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# Reflections *800*

We at the Press-Journal made a formal request to the City of Clarksville after a mess of a meeting from Sept. 8 raised questions about Sunshine Law violations.

The reason the Sunshine Law was created was to keep elected officials from making decisions behind closed doors when the public has every right to know what they are doing and why.

They, after all, are the stewards of the public's money, and because of that they have an obligation to serve the public's interests... not their own.

Because they are elected officials, they should be held at a higher standard and should go above and beyond to instill trust because they are representing the people who have elected them.

The public has a right to attend meetings, voice their opinions and question their elected officials when they believe something isn't exactly as it should be.

With everything that happened on Sept. 8 with the Clarksville City Council and given the fact that we were no longer receiving information

from Clarksville unless I specifically called and asked for it, I thought it prudent to make another formal request for information. A request was sent to the council during my first year here, but somewhere along the way with all the turnover at Clarksville City Hall, that request had been lost.

We have requested that Clarksville send us notice of all meetings at the time they are posted, that the city send us all minutes from all meetings and that the city forward all e-mail correspondence and other information allowed under the Sunshine Law.

Upon receiving the notices, we will use Twitter to get the word out immediately, and it will allow us, providing we receive the notice in time to get it in the paper, to notify citizens of upcoming meetings, as well.

Clarksville will still need to post its meetings in a designated place, and it will need to include time, date, place and agenda for the meeting, as well as the time and date it was posted and where it was posted.



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