, April the 18th, 2025. It is actually Good Friday, 18 minutes past the hour. We've got a big competition coming up later on this morning starting at 10, 15 a.m., but we're going to start the morning off with a big exclusive because as many of you know, yesterday during this program, we broke news to be sure. Audio of Mayor Bill Collins surfaced in which he was talking about Councilman Schaber. This was from a Treasury Investment Board meeting on December the 10th. I don't think the mayor knew he was being recorded until he tells us differently.

He's talking to Councilwoman Twyla Lang, and essentially what he's saying in this clip, it's kind of hard to hear, he's saying that he doesn't understand why Jason is blabbing his mouth about stuff he shouldn't. Then the mayor suggested that councilmembers begin holding executive sessions without Jason and even vote to exclude him entirely. Here is that 15-minute clip if you didn't hear it yesterday.

Take a listen. It's kind of hard. Yeah, Jason will not be blabbing.

Blabbing about stuff he's not supposed to blab about, like he didn't. The other members have to hold him accountable. And they can say, well, we don't want you in this executive session.

And vote to not have him in it if he's going to go out and tell everything. You know what? The big question yesterday was, what does Jason Schaubert think about all this?

Well, in his first interview, an exclusive interview here on WGH Talk Radio, we spoke with Jason last night. And if you want to know how Jason felt, here you go. Scott Spears here at Roosevelt Park, Thursday night, during the meet-and-greet Jason Schaubert had for 3rd Ward residents, as the primary is up and coming, less than a month away now.

Now, of course, the big news Thursday morning on the radio program, we got a little bit of an audio, 50 seconds, from a December 10th Treasury Investment Board meeting, in which Mayor Collins, and we'll play it again this morning, told Councilwoman Twyla Lang that Jason Schaubert, and this is the quote, blabs his mouth about stuff he shouldn't. He then suggested that council members begin holding executive sessions without Jason, and even vote to exclude him entirely. Twyla agreed.

So, now this is what Jason said in his post, and you can go and see the post if you like on the WGH page or Jason's personal page. The goal was clear, isolate me, keep me in the dark, and punish me for speaking up. Fast forward to April 10th, Mayor Collins sends an internal email to council members, not the public, proposing closing City Hall to the public after council meetings.

Why, indeed, is the question. We're here with Jason Schaubert for a few minutes to get his thoughts on all this. Now, Jason, you were listening to the show this morning when this all came about.

You heard what the callers had to say. What do you have to say? They wanted to hear from you this morning.

Here we go. I'm sure they wanted to hear. I want to hear from the parties that said what they said.

When you heard this, what did you think? What did I think? Well, it just confirmed what I already thought and knew, and I finally have it in their own words that they don't appreciate my questions, and so they on the fly figured out a way to try to silence me.

But they haven't really acted it out. I have not been excluded from any meetings, but information is very slow. Well, and here's the odd thing.

Now, this is where we come into play in this. Oddly enough, put me under oath, I did not know this audio was coming this morning. No, you did not.

I did not. Matter of fact, when I played it on the air, it was the first time that I heard it because I got it during the 830 hour, and while the next caller, I forget who the caller was, I decided to go to our archives, and wouldn't you know it, December 10th, the day of this meeting in which Collins says that you blab your mouth about stuff you shouldn't, you had been on my show that morning. We'd done the interview the night before at City Council on December the 9th.

Now, is this to be just a big old coincidence? What is a coincidence? This is just so happens the morning that you lambaste them for 50 minutes or tell your side of the story about budgeting and things of that nature going on in City Hall.

That same day, they don't like you blabbing your mouth. Hours later. I didn't see a coincidence.

I am, one of my superpowers is making connections and seeing patterns. So you believe that this conversation derived from the conversation we had the night before that had played that morning? Yes, I believe, I know the audio is not the greatest, but Collins said that there's other parts where, I live rent free in their minds, I'll tell you that, in this recording, and Collins said that I said something today.

So they had listened to your radio, so once again, we're outing your shadow listeners. So they

heard it, they made a reference to what Schaubert said today. So it's not a coincidence, it's directly a response from that interview.

So here's the problem, as you say in this post today, let's get to April the 10th, which was last Friday, an email goes out wanting to shut City Hall down after the meetings. Now, we get to Monday's meeting where I think we're going to have a discussion. You brought this up Monday in the meeting.

Collins is not there, so we really don't know his thinking on this. He authored this email, I believe. So we didn't get his answers, but the safety director did stand up, Rob, on Monday, and said the conversation had been had that morning in some meeting, that it's 15 minutes after the gavel bangs, it's not set in stone, but do you believe this is an outright assault on the media, which was suggested by a few and some people in the audience that night?

