#### Page 4 Friday, August 25, 2017 The Observer/Enterprise ...Political Profile

(continued from previous page) Unless restricted by state law, each council member is entitled to vote or abstain on every question decided at a council meeting, and has parliamentary privileges in council meetings-including the right to speak and make motions when recognized by the chair and the right to introduce new ordinances and amendments to existing ones.

Though foremost importance, lawmaking is just one of many functions councilmembers perform. They also wear several other hats, which one writer describes as follows:

H Regulator—The council exercises regulatory powers over the conduct and property of its citizens. It has the power to declare certain conduct to be criminal, to require that certain businesses and activities be licensed, and to tell property owners how and for what purposes they may use their property.

H Financier—The council may levy taxes, assess fees and charges, and sell bonds in order to finance the many functions of the city government. The council also has to budget the expenditure of the city's funds, and then explain to the people why municipal government is a bargain compared to the price of rampant crime, fires,

disease, and all of the other problems that would flourish without proper city services.

H Employer—The council is responsible for all of the city's employees, and must see that they are adequately paid and provided with decent working conditions and fringe benefits.

H Buyer—The council is one of the biggest purchasers in the community, and must see to it that the city gets the best value possible for dollars spent.

#### ...Letter to the Editor

(continued from Page 2) Lincoln, who was actually more politician than statesman, did not issue his Emancipation Proclamation until 1863, two vears after the war had begun. It emancipated no one; it only "freed" the slaves in the states where he had no jurisdiction. In 1863 he illegally split the state of Virginia, without a vote of the people, in order to admit the state of West Virginia into the Union-- as a slave state. He exempted from the proclamation the parts of the South that had been re-conquered by the North; for example, slaves in New Orleans were confiscated as contraband of war and forced to work for the Union. And four states—Missouri, Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky-were left in the Union as slave states.(Why does no one see a double standard in all this?) Slaves were not freed in actuality until the passage of the 13th



Color Run! The Robert Lee Junior High Cheerleaders sponsored a 5K Color Run and 1K walk on Saturday, August 19. By these smiles, it appears the event was a success.

Amendment in 1865. The 14th Amendment took citizenship of anyone who served in the Confederacy, and they could only have their citizenship restored by 2/3 vote of Congress. As a result nobody in the south could vote except Blacks (who in most cases lacked education), and Northern carpetbaggers. And, by the way, the 14th Amendment, under the guise of protecting the newly freed slaves, effectually changed

the rest of us from being "free"men being "subjects" (Sec. 1, 14th Amendment) of the U.S. Government (replacing Art.1, Sec.2, PP.3. Read it.)

My ancestors (none of whom owned any slaves) proudly fought for the South. Some of them moved from Georgia to Texas after the War to escape the ultimate humiliation of reconstruction. Even President didn't reconstruction. General Robert E. Lee, along with anyone else who fought for the South, was denied from being a citizen of the country after the War. He was finally re-granted his citizenship by President Gerald

Ford, over 100 years after his death. People want to take the "moral high ground"and pretend that history didn't happen. But the truth is, if Black people hadn't been caught (by their own people, incidentally) and sold to Northern ship owners who delivered them to wherever they would bring the most profit, their descendents would have been born in Africa instead of in the Land of Opportunity. Slavery is wrong, whenever and wherever it happens. But the South didn't invent it; people have enslaved others since the beginning of time. We have been fed a diet of fake history and revisionist propaganda until we now have generations of people who have no idea of what really happened.

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