

CITY OF KENNEWICK
RESOLUTION NO. 89-60

A RESOLUTION CENSURING COUNCILMEMBER RICK SOPER FOR
IRREGULARITIES INVOLVING PUBLIC MONEY

WHEREAS, Councilmember Rick Soper took office on January 1, 1988, and has since his assuming office, been authorized to travel at City expense on various occasions, and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Rick Soper has traveled to the cities of Ellensburg and Seattle between October 5, 1989, and October 8, 1989; to Great Falls, Montana on October 18, 1989, and October 19, 1989; and to Florida and Arizona between November 2, 1989, and November 7, 1989, and has failed to properly account for the expenses of these trips, as more particularly described below, and, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON that the City Council finds that the following irregularities occurred:

(1) On August 5th Mr. Soper travelled to Ellensburg and Seattle and was issued an advance travel warrant of \$435.50 on August 4, 1989. He did not complete the report of his expenses until August 30, 1989, 22 days after return from his trip. He reimbursed the City \$40.87, the excess from his travel, by a personal check which was returned for insufficient funds and did not redeem the check until October 18, 1989.

(2) On October 18, 1989, Mr. Soper, in the company of Councilmembers Keene and Showalter, traveled to Great Falls, Montana and was issued an advance travel warrant of \$460.00 on October 17, 1989. He did not report his expenses for this trip and did not reimburse the City until November 1, 1989, and when he did report his expenses he overstated them by \$67.25.

(3) On November 2, 1989, Mr. Soper travelled to Florida and Arizona and was issued an advance travel warrant of \$749.00 on November 1, 1989. Mr. Soper did not report his expenses until November 21, 1989, and did not repay the City for \$649.07 in unused expenses until December 6, 1989. He further improperly charged \$502.39 in expenses to Shannon and Associates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City policy requires reports of travel expenses and refunds for excess be made within three days from the employee's return and requires that returns be verified under penalty of perjury, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councilmembers are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as are all other City employees and that the improper reporting and improper withholding of City funds constituted a misappropriation of public money for Mr. Soper's private benefit, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councilmember Soper is hereby censured for his conduct. Councilmember Soper is hereby prohibited from receiving further advance travel from the City and shall be reimbursed for legitimate travel expenses only upon vouchers supported by receipts.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON, this 19th day of December, 1989, and signed in authentication of its passage this 19th day of December, 1989.

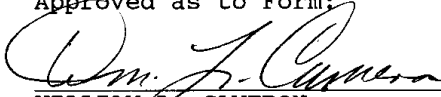
Attest:


M. A. PRICE, City Clerk


BRAD FISHER, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 89-60 filed and recorded in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Kennewick, Washington, this 20th day of December, 1989.

Approved as to Form:


WILLIAM L. CAMERON
City Attorney


M. A. PRICE, City Clerk