An outright assault on media, no. I think that when Collins has his chance to bring his case, it's all going to be about safety. And that's what they're going to try to twist this around.

But if you look at patterns and the connections, what did we talk about in our interview in December? Finances. What did I do during that meeting?

Do you remember myself getting up? Oh, this was the Facebook thing. Yes.

Yes, you were blocked on Facebook. That was that evening, too. And also your criticism of the Christmas lights bust, which he did not like.

I don't remember criticizing the bust.

[Speaker 2]

But you brought it up. You said you saw it, you were aware of it.

[Speaker 1]

He said, I'm not going to let you criticize.

[Speaker 2]

Right, yes.

[Speaker 1]

So again, they don't appreciate my questions. There's been a lot of questions asked between December and the last meeting, so I see it as a way to silence everyone to not ask questions. But here's, I guess, the question.

Oh, you really can't do this. I mean, on the whole, I don't think legally he can do this. So why are we here?

So the mayor, and you have to respect the position, has the oversight over City Hall and all buildings. So if the judge needs more space for probation officers or whatever, the mayor has to figure out where they're going to put them and provide the space. So the mayor can say, Council, you have courtroom one for X amount of time.

That's what is in his authority. Now, if you get down into Sunshine Lowes, I believe that doors can't be locked during the meeting. I don't know if Sunshine Lowes digged down as far as how much time the meeting space has to be available after a meeting.

I think that falls back to a decent conversation between Council and the mayor. Well, and that's, I guess, what I'm getting at here. It's my understanding that if an elected official is in City Hall after a public meeting, they would be the one who would make that call.

He's an elected official. I mean, is he going to throw out elected officials into the street? Well, so we don't know what their final plan will be.

So if we go at the 15 minutes afterwards, then I will request as an elected official, I need an office space. The mayor is responsible for providing me, or all Council members, office space. Or, if he wants the building closed quickly, or closed to public after the meetings, give us an hour.

I think we can do everything in an hour. What's the harm in that? Well, and also the second thing, the explanation that I've heard, is they don't want to pay the clerk an hour of overtime on Monday nights.

So, why can't a salaried employee stay? I mean, why can't people go out the police exit? I mean, this seems like a flimsy thing.

It's flimsy for several reasons. We're talking about overtime for one employee. The fix is to hire, or not hire, we already have the screeners, is to have them stay during the meetings.

There's no set time, there's a set time for start on our meetings, but not an end. So they could be there 3 hours, 4 hours, 20 minutes. They haven't had a 20 minute meeting in a while.

But, do the math. So, our clerk makes mid-20s an hour. Let's say \$25 an hour.

The screener, I believe, makes around the same price. Now, the way it is now, during the day, there has to be a special duty police officer there. That's \$35.

So, \$35 and \$25 is what? \$60? Matthew Pollack makes \$25.

So, our fix is, instead of paying time and a half, which would be what? \$32, \$37? Really rough math, but...

\$40 at most. Okay, let's go with \$40. \$40 versus \$60.

That's not math and on the west side. So, here is the big question. I can't imagine this will come up at the committee meeting.

Although, after this tape came out today, maybe something will come up at the committee meeting, if Collins is back. But, the next time council meets as a whole, you did request a discussion of this new policy. Yeah, I would hope, and after the meeting, I talked to the safety director.

And, I told him, I said, I'm not trying to be confrontational at all. I said, we need to have a discussion. I said, why don't you bring it before some committee?

And, I believe we left it at, yeah, that probably would be a good idea. Or, at least have more conversation. Whether it is publicly in a committee meeting or not, I don't know if that's actually what's going to happen.

But, we did part ways with the agreement that there needs to be more discussion. So, if somebody wants to speak out about this, because many people have said they want to. Should they come this Monday?

Should they come the following Monday? When do they need to come? I would never tell someone not to show up to a meeting, because you never know what's going to happen.

So, if they have some, I don't even know what meetings are going to happen for it to even apply. Because, to speak on a topic during committee nights, it has to be relevant to that committee. So, at this point, without looking at an agenda, I don't even think we've had them sent out yet.

I don't know what meetings, so it would probably be safe to say that if you came or come Monday, you could have the opportunity, or you may not, because there may not be the relevant committee meeting. Well, I guess, so, finance always meets. They're meeting Monday.

So, the question could be asked, why would you spend \$60 versus \$40? That would be a financial question, and it could open up to talking about the security and leaving 15 minutes after the meeting. And we've talked about this on the air, that, I mean, really, it isn't going to eliminate the media, because, aside from going outside to do the interview during the summer and spring, there's nothing stopping the media from getting up during an interview, which is what we used to do, before we started doing the interviews after and asking questions.

