

September 6, 2021

Dear Brier City Council Members and Residents of Brier,

I would like to respond to your letter of endorsement for Dale Kaemingk and address what appear to be assumptions about myself.

First, I am not a private sector employee. I work for a Washington state agency as a director of international finance. My daily focus is providing excellent services to our customers and being a good steward of public funds. This work ethic can be directly applied to operating as the mayor. Further, you mention that Dale is not tied to a full-time job, which is great for some people. However, in this day and age of ever changing technology and innovations, not directly using those technologies would be the equivalent of putting your head in the sand and thinking everything is okay. On a daily basis I work with multiple customer relationship management (CRM) products based in the cloud and supported by some of the largest cloud-based companies: Peoplesoft and Salesforce. Being active in the workplace provides me exposure to these current technologies and ideological approaches which can be leveraged and directly applied to City Hall. Further, being employed full-time in the workplace allows me to directly relate to the working families who make up the population majority in Brier.

I see the word experience used throughout the letter to describe Dale. You seem to try and point this out as something which I lack. However, this is far from the truth. Before making those claims, I suggest reaching out to me and asking me about my experience and how my current job (and those held previously) directly tie to the position of Mayor. As I mentioned, I am a public employee, therefore, I am very familiar with the need to abide by local, county, state and federal laws. Part of my job has included maintaining an administrative manual where I directly cite the RCWs, WACs, and other federal laws related to my work. I have previously spoken with the city-clerk treasurer at great lengths about the day-to-day tasks and have conveyed my understanding and familiarity with those tasks.

Now I understand that the idea of change can be scary, but I want to reassure everyone I am a great person to work with and a great leader. Looking back, the Brier City Council has been a close-knit group of individuals, many having held the position for more than a decade, including Dale. While this can be good in certain respects, I believe it limits the ability to tackle issues facing City Hall as the saying goes: *you only know what you know*. Bringing in a person from the outside, such as myself, will allow me to leverage my past work experience and exposure to various programs and technologies, then directly apply them to helping the City of Brier operate more efficiently.

In my line of work I find that I am always looking at how to improve processes to make the work easier on everyone involved, this is commonly known as lean process improvement. For example, during the first 9 months at my current job, I created a process that to date has saved the state of Washington \$1MM. Nearly 10 years later and that process is still in use. I am confident that if elected mayor I will be able to do the same for the City of Brier.

Ultimately, the decision of who will be the Mayor of Brier will be decided by the people and I am confident that my work ethic, past work experience, and goals for the City will result in a much needed change.

Respectfully,  
Hisham "Sham" Othman