

In the Weeds

Securing a Grass-Mowing Contract in Stockton, CA

Epilogue

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The contract with Al Fresco proceeded as negotiated in October 2018. In July 2019, City Manager Kurt Wilson was fired in the middle of his contract by a unanimous 6-0 vote by Mayor Tubbs and the city council.¹ There were multiple reasons for the decision.

“Being cautious fiscally makes a lot of sense,” Tubbs said at a meeting in June 2019, one month before Wilson left Stockton. “But is this budget the best we can do as far as getting some immediate gratification?”² City Councilmember Susan Lenz, who was absent from the vote, said afterwards: “I’m all for being healthy fiscally. But [right now] you drive around the city, and you see places where the same issues are there from when I got elected.”³

As he left Stockton, Wilson wrote the following in a farewell email: “Recent changes in priorities, direction, and vision for the city present new opportunities for the next city manager to cement his or her own legacy. Hopefully, the long-term financial perspective will retain its rightful place at the forefront of city policies and decisions.”⁴

Endnotes

¹ “Mayor Michael Tubbs’ Statement Regarding Stockton’s City Manager,” *City of Stockton – Mayor Michael Tubbs*, July 30, 2019, accessed July 31, 2019, <https://imgur.com/a/O9RtPs1#1ToRTtv>.

² Roger Phillips, “Stockton City Council fires City Manager Kurt Wilson,” *The Stockton Record*, July 30, 2019, accessed July 31, 2019, <https://www.recordnet.com/story/news/politics/county/2019/07/31/stockton-city-council-fires-city/4575240007/>.

³ Phillips, “Stockton City Council fires,” *The Stockton Record*.

⁴ Phillips, “Stockton City Council fires,” *The Stockton Record*.