

1. Council Meeting Agenda

Documents:

[12-03-18 INTERVIEWS SPECIAL MEETING.PDF](#)

2. Council Meeting Packet

Documents:

[DECEMBER 3RD CITY COUNCIL PACKET.PDF](#)



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA (INTERVIEWS)
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ONE SOUTH HURON ST. YPSILANTI, MI 48197
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

II. ROLL CALL –

Council Member Brown	P A	Council Member Symanns	P A
Council Member Morgan	P A	Council Member	P A
Council Member Murdock	P A	Mayor Bashert	P A
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	P A		

III. INVOCATION –

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

VI. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

VII. WARD 2 COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS -

6:00 p.m.

- Benjamin Connor Barrie

6:35 p.m.

- Anne Stevenson

7:10 p.m.

- Steve Wilcoxon

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

VIII. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

IX. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/MOTION –

XI. ADJOURNMENT –



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APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Benjamin Connor Barrie
Residence Address 1111 Westmoorland, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone [REDACTED]
E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2018.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Frances McMullan, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to submit my application to fill the Ward 2 Comuncilmember vacancy. I have lived in Normal Pari for the last 5 years. Over this time, I have come to know this wonderful, diverse, vibrant community. I am currently a member of the Ypsilanti's Parks and Recreation Commission and seek to expand my service to this city that I love. I have a diverse background and the skills I've picked up on my journey would make me a strong asset to the city: leadership, flexibility, comfort with ambiguity, a researcher's attention to detail, and an analytical orientation. I want to serve my community and being on Ypsilanti's City Council is the best way for me to do that.

I think Ypsilanti is at a crossroads. We are a decade past the recession and our municipal finances are on a good footing. However, recent rent and home price increases threaten to displace vulnerable populations from our community. I want to serve on Ypsilanti City Council so that I can help to guide the city through this period while maintaining fiscal stability. I am also interested in non-motorized transit and improving our park facilities.

I am passionate about helping to make our city a diverse, fun, healthy, vibrant place. I would relish the opportunity to serve the community as a Councilmember.

Thank you for your consideration,

Benjamin Connor Barrie

Benjamin T. Connor Barrie

1111 Westmoorland St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Education

MS, School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Natural Resources – Conservation Ecology – 2012

BA, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI
Major: Biology, Concentration: Environmental Studies – 2006

Experience

Program Manager – Duo Security, 2018 – present:

Lead Engineering Onboarding Program
Designed learning and development program for Research and Development Team

Commissioner – City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission, 2017 – Present:

Helped develop park improvement plan
Worked with groups of residents to plan for Riverside Park Playground
Helped assess needs of each park in Ypsilanti

Lecturer – Eastern Michigan University & Washtenaw Community College, 2016 – present:

Courses: Ecology, Genetics, Botany, Introduction to biology

Editor/Publisher – www.damnarbor.com, 2010 – present:

Covered local news and culture for the Ypsi-Arbor area
Managed a local news website and associated social media accounts
Recruited a team of contributing writers

Education Specialist – Detroit Zoo, 2015 – 2016:

Lead the redesign of curation for the Arctic Ring of Life, the Zoo's second largest habitat
Designed educational elements of the new penguin habitat
Worked to incorporate climate change messaging into all zoo exhibits

Graduate Student/Researcher – School of Natural Resources and Environment, 2009 – 2015:

Designed and conducted a multi-year field study of urban forest ecology in Southeast Michigan
Created a hierarchical Bayesian model to predict tree performance in urban and rural environments
Contributed to the publication of 2 meta-analyses

Senior Graduate Student Instructor – Woody Plants, University of Michigan, 2010 - 2014:

Head instructor for field portion of class of approximately 50 students
Wrote syllabus for lab portion of class & aided professor in syllabus development for lecture portion
Taught pedagogy and instruction techniques to two junior GSIs each year
Developed new instruction & supplemental material for students struggling in class
Coordinated both assessment design and grading for field & lecture portion of class

Project manager – Appropriate Technology Collaborative, 2009 - 2012:

Led teams of engineering students working on sustainable development projects in Guatemala

Arranged for in-country logistics including housing, transportation, and supply procurement
Served as a Spanish language interpreter for meetings with municipal officials and skilled tradespeople

Skills

Python, R, Data analysis, Data management, Statistical modeling, GIS, Tree identification, Web publishing, Teaching, Public Speaking, Writing, Editing, Written and Spoken Spanish

Publications

Connor Barrie, B. T., 2018. The ABCs of affordability in Washtenaw County. Concentrate.

