

**Statement from Aaron R. Guenther  
Candidate for Alderman, City of Sheboygan, District 1  
February 7, 2023**

To the Citizens of Sheboygan:

As I have been knocking on doors and meeting people in my district, many ask what has happened with Todd Wolf and that he must have been fired for doing something wrong. I hope to add a little clarity and perspective here. If you are not aware, I spoke to the Common Council, including my opponent Council President Barb Felde, on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, asking why all this city business has been going on behind closed doors and demanded they tell us. I also provided a written request for open records, of which the city has advised me that they will comply with it. Yet, as of today, they have yet to do so. Both my speech and my request are shown below.

I see myself as the champion for open government. That's what I really care about. I despise liars, and what I see currently is nothing short of criminal. Today, Todd Wolf filed a lawsuit in Federal Court alleging such, which I highly recommend you read the complaint itself, case number 23-cv-149 in the United States District Court in Eastern Wisconsin. Todd will have to prove these allegations in court to a jury, and as I mentioned in my statement below, that's a lawsuit affecting my taxpayer money. It is my business what the Council does behind closed doors.

So, let me sum up.

Todd Wolf was fired for being a white male and pushing back against an agenda from some very left-wing individuals. He was asked to give them \$70,000 of taxpayer money for diversity training and refused. So, if that is true, let's call this extortion. The pretext for the firing by the Common Council went like this: An employee heard a racial slur and reported it to a director who then reported it to Todd. Todd informed the mayor, and nothing happened. Shortly after, Todd met with members of a diversity and equity group, who affirmed what Todd knew – that they wanted money and would publicly oppose him if he refused. Next thing you know, Todd is suspended. A mysterious investigation is started by a law firm hired by the city (lawyers are named in the suit) which reveals no actual wrongdoing, yet recommends Todd be reprimanded. The Common Council doesn't reprimand him, doesn't give him a hearing, and doesn't even tell him what he did wrong. They just vote to fire him, literally on the record, for *no reason*, which isn't legal (allegedly, he'll have to prove that in court).

This is the point where I come into the Common Council meeting and demand they hold their vote until *after* we, the citizens of Sheboygan, have an opportunity to tell our elected officials, our Aldermen, what we think about the situation, since it all happened in secret without citizens being told of anything official. What had happened was the mayor conspired with a reporter to leak information that made it seem like Todd Wolf made, or tolerated, a racial slur, when the mayor knew that wasn't the case. They issued a gag order on Todd Wolf and said publicly how horrible he is but that they can't talk about it. Both those things can't be true at the same time. The Common Council members powered ahead with the firing for no cause, thinking no one

would be looking. Even Alder Dekker at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting said it wasn't political but what he saw was horrible. Okay, tell us! We're adults! We can handle it! But they never did.

Fortunately, a federal lawsuit will have the force of law in discovery, and we will find out what happened. It will be too late to save Todd Wolf's job and way past saving his reputation. But you will see if you want to look. In the meantime, we, the citizens of Sheboygan, should have been told what happened but were not because it would reveal the truth. It's now going to cost the City of Sheboygan a lot of money either way; and it's an embarrassment.

The reason open government is important is to keep this kind of garbage from happening. If there are text messages, emails, and government records of collusion and illegal activity, it needs to be exposed. I don't think our open record laws go far enough, but they depend on honest and capable government elected leaders. Barb Felde, my opponent, the named defendants on the Council (save the two nay votes from *spines of steel* Joe Heidemann and Trey Mitchell), and this mayor deserve to be unseated in government by us, the citizens. Keep that in mind when you vote on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

-ARG

**Aaron R. Guenther Statement to the Sheboygan City Common Council  
January 9, 2023, immediately prior to the official vote to Terminate Todd Wolf**

Thank you, your Honor, Ms. President, Members of the Council.

I have no idea whether to make a statement in support of Todd Wolf or against him. Wisconsin Statute 19.81, Chapter One, states, “It is declared to be the policy of this state that the public is entitled to the fullest and most complete information regarding the affairs of government.”

And in Chapter Two: “All meetings of all state and local governmental bodies shall be publicly held.”

Wisconsin 19.85 (c) provides a personnel matter as a reason to go into closed session; it does not specifically provide confidential privilege here, statutorily. It is only IMPLIED.

Furthermore, what is clear by case law, if Todd Wolf has waived his confidentiality regarding defamation, then there is no privilege for a personnel matter. And he has, by making a statement publicly that he is a target of a political witch hunt. He would also provide you a waiver today to make the closed session notes public. We demand to know what happened.

Did Todd Wolf steal money? Did he abuse a child? Was he accused of sexual assault at the office? Is he a target of a witch hunt? The council has said nothing except that there was an investigation, and you want to remove him, and NOT for cause as a result of that investigation.

That sounds to me like you are exposing the City of Sheboygan, me, and my tax dollars to a lawsuit of which he will likely win.

First, I demand that you hold your vote to remove Todd Wolf until after the public can have input on this matter.

Second, I demand that you release the investigation, with or without his consent, to the public. We deserve to know.

Third, I demand you lift any alleged privilege and let the Council and the target speak about what HAS happened.

Tyranny is born in the dark. I fear oppressive government.

You are an embarrassment to my city. You know it, and I know it. And, you all know better. Now here is a legal request for what I just said on the record.

City of Sheboygan Common Council  
c/o President Barb Felde

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

Dear Ms Felde

This letter is to request the following records, under the state's Open Records Law (19.31-39, Wisconsin Statutes):

All closed session conversations, notes, and minutes, all text messages, email and other digital media communication regarding the suspension and proposal to terminate Todd Wolf as City Administrator.

Please be aware that the Open Records law defines "record" to include information that is maintained on paper as well as electronically, such as data files and unprinted emails. Wis. Stat. § 19.32(2).

Please also be aware that the Open Records law "shall be construed in every instance with the presumption of complete public access consistent with the conduct of governmental business. The denial of access generally is contrary to the public interest and only in exceptional cases can access be denied." If you deny my request, the law requires you to do so in writing and state what part of the law you believe entitles you to deny my request. Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(a).

The Open Records law states that you may charge for "the actual, necessary and direct cost" of locating records, if this exceeds \$50, and for photocopies. Please advise me before processing this request if the total cost will exceed \$50

As you know, the law requires you to respond to this request "as soon as practicable and without delay."

If you are not the records custodian for this information, please forward this request to the appropriate person. Also, please let me know if I can clarify or refine this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron R. Guenther  
2049 White Pine Lane  
Sheboygan WI 53083  
414.870.2512  
aaron@aaronguenther.com