

### **JohnA commenting on Mayor Steve Widmyer's early popularity 3.20.14:**

Mayor Bloem did well in her tenure but one can't forget that she benefitted greatly from the policies put in place by Mayor Hassell. Urban renewal funded the projects that happened during her time and that came during Al's term. Impact fees on new construction (the first city in Idaho to implement them) meant growth paid for itself, with millions for infrastructure, and that came during Al's term. Franchise fees and highway user fees (instead of property taxes) paid for arterials like Ramsey and NW Boulevard and that came during Al's term.

She did right the ship from her predecessor and that was remarkable. But, Mayor Widmyer also inherited a large and unhappy resident base. No matter how anyone felt about the recall, those feelings simmer just below the surface. That means he has some big issues to deal with, including salaries at city hall and what the future holds for LCDC.

I think he'll do well because he has a positive and professional management focus, which will come in handy in the months and years ahead.