

## City Clerk

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**From:** Pete Badour <pete@theislandhouse.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 5:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Special Meeting 8/14 - Written Questions

Good Evening:

I was informed that questions could be submitted in writing to be asked at the special meeting. I am hoping to share my recent experience with the Mayor and council members before they consider any decisions.

I have been a member of the community here on Mackinac Island for 14 years. I have a daughter that attends the public school. I volunteer for as many things as I can, mostly offering my time to the Mackinac Arts Council, and more specifically the community theater program. I ran Music Mondays to provide an outlet for musicians in the community this winter. I am General Manager for a property here and have worked at two other properties in the last 14 years often having a pass provided to me for free by my employer or the boat lines directly.

I attended the last special meeting via zoom and listened to every word. I heard that the VIP Hotel Passes would not qualify for the "free" transport service in the winter and would be responsible for the \$5 surcharge ticket. I understood that, because that is how it has been for the last several years. I also heard that we would convene at a special meeting this Wednesday to answer questions that the community and the council had proposed to Chris and the Hoffman team. At some point, from that meeting to the morning of 8/13 it was decided that Sheplers would no longer honor the "VIP Hotel Pass" and I was turned away by Chris Shepler himself stating that I could purchase a ticket with Sheplers or ride Starline, which didn't leave for another hour.

He stated that "We aren't doing anything illegal, but just going by the charter" even though I wasn't questioning the legality of his decision. What I was questioning was the morality of his decision. We all know that there is a gray area with this transition, in fact I was able to use the same pass the night before to depart the Island, whether it was their policy or not, I was given a ticket. I would have thought that Chris would have said something along the lines of, "I know that we have our special meeting tomorrow and it will be announced that these are no longer accepted, but let us work on a solution for you Pete as the pass was given to you as part of an agreement by the company we now own." Instead, I was turned away from the Shepler Ferry, and for the first time in my 14 years here I felt like a hostage in my own community. A hostage to the ferry company that I will soon have no other choice but to take.

With that being said, my question for the Hoffman team is, why will they not honor this pass? It was something that was given to me by a company you all own and are looking to stop service in less than a week if council approves it. What is my solution to ensure that my wife and I can leave the Island as needed, as agreed upon by a company you own?

Thank you,

Peter Badour | General Manager  
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