

Carl Brugger
Letter of Resignation

October 13, 2020

To the citizens of Granite Shoals, I am presenting to you my letter of resignation as Mayor as the result of the recall petition recently filed with the City Secretary. The charge listed on the petition is incompetence, misconduct or malfeasance: voting for a 29.6% (\$37,000) raise for the city manager during a pandemic and a recession. As the charge reads, if a pandemic and or a recession didn't exist, a petition would not have been conducted. Your choice to its interpretation. This act of stepping down removes me (your mayor) as the lightning rod for anger, hostility and hate. I am hoping and praying that citizens will move forward and put anger and hate in the rearview mirror.

As Mayor, I recognized the seriousness of COVID-19 by enacting a disaster declaration that placed restrictions on public gatherings prior to similar actions by our county or governor. The council on the recommendation of the City Manager and staff approved accommodations for citizens' late water bills. Even though the pandemic is extremely serious, ways have been found to manage it. Our city's functions have continued without interruption. I am aware of the pandemic's implications and its impact on others including my own family.

During the period that the council considered changing the city manager's salary, the city's revenues increased, not decreased as a result of increase sales tax collection. This upward trend continues into October and is likely a result of newly exacted requirements that local sales tax on online sales be allocated to the location where the order was placed. Emphasizing again, our city financial position did not deteriorate as a result of the pandemic, it improved.

Consider that five council members voted in favor of the City Manager's raise, but only two are charged with incompetence, misconduct or malfeasance. The petitioners were concerned about the Council's oversight of the city's seven-million-dollar bond implementation. Based on their concern, I believe they mistakenly acted by charging the two senior members, or by charging any council member. I served this city for a decade, voted on many issues that surpassed the financial impact of the city manager's salary adjustment, only to be recalled based on a single vote. Why would anyone want to be mayor of Granite Shoals in this hostile atmosphere? I challenge any citizen to come forward and commit to a decade of service to this city.

The city's legal counsel has advised me that due to the late submission of the petition for the November election and prior court cases, my name would appear on the May, 2021 ballot unless I submit my resignation. Recognize that I am term limited and my existing term ends in May 2021. The May 2021 ballot would contain the names of those seeking the office of the mayor along with a vote on a recall petition, which if passed would remove me from office a week early. I have no intention of dragging my name through the mud or disrupting the city's activities by submitting it to a recall vote in May, 2021.

I joined the city council as Councilman Place 5 in October, 2010 and served as Mayor Pro Tem for a number of years. My service period represents a decade of commitment toward improving Granite Shoals. In response to the charge of being incompetent, the

city's financial position in 2010 was in shambles. Bank balances had not been reconciled, fund balances were inadequate and weren't being tracked, and the city's Standard and Poors bond rating was a notch above junk. Today, as a result continued effort over the past decade to improve the city's financial position, the city's S&P bond rating is AA-, allowing for lowering the debt tax rate while at the same time financing \$7,000,000 in water system improvements and refinancing older debt. The irony of the petition charge is that it is in the light of an anticipated favorable \$650,000 budget variance for the fiscal year that just ended on September 30. In addition, budgeting for the next fiscal year includes an additional police officer, three additional fire fighters, employee raises and increased funding for street repairs without increasing the overall tax rate. The city's finances are in excellent shape in spite of the pandemic conditions. Current and past councils have worked hard to make this happen. I have used my training, CPA expertise and corporate leadership skills to make both thoughtful analyses and informed financial decisions for the city.

I recognize that we will never agree on what is the appropriate salary for the City Manager. If you read current articles on what other cities that surround the City of Austin are paying, you will realize that our staff is likely underpaid at all levels. All of us tend to internalize our thoughts on a subject based on our age and current tax, social and financial situation. My point, we lose sight of reality. Go shopping for a new car or a modest newly constructed home in Granite Shoals and you will experience sticker shock.

I chose to support the City Manager's salary increase a second time, because members of the city council are the duly elected representatives of the people elected to exercise their judgement on what's best for the City. Granite Shoals has a choice between anarchy or a representative form of government. Future councils may be second guessed and subject to petition for any decision. Furthermore, rescinding a raise previously passed would likely prevent this council or a future council from making future salary increases for any staff member.

Not previously mentioned are disgusting actions of some of the petitioners, who used the 'N' word on a current council member in front of his own children, the 'F' word in a conversation with me and belittling my judgement because I'm term limited. Unfortunately, the City of Granite Shoals is not exempt from the issues that our nation is facing. This recall petition has built a following on anger and hatred. Calling me incompetent is yet another example of the petitioners' irrational anger. No city should have a foundation of hostility.

This letter serves as my resignation as Mayor of the City of Granite Shoals. I will not submit to further charges against my character, honesty and integrity. I believe ten years of totally volunteer leadership is enough for me.

The city's charter states, 'If there is a vacancy in the office of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem shall become the Mayor for the unexpired remainder of the Mayor's term.' My term expires in May, 2021.

Carl Brugger
Letter of Resignation

October 13, 2020

I wish to thank those citizens that have supported me over the past decade for my service to this city. To those that have volunteered to serve this city, either as past or present council members or committee members, and city staff, I express my gratitude for your work to improve this city. Finally, and most importantly, I wish to publicly thank my wife of fifty-three years for her decade of support and understanding of my volunteer work for this city.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl J Brugger,

COPY