Connor Barrie, B. T., 2017. Is there still time to nip Ypsi's affordability crisis in the bud?. Concentrate.

Iverson, A., Marín, L., Ennis, K., Gonthier, D., **Connor Barrie, B. T.**, Remfert, J., Cardinale, B., Perfecto, I., 2014. Does crop diversity promote win-wins or tradeoffs in agricultural ecosystem services? A meta-analysis. *Journal of Applied Ecology*

Katz, D. S. W., **Connor Barrie, B. T.**, and Carey, T. S., 2014. Urban ragweed populations in vacant lots: an ecological perspective on management. *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*

Ibáñez, I., Katz, D. S. W., Peltier, D., Wolf, S., and **Connor Barrie, B. T.** 2014. Assessing the integrated effects of landscape fragmentation on plants and plant communities: The challenge of multiprocess-multiresponse dynamics. *Journal of Ecology*

Girdler, E. B., and **Connor Barrie, B. T.**, 2008. The scale-dependent importance of habitat factors and dispersal limitation in structuring Great Lakes shoreline plant communities. *Plant Ecology*

Conference Presentations

"Native tree seedlings exhibit greater mortality in urban forests across an anthropogenic land use gradient" Poster Presentation. ESA, 2013 Minneapolis, MN

"The impacts of land-uses on the survival and growth of tree seedlings" Oral Presentation. ESA, 2012, Portland, OR.

"Land use alters seedling recruitment patterns along an urban-rural gradient" Oral Presentation. ESA, 2011, Austin, TX.

Grants

McIntire-Stennis Fellowship, 2010, \$50,000, Co-PI with I. Ibáñez

Benjamin Connor Barrie

Ward 2 Councilmember Application, Supplemental Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

I have lived in Ypsilanti for the past 5 years. In this time, I have come to know a wonderful, diverse community filled with outstanding people. I am seeking this role because it would give me the opportunity to serve this community that I love and affect positive change.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

I bring an understanding of and passion for local government a strong analytical skill set and a dedication to our community.

I have been covering local issues in Washtenaw County for several years, first through the website I founded, Damn Arbor and now as an occasional writer for Concentrate. Through my coverage of City Council meetings I have learned a great deal about how local government works. I am also passionate about the way that local government can have a positive impact in the lives of residents. I will bring this passion to my service on Ypsilanti's City Council.

Before I began my career in tech, I was pursuing a doctorate studying forest ecology at the School of Natural Resources and Environment at U of M. There I cultivated a strong analytical toolset. As a scientist, I had to attack complex problems with data. My analytical mindset will help me tackle complex issues facing the city.

Finally, I am a passionate champion for Ypsilanti. I love this community, its history, and the people that call it home. I want desire to serve my community and I will bring tireless energy to my service of the community.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

I think the biggest challenges facing Ypsilanti are affordability, financial stability, and safety for non-motorized transportation.

One of Ypsilanti's greatest strengths is its diversity. Unfortunately, Ypsilanti is becoming less affordable and this is a threat to our diversity. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the median rent in the city was \$703 per month between 2006 and 2010. Between 2011 and 2015 median rent rose to \$746, a 6.1% increase. This jump has been driven, in part, by an increase in population. Between 2010 and 2016 Ypsi was Michigan's fifth fastest-growing city, adding 1,583 residents to reach a population of just over 21,000. During this time, there has been no substantial increase in housing stock in the city. Home sale prices are also up. Thus, the recent increases in residential rents can be attributed to increased residential demand with no increase

in supply. The increased demand on housing has been exacerbated by stagnant or decreasing wages for many Ypsi residents. Between 2010 and 2015 the median income in Ypsi dropped from \$34,685 to \$31,061, a decrease of about 10%.

People are being squeezed out of our community. I think it is important that the city do what it can to protect vulnerable populations from displacement. Specifically, if I were on council I would propose that they city leverage the sale of city owned land for the creation of affordable housing. I also think the city should explore the creation of a Community Land Trust to help residents become homeowners and to stabilize increases in home prices. Finally, though it may only play a small role in increasing housing stock, Ypsilanti should explore allowing accessory unit dwellings in more residential zoned areas.

