

February 28, 2014

Memo to: Jeff Smith
Member of Mississippi House of Representatives
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee

From: Bill Lawrence
Mayor of Caledonia

RE: Your letter of February 17, 2014.

The following statements are with reference to your above mentioned letter. I have referred to each of your 6 paragraphs by noting the paragraph number/s to the left of each statement.

1: In my first term and including the current 4 year term, I have/will always apply for any grant money available. Your second sentence is incomplete but I assume you were going to say I did not want you to get any credit for anything you did for Caledonia. That could not be any further from the truth!!!

2 & 3: Caledonia does need many infrastructure improvements. However, the elected officials of the town should make decisions on which improvements to address first. I congratulate you on your chairmanship of the "Ways & Means Committee" and welcome your help on any grants for which the Board of Aldermen apply.

4: I acknowledge that you are going to continue to do all you can to help your home county and look forward to your working for Caledonia. Anything you can do for the town will certainly be appreciated. I will give you "All the Credit" for anything you do to improve the quality of life in Caledonia and the surrounding area.

5: My family and I do not dislike you and certainly hold no animosity towards you. Thank you for remembering my father, Ozzie, and his love for the St. Louis Cardinals.

6: The Town of Caledonia does not "have to accept" any grant or award for which we do not ask or apply. It is our intention to apply for the "Small Municipalities Grant" for the purpose of improving Ola J. Pickett Park. Grant funds would be used in the park for lighting, streets, sidewalks, new restrooms, etc.

Jeff, we do not need nor do we want new lighting on Main Street. The current on site lighting is only about 4 years old and is quite adequate. Caledonia does not have an electrical department and would not have any means to maintain subject lights.

Referring back to paragraph 3 of your letter: Should you decide to "use your influence" and get the above mentioned grant request approved for our park, I will certainly "Sing your Praises". I will also ask Bryan Jones of the *Packet* to do a story on the park expansion and improvements, giving full credit to you and the "Ways and Means Committee".

cc: Caledonia Board of Aldermen