So, we'll have some really long meetings, and it'll seem a little grandstandish to do it in front of the audience, which is why we stopped doing that, but I guess we'll go back to that. And that's fine, but, so, what I see happening, and a little bit of it's been tossed around softly, maybe not everyone's picked up on it, but there is a rule of counsel that matters not only on the agenda, I think on any topic, rather, that one person has five minutes, and then, once that five minutes is up, everyone else has an opportunity before you can even get back up. So, maybe counsel will elect to stick to that time restraint, I don't know.

But that could be five minutes, okay, you have somebody else, they come up, and then I'm back for five minutes, or the star gets up for five minutes, whoever may show up, you know, the dispatch has been there in the last year for some unfortunate events, the television station came a couple times, I mean, if they want to get up, because they know they're going to be shown the door in 15 minutes, you could do that in five minute increments over the night.

Absolutely, absolutely, and it becomes a habit, so when there's a five minute question block, sits down, their buddy gets up, or the other news organization gets up, or whoever, that could go on forever. Well, and what we're going to get into is much like what they have in the press corps, somebody gets up and asks a question, you don't answer it, the next person's going to ask the same question, so you're eventually going to answer this question, or we're going to be there an awful long time. Right.

So hopefully it doesn't deteriorate down into that, because I don't think any media wants that, because we did do a, I remember getting up and doing that, and the idea was, why do this in front of the audience, it looks unnecessary. And I truly believe, because the safety director stood up, I don't think when they had their meeting, that what we're talking about even crossed their minds. I think that the group that met was solely focused on safety, and that's why I say when this is brought back up, that's all that's going to be focused on is safety.

Right, and I think that group is safety, but it's Bill Collins who wrote the initial email about safety. And that's what I don't know, I just drew some, or connected some dots, especially after what he said in that treasury investment board. I thought, wow, this is a pattern.

Well, let's wrap up with this, because I know you've got places to go. But this is, and we're outside doing this interview, so who knows, maybe this will be a trend coming up. But this is very important, because there have been a lot of things through Bill Collins' administration that people have said, this borders on illegality, you shouldn't do this.

But a lot of that has been dusted. We've had this conversation with five or six callers this morning, that it usually is, I didn't know about that, I'll do better next time, it didn't happen that way. There's audio here.

He cannot deny that he said to a council member in a treasury investment board meeting that he did not want you to blab your mouth about stuff you shouldn't. Now, first of all, what is you shouldn't? I don't quite understand that.

And then, suggested in that tape, which again, we'll play again this morning, if it's not already playing on the news reports, that council begin holding meetings without you, and that they would vote to exclude you entirely. Is that legal for a mayor to suggest that in a private meeting with you not around, off the record, and not even tell you about it? I don't know, just by the mayor having that conversation, the legality of that.

But if council would have acted on that suggestion, I don't think that would have went

anywhere. So what is this? Because this has caused more outrage than anything else he's done.

You know, on the bus, people, ah, why not, let's give it a try. On the, ah, no bids for people he knew or Bodine knew. You know, maybe that was a mistake, they're new to the job.

The blow-ups that happen, stay in your lane. Ah, knocking you off Facebook, all that social media, big deal. This is audio tape of our mayor of the city talking to another council member about excluding a council member from meetings, conversations, and basically saying, keep your mouth shut.

That, I've never heard, I mean, it's strange that you would say, I've never heard anything like that from a mayor's mouth, private or public. I, when I first heard this, I kept re-listening to it, and over and over again, I thought, just to try to put into context what he could be saying, to give a pass, but I can't think of any context that would justify saying that or wanting to do that other than to silence an individual because you don't appreciate them asking questions. Two final questions in this which I think are important.

Um, it's been brought up a lot. Nobody has called Bill Collins on the carpet in a major way, much like the auditor or treasurer were called on the carpet a couple weeks ago, about anything. Is he going to get called on the carpet for this audio?

Because I'm sure he's going to hear it at some point, or has already heard it. So are you asking me if I will take the people's time during a council meeting and ask him about a comment that he made in a meeting? Well, I think this is council business.

I mean, that's what he's trying to exclude you from. Right, and so I don't know how I would personally approach our full council meeting after I've been made aware of these tapes or this audio recording. I would hope that someone else would be troubled by it and take the lead and ask questions.

And the final question, where do we go from here? That's how you'll handle that. Where are we going to go with closing City Hall?

You have a reelection, a primary, coming up here in less than a month. The next council meeting, I believe, will be the last council meeting before the primary. Yes.