Municipal financing in Michigan is broken. The combination of the Headlee Amendment and Prop A mean that property tax revenue can ratchet down quickly, but can only ever increase at the rate of inflation. Also, the state has not been meeting its obligations for revenue sharing. With the passage of the Water Street Millage, Ypsilanti is on a relatively stable financial footing for the time being. As we consider re-establishing services that were cut during the recession, it's important to keep in mind the next recession, whenever that may be. The only real way the city can increase property tax revenue at a rate greater than inflation is through new construction. I think it's important for the city to explore ways to encourage new construction (perhaps through increasing where accessory dwelling units can be built). I also think it's important to keep in mind that at some point in the next 10 years, we will probably have a housing bubble burst and/or another recession. We need to keep that in mind as we establish services.

Ypsilanti has a lot of MDOT roads. These roads seem to be designed with the idea of moving visitors through our community, rather than for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers who live here. The M-17 corridor in particular splits the city into several islands surrounded by pedestrian hostile roads. I am currently part of a group of concerned citizens working with State Rep. Jeff Irwin to lobby MDOT to reduce speeds and lanes on M-17 when they resurface it between 2020 and 2022. If I were on council I would continue to work on this project as well as advocate for conversion of one way streets to two way traffic.

4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.

I currently serve on the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission. Through my service I have come to know residents from all over the city. I have also learned a great deal about the inner workings of the municipal government. My understanding of municipal government and process will serve me well as a member of Ypsilanti's City Council.

I was also a volunteer for Citizens for Ypsi, the group that got the Water Street Millage on the August 2017 Ballot. Through collecting petition signatures I met with residents from all over the city and heard their concerns.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?

My top priority is to tackle the affordable housing. I hope hold the rate of rental price increase to less than the rate of inflation. I would also like to allow accessory dwelling units to be built in more residential areas. I would like to lead a task force exploring how a community land trust would work in Ypsilanti and propose an ordinance to create one. Finally, I would want to end my service to the city leaving it in a better financial footing than when I started.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

As Ypsilanti continues to grow, I want the city to remain a place everyone can make a home. I want the city to stay a diverse, vibrant place. I see Ypsilanti in the future with a few more people, from all walks of life. I see new, local businesses and vibrant parks. I see Ypsilanti as a safe community for pedestrians and cyclists. I see a vibrant downtown and Depot Town. I want to work on realizing this vision through my service on City Council.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I was not able to work this into any of the other responses but I feel like it is important. I worked as a public school teacher in Chicago before starting my graduate studies. I am passionate about Public Education. I know that Ypsilanti City Council has very limited direct impact on the Ypsilanti Community School District, I am excited about the possibility of working to help improve our local public schools.



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Anne Stevenson

Residence Address 707 Collegewood Street, Ypsilanti 48197

Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

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Frances McMullan, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Anne Stevenson
707 Collegewood St
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



November 20, 2019

Frances McMullan
City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
1 South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Ms. McMullan,

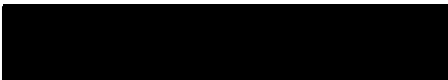
Please accept my application for the position of Council Member for Ward 2. My attached resume and my answers to the supplemental questions demonstrate that I have a wide range of educational and experiential qualities that would make me a good fit for this position. I have worked for over a decade in the nonprofit sector; working in strategic development, program management, volunteer coordination and event planning. Serving nearly 10 years as Commissioner or Chair of the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission, as well as a member of the Steering Committee for the Ypsilanti City's Master Plan, has given me experience working with the residents of Ypsilanti, understanding City procedures and policies, and has illuminated some of the concerns that we face as a community.

During my Masters program in Historic Preservation at Eastern Michigan University, I studied heritage interpretation and grass-roots advocacy, and gained an understanding of funding and preservation practices utilizing a collaboration with multidisciplinary constituents. I possess strong personal qualities that make me an effective leader, able to work well with a team. I am also self-motivated and able to work individually to meet tight deadlines. My ability to look at every possible angle of a situation and step out-of-the-box, in order to find new solutions would be an asset to the City Council. I am able to work with a variety of personalities and can quickly adapt to new situations. I am open and patient and try always to keep a level head when presented with obstacles.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon. In the meantime, I am available to answer any questions you or the City Council may have.

