

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Mick <qwakwak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:54 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** City manager evaluation

Mayor and Council members,

When you consider the performance of Jamie Goldstein, keep this in mind - CAPITOLA DESPERATELY NEEDS A NEW CITY MANAGER!

During my time on the city council and planning commission, I had the opportunity to work with every city manager from Ryder Ray thru Jamie Goldstein, except Rich Hil, although I knew Rich as an engaged citizen. My opinion is based on my 33 years of close interactions with Capitola's city managers.

Jamie entered the position with the least experience of any of the past city managers and it has been obvious during his tenure. His tenure has been marked by an absence of creative ideas to improve Capitola. Unfortunately, no one on the council except Susan has any experience working with really dynamic city managers so council members aren't aware what can be accomplished with a creative city manager. As a result, you've been satisfied with mediocrity.

The mall was still thriving in 2010 when Jamie was appointed city manager. As it began a slow death shortly after Jamie's appointment, he failed to engage the mall owners over the next several years and / or present any ideas that could have incentivized Merlone Geier to improve the mall as a shopping destination prior to the pandemic. He is partly responsible for the demise of the mall and the lost revenue - he is Capitola's Nero.

Capitola has gone backward under Jamie's leadership - from the richest city (per capita) in the county at the beginning of his tenure to the poorest. Revenue is flat and budget deficits loom. Streets are some of the worst in the mid-county area and will probably get worse as budget problems loom. I challenge you to come up with one original creative idea that made Capitola better for residents that Jamie has presented that isn't related to repairing or rebuilding something that already exists.

In the recent past, Jamie tried to undermine the will of the residents in his behind the scenes communications with the RTC regarding the rail-trail in Capitola; he has pushed many of his responsibilities onto other staff members; he has violated state law by changing the community center restrooms to gender neutral without council approval and lied about it in communications. The city clerk confirmed that required procedures weren't followed.

Capitola can do so much better. A young, dynamic, creative city manager, not someone looking to retire here, can work wonders for Capitola. Finally, the city should adopt a policy requiring the city manager to live in Capitola.

Mick Routh

Sent from my iPhone