Dear Mayor and Council,

At the November 6th meeting, Mr. Rosenthal claimed he has a first amendment right. This right does not cover false and misleading statements that were made to influence an election. As a government employee and Recreation and Park professional he knows better. (Please see ORS 260.532)

This is not the first time Mr. Rosenthal has used poor judgement and you remain silent. Your failure to take corrective action is tacit approval of false statements that continue to degrade public trust.

Let me read into the record the dishonest narrative contained in Mr. Rosenthal's November 3rd letter to the editor. He claims that the maintenance cost of a golf course is the same as a park. This is false and he knows the truth. He continues with an absurd comparison, "How many community parks across America recover 44 percent of overhead costs?" It's not a park. If I called to reserve the green on the 3rd hole for a barbeque for my family, I would be told "Hey buddy, this isn't a park, it's a golf course". For safety reasons you cannot wander through - like a park.

Moreover, this deceit and its timing is disturbing. It appeared on November 3 three days before the ballots are due. It was not corrected before November 6th, election day. He continues only half the truth stating there are "223,331 reasons to disagree (golf course revenue last fiscal year)." However, in the 4th quarter report, on page 7, you will find that the Golf Division has annual expenses of \$502,118, for last fiscal year, with the biennium projection at \$1.1 million. This creates a large deficit.

Is this the best way to spend \$716,438? How does this program rank in your overall spending priorities?

As elected officials your words matter, and you should be truthful and honor your office. I would hope you would correct the record, apologize for the mistake, and adopt behavior that does not demean your office.

Table 1 - From 4th quarter report

Table 2 – Page 7 of 4th quarter report

City of Ashland
Statement of Resources, Requirements, and Changes in Fund Balance
Preliminary closing as of June 90, 2019