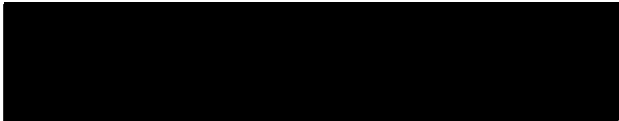
Sincerely,

Anne Stevenson



Anne E. Stevenson

707 Collegewood St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



EDUCATION/TRAINING

- 2016. Certified Program Planner, Learning Resources Network
- 2011. Honors M.S. in Historic Preservation
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan
- 2010. Master Gardener Volunteer Program - MSU Extension
- 1998. Honors B.F.A in Theater Design and Production
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Expertise

Program Development, Public Engagement, Academia, Community Outreach, Operations and Scheduling, Heritage Interpretation, Program Contact and Curriculum, Marketing, Strategic Planning, Volunteer Management, Social Media, Board Development, Volunteer Training, Creating and Leading Workshops, Grant Writing and Development.

Work Experience

Nov. 2012 - present Program Development Manager, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor.

- ❖ Responsible for over a hundred classes in Community Enrichment and Workforce Development.
- ❖ Assists in the development of curriculum, creates and maintains all scheduling, and manages and hires over twenty instructors, both as WCC hires as well as through contract training.
- ❖ Supervises marketing and advertising both in print form and social media.
- ❖ Conducts program analysis and strategic planning for course development and needs assessment.

2009-2012 Curator and Director of Development, Michigan Firehouse Museum, Ypsilanti, MI.

- ❖ Worked on grant proposals to help pay for educational programming, including the MotorCities Community Grant.
- ❖ Developed proposals for new children's exhibit area to be created in conjunction with the University of Michigan.
- ❖ Spearheaded strategic planning and evaluation processes for mission statement and museum organizational procedures.

Volunteer Leadership and Service

2014 - 2017 Midwest Membership Recruitment Director. Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., Milpitas, California (Midwest Chapter)

- ❖ Organizes, educates, and assists over thirty local chapter directors on volunteer recruitment and retention "best practices."
- ❖ Assists with volunteer training, orientation, community outreach, and continued membership retention policies.
- ❖ Develops and disseminates marketing materials to recruit new volunteers.
- ❖ Teaches bi-monthly workshops on volunteer recruitment and retention across the Midwest.

2009 - p. Historic District Commissioner/Chair, City of Ypsilanti, MI.

- ❖ Serves the City of Ypsilanti as an appointed Commissioner to interpret and uphold the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as they pertain to property work within the Ypsilanti Historic District.

2009 - 2010 Historic District Commission Assistant

- ❖ Assists the Commission with property work applications, Section 106 review and resolutions, interacts with public and property owners, maintains Commission records, records meeting minutes and agendas, updates HDC website and assists in all other historic preservation projects.
- ❖ Established and organized monthly HDC workshops to provide homeowners with preservation materials and resources.

2010-2014 Regional Media Relations Officer, Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., Milpitas, California (Midwest Chapter)

- ❖ Media representative for Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and parts of Kentucky.
- ❖ Assists with the enforcement and dissemination of the media relations policies for the organization and helps to work with the media and internet resources

MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Ypsilanti Historical Society	2007-2012
National Trust for Historic Preservation	2008-present
Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Chair of Education Committee	2009-2012
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation	2010-2011
Kempf House Museum, Volunteer Coordinator/President	2013- 2016
Master Gardener, Washtenaw County	2014 - present
Michigan Folk School, Director	present

City Council Application

Anne Stevenson

Supplemental Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Council Member?

As a long-time resident of Ypsilanti, I am committed to seeing the City continue to grow and thrive. Ypsilanti City Council plays a major role in determining the future path of the city. Being a collaboratively-minded person, I believe in the power of community members coming together to work toward common goals. I am proud to be a part of this diverse community and would be honored to serve as one of its leaders to ensure Ypsilanti continues on its positive journey.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council?

As an active leader, I strive to better understand the community I serve and look for ways to empower others. In my position as Program Development Manager at Washtenaw Community College, I conduct needs assessments to better understand the demands and interests of my customers. For City Council, I would use the same process to determine the needs of constituents through open forums, focus groups, surveys and most importantly, face-to-face interactions. It is important to be accessible and to listen carefully to people to determine what the overarching issues are.

Through my experience in volunteer management and engagement, I've learned that effective leadership makes people feel valued and excited to be involved within their communities. It is important to look for ways to bring people together and to work collaboratively. I often find that if I jump in and am enthusiastically involved on a project, others will follow.

3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?

Housing

Housing in Ypsilanti, and in particular, affordable housing, is one of the top issues that I believe City Council needs to continue to focus on. At the moment there are several areas that contribute to the problems we are facing; a limited tax base within the City, a large senior community which requires opportunities for aging-in-place, and a low amount of overall housing stock where rental spaces have been almost entirely taken. This has caused owners of rental properties to increase their rents. In addition, property taxes continue to be one of the highest in the State of Michigan and some residents have become more concerned about being "taxed" out of the City. Finally, discussions about new zoning changes have sometimes been met with resistance by traditionally single-family home neighborhoods.

