

To the Citizens of Sturgis, and all City Staff,

10/21/2024

It is with a heavy heart that I submit my resignation as mayor of Sturgis, effective immediately.

From the start of my time in office, my only goal has been to serve the people of this community with integrity and a deep commitment to doing what was in the best interest of every resident. I have always believed in the power of unity and in working together for the betterment of Sturgis. Unfortunately, the reality of this office has been starkly different.

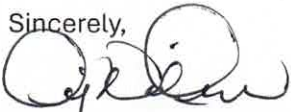
Over the course of my tenure, I have faced constant opposition from members of the City Council who, rather than supporting the collective good, have sought to push me out through underhanded tactics. I have endured intimidation from certain business leaders who have leveraged their influence for personal gain at the expense of our city. This toxic environment has led to the departure of nearly all our city staff, creating an unworkable situation and making it impossible for the city to function effectively.

Despite these challenges, I have done everything within my power as a part-time mayor to keep this city moving forward, with no personal gain—only the well-being of our residents at heart. However, I can see that my staying will only continue to make things worse, as the attacks on me will not stop until my opposition has what they want: their person in this seat, their people as city administrator and finance officer. The attacks on me are only devastating the city more. So I will step back so these attacks can stop and our city can move forward instead of being pushed back.

I want to thank those in our community who supported me, who shared my vision for a peaceful, united Sturgis, and who stood by me in these difficult times. My deepest hope is that this city will one day come together, set aside personal grievances, and work toward the common good.

I wish Sturgis all the best in the future and will continue to pray for healing and unity in this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela J. Wilkerson', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Angela J. Wilkerson