So this is it, to air these grievances. And these are not, I don't think anybody sees these as personal grievances. How can you effectively do your job if the mayor is conspiring four months ago with other council members to exclude you from things and now making some decree to get people out of the building?

Well, I think all the noise with that proves how effective of a councilman that I am because of what I do get done. Despite the fact, withheld information, I got a few emails in that are a month old, getting older, that are vitally important to something that I want to present because, in short, the city is in a financial crisis. And I know this is your last question.

I know. And we're going to go into another question. Not a long one.

I need information because, as a council person, I cannot. You usually end our shows with, what's the state of the city? And I usually say the trash is getting picked up.

If you ask me that again, I cannot say with confidence until I get solid information. And that solid information may make me less confident, but I cannot say that in December the same amount of sanitation guys will be picking up our trash. And this is something I would think you'd want to get out before the primary.

So this information, to me, is not just to toot my own horn to win a primary. This is information that will affect the entire city. So win or lose, I'm going to bring this out anyways.

It's coming anyway. Because it has to be dealt with. And no one's saying anything about it.

And everyone sees the same reports that I see. But not everyone has the superpower that I have of seeing patterns and drawing connections. Or they just don't want to answer the obvious.

So you are fearful that because of the city's finances, there may not be as many sanitation people at the end of this year as there were last year? I will say city employees. In general.

I don't want to scare you. That was just our usual exchange. What I usually say.

Trash is getting picked up. This is what my final question truly is. Monday, we got back to the bus thing.

Now, I don't want to go about the policies of the bus. I think it's an on-demand route now. It's a Thursday night.

I don't really know if the loop's closed. I'm not sure. But that's all what it is.

My question is, is the transportation director stood up in that meeting off a question that you said. And said that she had used 57% of her overtime budget. 57.5% I think is what she said. I think she even got that deep. And this is, this at the time was April 14th. That's nowhere near half the year.

And she's over her budget. Clearly. And I don't know how that would get less with this nighttime bus.

And especially an on-demand service. So, how is that a thing? And people were angry that nobody spoke at that point.

So, sometimes with my questions, there's tactics to bring things out. And to see what people hear. And you clued in on that very well.

There needs to be more questions to that. But why aren't the other council members picking up

on that? Is it they don't know?

Or they don't care? Well, it seems the finance committee, which I think would be concerned with that at some point. Is busy talking to the treasurer and the auditor about things.

They didn't seem to want to bring that. Which I would think is a major concern. It is.

So, in a previous conversation, I think with you on your show. You could not figure out how the bus is doing an extra route and nothing's going up. Well, we found out how that's possible.

They ran their overtime up. And they're holding back invoices. I don't know if they're internal invoices.

So, we really don't have a handle on what fuel they've used. So, until this other \$80,000 in grant money comes in. These things aren't being paid.

And, again, I don't know if it's paid to a vendor or paid internally. That's a little bit too deep in the weeds that I want to get into. At least right now.

But once those are paid, what's it going to look like? Well, and I want to say this for the audience's sake. And maybe you can shed light on this as we wrap up here.

As the lights come on over here in Roosevelt Park. The huge crowd. Huge crowd.

Huge crowd. The biggest one ever here. That's what politicians do now.

Hopefully nobody drove by and is going to come back on us on this. There was a bunch of honks. There was a bunch of honks and a bunch of signs.

In any event, the Transit Department. I have been told by somebody who was very high up in the Transit Department, who is no longer there, that Marion Area Transit never operated at a profit. Mayor Schertzer came on many times and used transit as the example of if the city lost its bond rating and lost grants, that transit would be severely impacted.

And bus drivers came to meetings with that. I heard Monday from the new Transit Director this year that transit has just money laying around. And that they're operating at some kind of a profit.

Now, how is that? I didn't hear that they have money laying around. They had extra money.

I don't know if you want to say it's laying around. What did she say, Matt? Do you remember how she put that?

She had extra money. I was sleeping. Oh, she was sleeping.

Well, there you go. I think there was somebody on council sleeping that night too, but I won't say who that was. But I think they had nodded off during that meeting.

But there was something to the effect of they had money to play around with. I don't know what the exact quote was, but they were not in the red. So that, to me, if that's said, that's somebody that's spending within their budget quicker than they should be.

So, overtime, for example. You're at 57% and you're in the first quarter. So that money's not really laying around as extra money.

It's the money you need for the whole year. I guess that's the only way I can explain how they have extra money, but I don't know. And correct me if I'm wrong here.

This is not a question. But just in that conversation where Julie Welch got up, she said, transit director, she said in that same conversation on April 14th that 57% of the overtime has been used for the year. That transit's loop service was a success with an average of 4.5 people per night. That they don't need any extra money for gas.