

City of Ranson



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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A David Hamill – **Mayor**

Andrew P. Blake – **City Manager**

January 11, 2016

Dear Friends:

Last week, I received the dreaded prognosis I expected to hear at some point, but never wanted to receive or accept, after being diagnosed with cancer of the liver bile duct (cholangiocarcinoma) a little over a year ago. I have been taking intensive chemotherapy treatments since my diagnosis which I had hoped and prayed would successfully combat the cancerous tumors ravaging my body. Unfortunately, my treatment is no longer working; the tumors are growing; and, the cancer is starting to have an increased impact on my body.

As difficult as it is, I believe it is time to start the process of accepting my mortality and communicate with you while my mind and body are still fully functioning. I honestly admit that this acceptance is so much easier said than done; and, three days since my doctor shared my latest scans and uttered those words to me certainly has not given me the adequate time to process the many emotions and thoughts that are going through my mind. I know that my loving and caring family has not and does not want to accept my condition or ultimate fate. Yet, I know that I will be okay and so will my family because I wholeheartedly believe in our Lord and know without doubt that this is just the beginning of my eternal life. ("And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life." John 2:25).

I have two duties left in the life I have remaining: (1) continue my efforts at being the best husband, father and grandfather that I can possibly be, including taking the entire family to Disney World in February; and (2) as Mayor, ensuring that the City of Ranson continues its progress and ensure that a smooth transition of leadership as my condition worsens.

Prior to addressing my duties as Mayor, I appreciate your indulgence while I thank my family. I love my family and I know my family loves me. I want to publically thank my wife, Helen. Helen has been by my side for over four decades, supported me through my thirty years of public service, and every day since my diagnosis last year. As many cancer patients and their families know, there are good days and not so great days. Helen has hung in there with me on both the good and bad. I know that there will be more bad than good days ahead for us and I feel so comforted knowing she will be right by my side. Helen, I love you and thank you. I am also so proud of my children and who they have grown up to become. They are establishing their own legacies and I know they will continue to blossom and be successful in whatever they choose to do. I love them very much and thank them for making me a grandfather nine times over.

As Mayor, I do not feel my work is done and there are items I still want to complete. Thanks to the citizens of Ranson, I have had the opportunity to serve them as Mayor for almost thirty years. Again, there are no words to express the appreciation for the trust and confidence that the citizens have given to me to be their leader. I have loved every second of serving and trying to make our City and community a better place to live. We have made so much progress and I only wish I could see Ranson twenty years from now. I know with good stewardship and leadership it will be great. I have so much excitement, confidence and emotion for who and what Ranson is now and what it is going to be in the future.

I intend to keep serving as your Mayor because I am not done working with our Council, staff and our citizens to continue our progress. But, I feel that it is my responsibility and duty to ensure that there is no leadership vacuum and that there is a smooth transition when the time comes that I can no longer serve as your chief elected official. Therefore, I am going to ask the Council to appoint a mayor pro tempore (or deputy mayor) amongst the current sitting City Council. In the absence of the mayor, or the mayor's inability from any cause to discharge the duties of the mayor's office, the deputy mayor will preside over meetings and exercise all the power and discharge all the duties of the mayor. The deputy mayor, while performing the duties of the mayor, shall serve as the acting mayor, and acts performed by such person while acting as mayor shall have the same force and validity as if performed by the mayor. Upon death or resignation of the mayor, the mayor pro tem will assume the office of mayor for the remaining term.

The City of Ranson has a Mayor/City Manager form of government. Thus, the City Manager is the chief executive officer of the City and, as such, neither the daily governmental functions, services of the City nor the City Manager's job responsibilities will be altered by the arrangement that I am proposing. In fact, many towns and cities across the country have this arrangement and it is time that our City permanently prepare for the unforeseen with a mayor pro tem – no matter who the mayor is in the future.

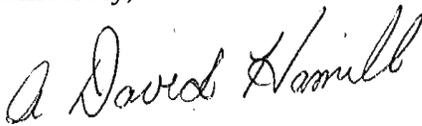
I have complete confidence in the City's full-time professional staff and City Manager. However, both the City Manager and I strongly agree that a chief elected official should be appointed in my absence or disability to ensure certainty, confidence and continuity of power. I want to thank all of the employees and elected officials I have had the pleasure of serving with during my public service. While elected council members can enact policies, the policies mean absolutely nothing if the staff and employees of the City cannot competently carry out the Council's policies. Ranson is and has been very fortunate to have quality employees serving the citizens and constituents very competently and ably every day.

In my thirty years of public service I have tried to do what is best for the City of Ranson - sometimes my result may not have been successful as I planned but it was not for my lack of passion or desire to do the right thing. My passion for the City and its people grows stronger even as my physical body grows weaker. I was fortunate to serve as Mayor during the City's celebration of its centennial which gave me an opportunity to take a close look at our history. As I look towards the future, I can only hope that our ongoing efforts of creating a sustainable foundation makes the City even stronger when the yet-to-be born mayor and his/her fellow citizens celebrate the City's bicentennial in 2110. Until then, I simply hope that when my future successors are tasked with tough decisions and choices that they simply ask, "Is it in the best interest of Ranson?"

Thank you very much. I wish you and the City of Ranson all the best. Ranson has the location, potential, opportunity to be one of the greatest communities in America and I know it will be. In the meantime, if you see me out and about, please do not be shy and say hello. I'm not done yet.

May God continue to bless you and the City of Ranson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. David Hamill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

A. David Hamill
Mayor