It is possible that looking for ways to increase the overall housing stock would help. New construction for residential and commercial properties could help increase the density in these areas and should be investigated. Mix-use construction that has been used in surrounding cities may also be an option. I believe that changes in the zoning ordinance should continue to be studied as ways to create a variety of living and working spaces in traditionally single-family home neighborhoods. Once there is an increase in housing stock, I would also then research more homeowner or rental incentive programs, such as the LiveYpsi Homebuyer Assistance Program, or other possible work-in-place strategies.

Economic and Community Development

During the fifteen years I've lived in Ypsilanti, I have seen great strides in the area of Economic and Community Development. This issue is ongoing and should always be a focus for City Council.

I see the need to continue to encourage and develop small businesses, small manufacturing, renewable energies and a creative economy. These are just some of the things that are making Ypsilanti unique. Paving the way to make it easier for these types of activities and businesses to come in our direction is vital. I would like to be at the table with some of the collaborative businesses and business generators to hear more about what can be done to encourage them. Some of this creative economy is already coming out of Spark Business, The DDA, Landline Creative Labs, and Creative Chambers. I would also research more ways we can encourage pop-up activities and business, as well as some zoning changes that might make it easier for Cottage Food industries or businesses to be run out of the home. Certainly I wish to help facilitate more discussion on the commuter rail stop in Depot Town.

Communication

Instituting improved methods of communication needs to be a top priority. A lack of media in our area makes it difficult for information to be quickly and correctly disseminated. The use of social media has its place, but often I find that information does not get presented correctly through this medium. I think the preliminary work by our Mayor serves as a great starting place to help with information dispersal. As a member of City Council, I would help to facilitate this same type of system within my ward, working with Jennifer Symens to do so. I also would like to see improved communication with staff and cross-commissions - finding ways to get all City constituents to talk with one another.

4. Current and past community involvement - and relevance to City Council.

I have served on the Historic District Commission since 2009, first as a staff member as a joint position between the City of Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University, and then as a Commissioner. I served as Chair of the Commission for four years, and am still a member. When I first started, I felt it was important to increase communication and understanding between the commission and property owners. I organized several

workshops which provided property owners with a basic understanding of historic preservations, opportunities to meet commissioners and access to other important information. These workshops were continued for several years after.

In 2013, I served on the Shape Ypsilanti Steering Committee for the creation of the City's Master Plan, which is still utilized for decision-making today.

Additionally, I have served as the President of College Heights Neighborhood Association over the last two years. I have also served on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board, the Advisory Committee for the Ypsilanti Historical Society, the Ypsilanti Freighthouse and currently serve on the Michigan Folk School board.

5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Council Member?

It is my hope that during my term I would be fully engaged with my constituents, with other members of City Council, and with the Mayor to be able to work together to solve problems, increase communication and find ways to better listen to the residents of the City.

6. What is your vision for our City and community?

Ypsilanti has worked very hard toward being an inclusive and active community. My vision is to find more ways to make people feel welcome, by providing opportunities for members of the public to get involved with both civic and cultural activities, by letting their voices be heard, and by being the conduit that gets groups talking to one another. By bringing people and groups together, I hope to facilitate converting ideas into action. In addition, I would like to increase tourism and civic pride so that we can welcome even more residents and visitors into our city.

7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

I have lived in College Heights neighborhood since 2005, along with my husband and daughter, who just started at Eastern Michigan University in the Simulation, Animation and Gaming program. We have thought about moving in the past, but cannot find anywhere that we love as much as Ypsilanti. Besides my employment at Washtenaw Community College and my work on the Historic District Commission, I play cello, sew, and am a Master Gardener.



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Steve Wilcoxen

Residence Address 1728 Whittier Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Home Phone ^{cell} [REDACTED] Work Phone

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

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6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2018.**

Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Frances McMullan, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Steve Wilcoxen

1728 Whittier Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



November 26, 2018

Frances McMullan

City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Frances and Council Members:

I am writing to apply for the vacant seat on City Council for Ward 2. As a 24 year resident and registered voter in Ward 2, I believe I meet the minimum requirements to apply for this position. In those 24 years I have been a renter and a home owner. Gail and I have raised two kids, who, now as adults, choose to live in the city and township. I had occasionally attended council meetings for many years, but with increasing regularity in the last two years. In those two years, I have witnessed discussion and decisions of great contention and those that have passed under the radar for most citizens. I believe it is time to participate in a more significant way.

