

The Council

by
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Cast of Characters

- Mayor:** A man built on a shaky foundation of painfully cultivated cliches and general apathy towards his position and it's purpose.
- Henry Taggart:** A somewhat bright upstanding young man with an unfocused generalized interest in government. an Idealistic boyscout ready to believe the best with no grasp of what he is stepping into.
- Boatwright:** A seething pit of impotent rage nested on a general hatred of people that aren't him.
- Wrayburn:** Wily and argumentative directly opposed to anything Boatwright stands for when possible and a lover of garden gnomes
- Viggs:** She has been on the city council longer than the mayor but instead of becoming apathetic has flourished in the small minutia of red tape and cultivated a cold heartless demeanor.
- Cooley:** Petty and vindictive as the small scope of her thinking allows. possibly soccer mom/sarah palin-esque
- Cameraman:** The somewhat uncaring camera operator for the council meetings. Often focusing on the wrong elements of action and generally sloppy and lazy with his work

Others to be played by one actor

Mary Alice Wattley:

Exceptionally nervous neighbor of Cooley

Leah Hunsacker:

A mafioso-like intimidating Attorney representing the AARP

Miss Wroth:

Super slick salesperson for representing the 5&2 corporation with no understanding of why someone would ever read a book.

Pearson:

Loves Jeezo, Hates the devil, LOATHES books.

Do Not Copy Or Reproduce ACT 1

INT. City Council Room -- DAY

(The council room contains a semi circular table arranged with five microphones to the back wall are the flags awkwardly placed evenly against the wall. The city seal hanging on the wall.)

(The council filters into the room and chatting and preparing various paper work as well as other random tasks in preparation for the meeting.)

(This continues for too long.)

(Everyone is set except Cooley)

(Just as she is almost finished Viggs gets up to pour a glass of water... detaining the start)

(Everyone is in place, the mayor clears his throat.)

(Wrayburn realizes she has forgotten her miniature desk sized garden gnome she rummages through her bag to find it and place it.)

(Eventually after an awkward amount of time the mayor speaks up.)

MAYOR

Welcome everyone. I ask that we begin the meeting as is tradition with an invocation presented by council member Myron A. Boatwright

BOATWRIGHT

Dear all-mighty creator god of the True Christian faith. As this country was founded in your honor, we- your particularly favorite of chosen people, humbly come before you today to ask for your guidance and strength. Guide us as we fight back the hordes that would sully the great freedom, beauty, and grace you have laid in our laps. Lead us towards the direction of your whims so we may avoid your divine retribution that so often you laid upon the world.

(MORE)

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BOATWRIGHT (Continued)

We ask that you keep your rainbow promise never to flood the whole of the world again, and if you do flood *most* of the world, let us be in that small section of dry land, as many of us can't swim. As always we ask that you smite the nonbelievers and those that would pervert your word **COUGH-Mormons-COUGH-COUGH** and prevent them from affecting the good works of this city, done in your name, and for your grace and honor. In the name of Jesus Christ risen son of the great Magical Sky-God, we pray. Amen.

ALL

Amen.

MAYOR

Very moving. I will now ask that you all rise for a particularly jingoistic pledging to the flag.

(They rise and recite the pledge in a disturbingly angry manner as though unfettered nationalistic zeal could be emoted through sheer willpower i.e. they hate-fuck lady liberty)

ALL

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(Pause)

ALL (Continued)

Except those that would disagree. Or fail to vocalize a generalized non-specific support of the troops in an aggressive unyielding manner, or make claims that would speak against our divine superiority in any and all matters here or abroad, with unwavering blind patriotic fervor and flag lapel pins for all.

(They immediately snap back to normalcy making generalized chit-chat as they gently settle into place.)

MAYOR

Thank you. Calling to order the June meeting of the City Council for Twenty-Ten, Mayor Matthew Willis Ponsford presiding I will now call role, Council member Wrayburn

WRAYBURN

Present.

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Council member Viggs

MAYOR

Present.

CLARA VIGGS

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Council member Boatwright

MAYOR

Present.

BOATWRIGHT

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Council member Cooley

MAYOR

Present.

FRANCIS COOLEY

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Gongsman Merthis... Gongsman Merthis
(pause)

MAYOR

Let it be noted that all council members are in attendance with the exception of Gongsman Merthis.

BOATWRIGHT

Where the hell is Merthis?

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MAYOR

I have no idea. Has anyone spoken to Gongsman Merthis?

FRANCIS COOLEY

May I state for the record, I feel exceptionally uncomfortable holding this meeting in absence of the Gongsman.

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CLARA VIGGS

I agree. This is most inconvenient.

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MAYOR

I understand your trepidation, I do, But my hands are tied.

WRAYBURN

I do hope there is a good excuse for this sort of shirking of responsibility.

(An intern delivers a small box and a note to the mayor then exits.)

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It's outrageous, an appointment to the post of...

MAYOR

Ladies and Gentleman, if we could take a moment to honor the memory of Gongsman Archibald Homer Merthis. It seems he past away this morning.

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Do Not Copy Or Reproduce (Silence)

FRANCIS COOLEY

He couldn't have waited another day?

WRAYBURN

It's a shame he had to end his career with such a black mark against his attendance record.

BOATWRIGHT

We're better off. The man could barely shuffle into the room much less perform his appointed duties.

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(examining the note)

That was probably due to the... "Pervasive bone cancer".

BOATWRIGHT

Hmm. Well he could have at least had the decency to step down.

Do Not Copy Or Reproduce FRANCIS COOLEY

Step down? Is that possible?

CLARA VIGGS

I don't think you can resign from that post.

Do Not Copy Or Reproduce WRAYBURN

Surely you can.

MAYOR

No, I'm afraid she's quite correct. We have yet to draft a proper form of resignation for the post of Gongsman. There is no procedural precedent for such an action and I wouldn't be comfortable creating one for such an out of the ordinary circumstance.

WRAYBURN

Still it might be prudent to draft some sort of...

Do Not Copy Or Reproduce MAYOR

Do keep in mind, the majority of the taxpayers --the people that pay our salaries and keep us in office, could be quite upset if they were to find themselves footing the bill for such a rarely used bit of legislation.

Do Not Copy Or Reproduce FRANCIS COOLEY

I, for one, appreciate your discretion.

CLARA VIGGS

Shut up, Francis.

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MAYOR
Can we approve the minutes of last months meeting?

WRAYBURN
I have a question.

MAYOR
Pertaining to the minutes?

WRAYBURN
Yes, I would like to make an edit to the record. Due to my case of laryngitis last month much of my statements were either transcribed as "creaking noise" or "Council Wrayburn frantically pantomimes as the council ignores her".

MAYOR
And what would you like to change?

WRAYBURN
I thought I might take the opportunity to translate my noises and hand gestures.

CLARA VIGGS
Into What?

WRAYBURN
Into English.

BOATWRIGHT
We didn't care then, why would anyone care now?

CLARA VIGGS
That is a very good point.

FRANCIS COOLEY
I agree.

WRAYBURN
But for the sake of the record, I thought it might...

MAYOR
I understand your interest in preserving the record of what took place, but quite honestly all I heard from you last month was unintelligible jabber and spastic gestures. To change the record so that it reflects anything else would be an inaccurate portrayal of the events.

WRAYBURN
Understood.

MAYOR
So, Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting as they are without amendment. All for.