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Show some respect

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SOME TYBEE City Council members need to grow thicker skin.

It's not always easy being an elected official. Those who take the oath of office in effect agree to become the public's complaint department - handling all the issues that harm quality of life with limited funds and little thanks.

But that's the job. Those who are elected agree to serve not only the constituents who think they hung the moon, but also those with whom they disagree, sometimes heatedly.

It is incumbent upon these public servants to perform their duties with grace, dignity and humility.

Unfortunately, those three commodities were in short supply at Thursday's Tybee City Council meeting. Council members Eddie Crone and Wanda Doyle were simply wrong to walk out on the proceedings, refusing to hear out the concerns of residents over changes to Memorial Park.

Doing so constituted a failure to stand up to their word of honor, proffered on the day they were sworn into office.

By the same token, those who come before the council should show respect for the offices to which the public elected the councilmen - even if they have differences with the elected officials themselves.

A council meeting is not the venue for flinging allegations, but for reasoned discussion of matters on the public agenda.

Impassioned pleas and staunch defenses may find a home there, but at the end of the day, all participants should realize that their fellows (and their opponents) are simply interested in what's best for Tybee Island.

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