



# Elect Republican **Bill JOHNS** for FARRAGUT MAYOR

Town of Farragut elections are non-partisan / Election Day is Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> / Early Voting is July 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

First and foremost, I appreciate once again the readership’s patience and flexibility with another full-page advertisement but since I am not on social media, I would like to share a few more perspectives since last week’s issue of this newspaper. I also want to personally thank everyone who is striving to make each day better in our community and everyone who wants to make Farragut friendly again.

– Bill Johns

During the past week, there were many additional bad faith activities waged against my election but the one that spurred my motivation to revisit the official misconduct statute pertained to a senior level Town of Farragut employee’s “significant other” contacting me under false circumstances in a phishing exercise to interfere with my campaign. This is unethical on so many levels and once again supports that there has been a leadership failure (elected, appointed, administrative) at Farragut’s town hall. The culture of “protecting the few” versus serving “we the people” has been loud and clear not only for this election cycle but for a very long time as seen in some elected/administrative actions, process inconsistencies, and abuses towards the public’s trust. Simply stated, we have a very immature, toxic, and “self-preservation-oriented” culture that has been detrimental to our community’s progression.

I am a no-nonsense type of person based on my background, experiences, and values. With that being said, I am just going to be honest and direct with my fellow Farragut citizens. There is a reason why the third point of my platform is to “build trust and confidence through transparency and ethics”. No matter what happens after August 4th (election day), our community will still be here. Secondly, whether I am elected or not, the citizens of this community must take back their representative government and this starts by bringing in outside third parties (Tennessee Comptroller, TBI, etc.) with statutory and regulatory authority to examine how our community is managed. There is plenty of cause to do so. We the people must act by seeking assistance and it should begin shortly after the election of our Knox County district attorney.

Unlike private citizens, public officials (elected, appointed, administrators, employees, outsourced attorneys, etc.) are to be held to a higher standard. There is something called official misconduct in Tennessee, **T.C.A. § 39-16-402(a)**, and it is usually associated with obtaining a personal benefit at the public’s expense or not fulfilling one’s official duty. Elected officials and public administrators know of this law through their education (CTAS, MTAS, holding an MPA, etc.) and/or through their designated community’s attorney/ethics officer. Official misconduct, a Class E felony, has occurred in our region with a former Knox County chief of staff (using a golf cart), Knox County trustee (lying to gain bonuses), Knox County staff (misuse of purchasing cards), Lafollette mayor (using equipment and staff on private property), Ashland City mayor (using lawnmower and tools), Bristol police officer (using a database for personal reasons), and Kingsport community director (conflict of interest) to name a few.

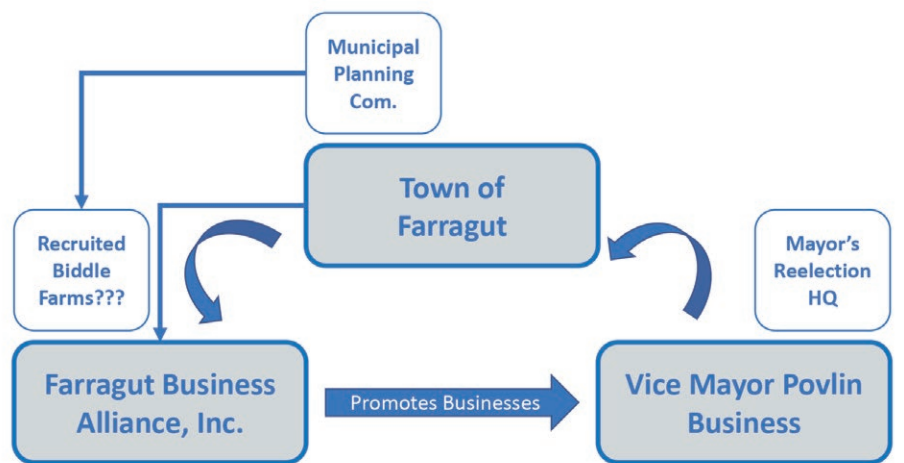
One of the most brazen examples of official misconduct occurred on this past April 20th at the WOW Expo. This official misconduct was not hidden at all, it was a direct benefit to my opponent, and was also supported by Vice Mayor Povlin and our town administrators (perhaps other employees / elected alderman as well). There was active campaigning utilizing Town of Farragut assets and equipment, personnel, and fees. The event guide listed the “Town of Farragut” as “Booth #5”. Although another candidate (#75) and political club (#84) paid to have their own booths, my opponent used the Town’s assets instead for his personal benefit. Vice Mayor Povlin and our town administrators failed to act to correct this when visiting or working at the booth.



There has been a pattern of questionable activities for some time including failure to properly notice the public on activities, curtailing citizens’ free speech, giving preference over proper public administration, and using public resources for private benefit. Likewise, the infamous March 24th BOMA meeting should be examined again by third parties regarding Vice Mayor Povlin’s nontypical research into a political rival (mayoral candidate) and his opinion counter to her views and my opponent; as there seems to be a familiar pattern.

Vice Mayor Povlin and my opponent have a very collaborative relationship as recently discovered in my opponent’s financial disclosure. Professionals looking from the outside may see this to be a conflict in aggressively backing a fellow voting member of the same governing body. Both my opponent and Vice Mayor Povlin serve on the Municipal Planning Commission together and are also fellow board members as seen on the Farragut Business Alliance’s website (although Povlin is not identified as an elected official).

The **FBA is a not-for-profit corporation, 501(c)(6)**, but is basically an “assumed name” (doing business as) of the Town as the TOF funds most of it including its executive director’s compensation. The FBA executive director compromised his neutrality once he signed the petition of my opponent and became politically active along with other FBA board members on non-business trade initiatives. This along with other activities may jeopardize the 501(c)(6) designation. Regardless, the FBA’s activities should be reviewed as part of the third-party audit from the Tennessee Comptroller in terms of its funding, activities, the Biddle Farms project, and potential direct/indirect benefits being delivered to the Vice Mayor and my opponent. **Please see the graph at right for simplicity.**



It saddens me that these are real issues facing our community and from a public administration perspective, I am bewildered by such troubling activities for such a small bedroom community whose policy makers are unpaid volunteers. Whatever happens after election day is nominal as the priority is to restore “we the people” back into our local government. Please do your part in the protection of our democracy and thank you for your support and attention to these matters.

**PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING is JULY 15TH - 30TH and ELECTION DAY is AUGUST 4TH.**

[www.BillJohns.com](http://www.BillJohns.com)

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