

GOOD EVENING,

Comments by Mary Taylor

**THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ITS CITIZENS**  
**To provide Overall Quality of Life within the Community**

**1.) PROVIDE ESSENTIAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

- GENERAL PUBLIC SAFETY -police, fire, emergency services
- INFRASTRUCTURE: Maintaining local roads, public mobility systems, managing waste and utilities (water sewage, garbage collection)
- Education Overseeing and often funding local schools through school districts
- Recreation and Parks Maintaining public parks, playgrounds, recreation programs, libraries

**2.) MAINTAIN ORDER AND SECURITY**

- Enforcing Local Laws/Ordinances -zoning, building codes, public health standard
- Maintaining a Justice System

**3.) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Zoning and Land Use
- Community Development, fostering economic development, support local employment

**4.)PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**5.) UPHOLDING CITIZENS RIGHTS AND PROMOTING DEMOCRACY**

- Promoting Civil Liberties
- Transparency and Accountability: Providing public access to information about local government and holding officials accountable for their actions
- Facilitating Citizen Participation: Offering opportunities for citizens to engage in decision making processes through public meetings, advisory boards and other forms of community engagement

*Local governments act as the primary providers of the services and regulations that shape the daily lives of residents, impacting everything from safety and education to infrastructure and the environment.*

*I can speak for many people in town when I request prioritizing the budget list with number one, all about maintaining town streets, traffic safety control, and planning for substantial increased demands, due to our imminent population explosion. In the past three years Lake Park has promoted and paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for a mobility study and a Park Avenue Road Diet study, and held numerous public workshops. Where do these projects stand tonight? Have grants been pursued, will the projects be funded in the new budget? In light of citizen's nascent interest in the future of their home town, I am requesting Saturday Workshops to answer these questions and discuss the wide ranging important issues, of PROVIDING ESSENTIAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES and facilitating citizen participation by conducting surveys of resident interest/opinions before initiating big ticket projects in the future.*

**Effectiveness relies on close interaction with the community and responsiveness to local needs.**

**WE CAN'T KEEP STARTING OVER, FOLKS!**