



# Recall Rebuttal FAQ

***Q: Why did the City give away \$50,000 to a local brewery?***

A: The \$50,000 grant to Seven Brides Brewing, a home-grown Silverton business, was to provide upgrades to a building that had been vacant for quite some time. They have a partner business in the building as well: Vitis Ridge Winery. Their combined business has exceeded the benchmarks set in the grant application for the number of employees, and they have brought in substantial tourist dollars to the City.

***Q: Why did they give \$20,000 to a City Employee?***

A: The \$20,000 grant was to provide upgrades for an “incubator” operation for local small businesses. The building upgrades allowed a large second floor space to be partitioned into small offices for startup business. Yes, the building owner was a City employee, who met all the requirements for the grant.

***Q: What about that Website? Why didn't the bid go to a local firm?***

A: The \$25,000 spent on web site design services for the City was awarded to the only company that submitted a proposal. No local companies submitted a proposal, as they did not have the technical expertise for the specifications required by the City.

***Q: Why are they wasting money on downtown? Why don't they use that money for something else?***

A: Silverton has an Urban Renewal Fund that can ONLY be used for projects within the District, with the express intent of breathing new life into the business community. The money is not from the general fund. There is a City Council approved Downtown Master Plan that calls for the type of improvements included in the proposed design.

***Q: Now they want to replace our downtown trees with tiny saplings. How long will we have to wait for them to become real trees and not just twigs?***

A: The proposed design concept provides for new trees (not twigs) and also provides for new street lights, street furniture and bump-outs for safer pedestrian crossings at Main & Water. Local nursery stock trees that are balled and burlapped can be up to 4” in diameter at the time of planting, and more than 12 feet tall. The trees would be selected for desired mature size and recessed below the level of the sidewalk in tree grates to eliminate trip hazards.

***Q: Don't the majority of the business owners oppose any kind of modifications to this area?***

A: It is not true that a majority of the directly affected property owners and merchants on this block of Main Street are against this design. In a special meeting, a majority of them actually indicated a preference for the design that was approved by the Agency.

***Q: Won't the lengthy construction doom the downtown businesses? How will people be able to work with all that construction going on for months?***

A: The construction would not cripple businesses for months and would not put merchants out of business. The Agency has discussed possible ways to make any disruption to business as minimal as possible; such as construction at night, and doing the sidewalks on one side of the street at a time, among others. The Public Works Director said he would consult affected parties to hear their concerns prior to the start of construction.

***Q: Isn't it true that making downtown more pedestrian friendly will in fact create an economic wasteland?***

A: The design would not turn our downtown into a blighted wasteland. It would provide a comprehensive design solution that rejuvenates our infrastructure, and would endure for generations.

***Q: Doesn't the recall petition list some pretty damning facts about those Councilors?***

A: The recall petition is not factual, despite what the chief petitioner says. It is full of opinions, stated as facts. There is no spin being done by the councilors.

***Q: But aren't these councilors are always giving gifts to their supporters, at the expense of the common citizen, thereby driving our City into bankruptcy?***

A: The statement about "gifts to their pals" is simply not true; and the statement about the city going bankrupt is ridiculous.

***Q: But shouldn't we allow "democracy to take it's course" by allowing the recall process to move forward?***

A: We hope that you will not sign this recall petition; as we feel it is unfounded, full of falsehood and opinion, would be very divisive to our community, and would cost the city thousands of dollars. **Just say NO!**

**Provided by Silvertonians for Rational Discourse**