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September 15, 2025

City of Gallatin
Attn: Susan High-McAuley, Esq.
132 W. Main Street
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066
susan.high-mcauley@gallatintn.gov

RE: COUNCILMAN PASCAL JOUVENCE

Susan,

My firm represents Pascal Jouvence and I am writing to respectfully request upon his behalf that Mayor Paige Brown immediately cease and desist interfering with Mr. Jouvence's right to speak and present visual aids during Gallatin city council meetings. On September 2, 2025, Mayor Brown refused to allow Councilman Jouvence to use a visual aid during the debate of a question before the council. I have reviewed the video from this council meeting and it is evident that Mayor Brown has a misconception of her authority over the City councilmen, who are commissioned to act on behalf of their constituents through thorough deliberation and voting. Councilman Jouvence has made multiple efforts to address this issue with the mayor, including attempting to accommodate Mayor Brown's unreasonable and illegal request for him to have his visual aids approved by her. It appears at this point that Mayor Brown is intent on continuing to abuse her power and given such, I have enclosed a civil action which I am prepared to file if you are unable to convince Mayor Brown that she does not have the right to dictate the debate and method of debate so chosen by the members of the city council.

As elaborated upon in the enclosed civil action, the city council is the governing body of the City of Gallatin and no one member, including Mayor Brown, can interfere with another member's duty and responsibility as outlined in the law to deliberate during the council so that a proper vote on the question at hand can be made. This is a fundamental attack on the council's function under the city charter. Further, it is fundamental attack on the principle of separation of powers. Mayor Brown plays a very limited role in the legislative process as she represents the administrative branch of the City of Gallatin. Mayor Brown's intentional efforts to affect the outcome of an issue before the council by attempting to silence one of the members is a major breach of the separation of powers and is in violation of the City Charter.

The mayor's unlawful interference with the legal duties of Councilman Jouvence was demonstrated on September 2, 2025 as to the debate and passage of Ordinance 25-0741. Clearly,

Mrs. Susan High-McAuley, Esq.

February 14, 2025

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Mayor Brown wanted the townhomes to be approved and she was fully aware that Councilman Jouvence's visual aid would demonstrate that the townhomes were incongruent with the area and thereby advance his efforts to defeat this ordinance. The Mayor's motivations are demonstrated by the undisputed facts: 1) Mayor Brown is an unabashed supporter of any development in Gallatin (indeed she supported another ordinance on September 2, 2025 approving apartments); 2) During Councilman Hayes comments about the ordinance at issue, he specifically asked what was surrounding the townhomes, thus, proving conclusively that Councilman Jouvence's visual aid would have been productive in the deliberations on this matter; 3) Mayor Brown did not object to Bryan Rose using visual aids in addressing the ordinance at issue. Notably, Bryan Rose is the city planner and, therefore, is a subordinate of Mayor Brown. This last fact highlights the impropriety of Mayor Brown's actions as it demonstrates that she is actively attempting to unlawfully affect the outcome of the vote by allowing members of the administrative branch to use visual aids, but not members of the legislative branch.

The deliberations of the city council are essential to the council's duties and responsibilities to the citizens of Gallatin. Members of the council are elected by the people to pursue the people's collective will, not the will and desire of the mayor. This is the essence of our representative form of government as set out in the City Charter. Given such, if we cannot reach a resolution to this matter in the next week, I will file the enclosed civil action, which is a Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief. Specifically, the civil action will seek a declaratory judgment that Ordinance 25-0741 is void as it was not passed pursuant to the City Charter as the council was not allowed to fully deliberate the matter and Councilman Jouvence was prevented from deliberating and voting. Additionally, the civil action will seek an injunction preventing such actions by Mayor Brown preliminarily and permanently.

I look forward to hearing from you within the next five (5) business days.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kirk L. Clements

KIRK L. CLEMENTS

Cc: Client

Enclosure