

May 6, 2020

Paula Brown  
P.O. Box 1079  
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Paula,

I wanted to send you a speech I read at the May 5, 2020 Council meeting in honor of you. I wanted to personally let you know I appreciate your service to this community and know you will stay involved even in retirement.

Tonight, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the outstanding service of Public Works Director, Paula Brown. To truly honor Paula's career achievements, I would need much more time, and preferably a different venue than Zoom. The truth is, the City was fortunate to employ such an accomplished professional twice!

Paula first joined the City of Ashland in 1997 where she quickly put her talents as a Professional Engineer to work as the City's Public Works Director. While serving the City, she simultaneously served our Country in the US Navy. Even while deployed to active duty in Iraq, she managed to keep things running smoothly in her absence. In 2008, Paula left the City to devote full-time to the military.

Paula's accomplishments in the Navy were many as she served in the Reserves and full time between 1988 to 2016. At the time she retired, she held the rank of Rear Admiral. For those not familiar with military ranks, that is a very impressive accomplishment. When the position of Public Works Director became vacant in 2017, Paula rejoined Ashland as Public Works Director for a second time. Some of the same staff were still working in her department along with some fresh faces that had joined the City during her absence.

Paula's steady leadership and professionalism have been a constant for the City in our largest operational department. She is truly passionate about quality of life in Ashland and that passion has guided many successful projects along the way. Her achievements over her tenure with have reached all corners of the city. Paula worked diligently to carry out important forward progress on large scale projects such as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan and moving the Hersey Street Rehabilitation Project to completion. She also worked closely with her staff to develop and gain approval on key programs such as the 20-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the Temperature Trading Program.

After what could be considered two tours of duty with the City spanning 14 years, Paula is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Pat working at their 33-acre Vineyard Dana Campbell Vineyards. Paula's last day with the City was Friday, May 1st. On behalf of the City, I would like to thank her for her service and wish her a wonderful retirement.

Sincerely,

John Stromberg, Mayor

