

Opinion: Ex-SLT city manager on the outs in Wash.

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the Nov. 6, 2015, Yakima Herald-Republic. Tony O'Rourke was city manager of South Lake Tahoe before leaving in 2012 for the Yakima job.*

Tony O'Rourke wants out of Yakima. The city manager has put in for at least two out-of-state positions. His house is on the market. He even said so – at a City Council executive session that violated state law, the legal point having been acknowledged by the city attorney.



Tony O'Rourke

But then, in a huff of hubris that careened into denial, O'Rourke rescinded his resignation, a move that sparked unprecedented exasperation and anger at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. The emotion-fraught verbal fracas fittingly corresponded with the flow of Election Night ballots for a new City Council that, apparently, will have to sort through a mess of the current council's and city manager's making.

We do know that the next City Council will have four new members among its crew of seven; what we don't know is whether O'Rourke will be the city manager who reports to them.

He shouldn't be. When Jan. 1 comes, Tony O'Rourke should be gone. If he isn't – and the current council shows few signs of being up to the task – the new council should perform this

dirty yet dutiful task.

Read the whole story