

Editorial

A true culture of equality?

Most people in present-day, enlightened society are at the very least careful to pretend that women are considered equal.

It appears as though the upper echelon in Snohomish is no exception.

Women fill power positions there. They speak on issues, receive copies of public papers and hold interesting titles.

But a recent Snohomish City Council meeting leaves one to wonder just exactly how inclusive the culture at the city is, and how equal a woman's voice is inside its brick and mortar walls.

When Liz Loomis, Snohomish councilperson, asserted her displeasure at City Manager Bill McDonald, who changed an item on a request for funds for teen recreational services, she was interrupted and sternly corrected by Mayor Jeff Soth. Loomis spent the next day apologizing to everyone she ran into. Yet, when Soth decided Councilman Chris Lundvall was "out of order" for asking for clarification on a consent agenda item without first removing it from the agenda as parliamentary practice requires, no apologies were uttered or implied.

And councilwoman Sue Murphy hardly speaks at all during meetings.

Maybe this observation is simply coincidence. Maybe Murphy just has not had many concerns during regular meetings. Maybe Soth apologized to the council after the meeting ended. And maybe professionalism and consideration are expected equally to and from Snohomish leaders.

Or, maybe Snohomish citizens shouldn't judge a book by its gender-inclusive cover.