

November 9, 2021

To the respected representatives on the Peosta City Council,

It is important that I carefully balance my time commitments between my family, my career, and my community. As I have shared previously, I am experiencing increased demands in my professional career that are not likely to end soon, therefore I must once again resign from the mayor role.

I am humbled by the responses I have received since my first resignation. This is clearly a community of people who care about their neighbors and their city. While my previous resignation letter unfortunately left the door open to interpret much worse scenarios, I want to be clear that my family is fine and this is simply a reflection of changes in my professional career. I appreciate the overwhelming show of concern and support that we received in response.

Admittedly the recent series of events has been a bit awkward. Thank you to the people who voted for me once again as their action will allow an opportunity for the Peosta community to get to know their Mayoral candidates before casting their votes in a special election.

This city is at a point in its growth where it will need to be deliberate in not only setting a vision, but also negotiating the difficult situations where the vision does not (yet!) fully align with every stakeholder's thoughts of what direction we should go. This takes a significant amount of time in building and maintaining many collaborative relationships at the local, county, and state levels.

I am excited to see the talented community members who step forward to serve in this capacity. They will have my full support as I continue serving this community albeit from a slightly different seat in the council chambers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Merten", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Merten