

April 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2019

Dear Mayor Ashby & the Centralia City Council:

It has been with great privilege and honor that I have been able to serve as City Manager since being appointed in July, 2011. As you recall, I did not initially apply for this job but was selected after being asked to interview after the search committee and ultimately Council reviewed or interviewed approximately 100 applicants. I took this job because of being a lifetime resident/business owner, I knew our town was going backwards and was in dire financial shape. I shared the common vision of yourself & Council on most all issues and committed myself to assure policies for improving our City were carried out.

When you are the City Manager there are always people who have critical opinions of what you are doing. The financial condition of the City when I started was a negative -\$21,000 in general fund and a non-sustainable total City budget of \$38 million that had to be cut to \$28 million to stop bankrupting the City, obviously doesn't make the City Manager the most popular person but as of 12/31/2018 the -\$21,000, when I started, is now over \$1.5 million dollars and most all other accounts are similarly improved. Differences of opinions with citizens and even the Council is a positive reality in this world when everyone is passionate and have good intentions. Discussing the pro's and con's on issues has resulted in compromised and better decisions many times by us doing that.

Unfortunately, during elections many times rhetoric, promises that can't be kept, fear and scare tactics, misinformation and outright and hurtful lies that are spread during certain political elections that interrupt the workings within the City. To be fair I think even honest individuals running for office hear things and never investigate enough to get the facts and real truth on issues before making false statements . I have learned that these acts are just part of the business and that a City Manager has to deal with it since the City Manager is usually the target for implementing the policies and operations of the City as approved by the Council by them approving a budget that only allows spending within the City means similar to any household or any other business. It truly concerns me and I now understand why many people especially business owners won't run for City Councils, due to loosing friendships and business because of their decisions on the Council. The result is many times not getting the BEST candidates which is important for a City's growth both size and quality wise.

My only objective since day one, which Mayor Ashby shared this commitment, as being hired as Centralia City Manager is to "Make Centralia Better" and "Doing the Right Thing". Even though I have a vote of confidence by both the majority of the existing Council and

new Council to continue serving as City Manager, I feel the “Right Thing” now for the City after speaking with Council members and yourself, is to submit this letter of resignation effective August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to allow the Mayor and Council to begin the search for a new City Manager to continue the growth of our City. I will continue working on current projects and new grant applications until said period but plan to be taking off on a vacation and a couple days of the week using vacation/sick time when possible.

Centralia has the best citizens in the world that always volunteer when needed. Our many boards and committee members are just short of amazing in the time and dedication they give our City. The City Council has always been a lawful model Council of civility and willing to make the right decisions even when unpopular. The staff that I have had the privilege of hiring or promoting are professional, brilliant individuals who love our City, committed to doing their jobs, doing the right thing when representing our City.

I am so very proud and honored by you giving me the opportunity and confidence to work with yourself and the Council in so many areas of improving our City from financial disaster, road projects, City Hall, sewer lines, water lines and park & cemetery improvements all while not raising real estate taxes, in fact lowering real estate taxes over the last 8 years and working with businesses which resulted in increasing annual retail sales in the City by \$30 million dollars.

As far as we have come making improvements to our City the last 8 years, our City, like most all cities, still has drug and related problems that need to continue to be truthfully discussed and acted on in a serious way to get the best results. This includes better and modern law enforcement methods, a quality substance abuse program/center, education, better training, housing and job placement. Professionals are willing to work harder on these issues but even more important I feel is working with youth and parents at a very youth age in such matters as truancy will show long term positive results.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this extraordinary City of ours for so many years. I look forward to spending more time with my family. I will always love Centralia and it will always be home.

Sincerely,

Dan Ramey  
City Manager