

November 6, 2018

Mayor and City Council  
City of Ashland  
20 E. Main Street  
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Mayor Stromberg and Councilors:

My name is Susan Wilson and I live in Ashland. I wrote a letter to the editor about the Ashland Golf Course which appeared mid-October in the Daily Tidings. On Saturday, Councilor Rosenthal responded with counterpoints about the golf course but then accused me of being "responsible for the loss of \$24,581 in hard earned Ashland taxpayer resources" in the recall election last March.

I wasn't involved with the recall effort. Councilor Rosenthal apparently confused me with another Susan Wilson and didn't bother to check his sources. Also, the points I raised about the golf course had nothing to do with the recall so I assume this was the classic strategy of diverting attention from the real issues at hand.

But, what struck me most, was that a high-level elected city official was publicly attacking a private citizen for doing something that is a civic right. In at least two letters to the editor and at least one Council meeting, Councilor Rosenthal has strongly criticized those behind the recall in what's beginning to look like a personal vendetta.

While I didn't support the recall, those who did weren't engaged in anything illegal, immoral, unethical or against the rules. It's any citizen's prerogative to pursue this course of action. And alternatively, shouldn't we consider the possibility that a more effective, less defensive council could have mitigated the anger and frustration felt by those involved and avoided a recall altogether?

This is just another example of the divisive rhetoric and personal attacks we've seen all too often. Mr. Mayor, in your leadership role, it is you who sets the tone and establishes the culture and values of the council over time. It's your responsibility to end the singling out of individuals for opprobrium. We don't allow bullying in our schools. Why would we allow it on our council?

A written correction appeared in the Tidings today. Also appropriate would be an apology from Councilor Rosenthal to me and to the Susan Wilson he thought I was.

Sincerely,



Susan Wilson