Being a city council member requires earnest communication with constituents, council members, city staff, and other stake holders. It requires planning from 30,000 feet while keeping the details well in mind. As a research manager, I have planned and executed projects with collaborators and staff under multiple regulatory authorities. As a Technical Support manager, I have trained staff to communicate with internal and external customers to assess, analyze, and provide solutions to complex technical issues. As a member and president of multiple non-profit boards, I have reviewed budgets and audits, worked on development campaigns, overseen employee review including union contracts, contributed to programming, and even weathered a lawsuit. I believe these professional and volunteer experiences along with my attention to city council proceedings give me the skills and insight to represent Ward 2.

I look forward to discussing my qualifications with you and council. Please find the attached application, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions. If you have any questions, please contact me at the phone or email listed above.

Sincerely,



Steve Wilcoxen

Enclosure

Steve Wilcoxon

1728 Whittier Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Education and Training

M.S. Environmental Health	University of Michigan	2000
B. S. Biochemistry	University of Illinois	1985

Appointments

11/2015-present ***Cayman Chemical Company, Ann Arbor, MI***

Manager, Technical Support: oversee technical consultation for internal and external customers for >10,000 products, integrate feedback and statistics with Sales, Marketing, Research, Production, and Quality Control.

10/2012-12/2015 ***Cayman Chemical Company, Ann Arbor MI***

Manager, Biochemistry Quality Control: Develop Quality Management System, devise testing strategies, coordinate product revisions with Production and Research and Development managers, review QC data for assay kits and novel products.

3/2007-10/2012 ***Cayman Chemical Company, Ann Arbor, MI***

Technical Support Representative: provide technical expertise to internal and external customers, including experimental design and data analysis, revise and edit technical manuals, bibliographic research, represent company at trade shows

6/1993-3/2007 ***Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Dept. of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI***

Research Associate: Characterizing the innate immune response of the lung in vivo and in vitro, characterizing the role of hyperoxia in the progression of pneumonia, laboratory management, training MD fellows in basic research. Supervisor: Dr. Robert Paine III, M.D.

5/1995-7/2000 ***Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ann Arbor, MI***

Thesis Research: Characterizing the toxicokinetics of Fluoranthene in *Hyaella azteca* under UV light in sediment and water exposures. Mentor: Dr. Peter F. Landrum, Ph.D.

6/1990-6/1993 ***Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI***

Research Associate: Characterizing the regulation and interaction of 5-lipoxygenase and PGH synthase in fresh rat and human cells and tumor cell lines, training MD fellows in basic research. Supervisor: Dr. Marc Peters-Golden, M.D.

8/1988-6/1990 ***Department of Biochemistry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL***

Lab Technician: Purifying mutant gene V proteins (a ssDNA-binding protein from phage f1) for folding studies, maintaining lab stocks. Supervisor: Dr. Thomas C. Terwilliger, Ph.D.

6/1985-8/1988 ***Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN***

Lab Technician: Purifying RNA polymerases from yeast for characterization and in vitro transcription experiments, laboratory management. Supervisor: Dr. Judith A. Jaehning, Ph.D.

Bibliography Upon request

- 1) I have been attending city council meetings fairly regularly for the past couple years. There have been a number of issues (Water Street debt, International Village, Recycle Drop off Station, Penninsular Dam) that have drawn me and a lot of other folks to the meetings. I am surprised at times that there are not more folks from Ward 2 at those meetings. Those examples have been contentious at times. I have agreed with some of the moves Council has made and disagreed with others. However, I have also been there for the not-so-sexy, nuts and bolts workings of running our city. These seemingly mundane issues (health care for city staff, annual budget, funding public safety and mental health) build the basis of how we move forward as a community. I believe I understand the constituents of Ward 2, but need to learn more from them, as well as other Wards. I want to bring their concerns to the table for decisions affecting the future of our city.
- 2) As a manager of a customer facing technical service department, I train my staff to be patient, listen to customers, look for gaps in the communication, and anticipate issues the customers may not be aware of. Ultimately, we strive to resolve complex technical issues to the mutual satisfaction of the customer and the company. This can involve coordinating the efforts of multiple departments to come up with the best solution, then communicating the solution to a customer who may not reciprocate the patience and understanding. I see representing Ward 2 in much the same light, bringing those skills to bear on understanding the issues of constituents and city to develop solutions that make sense to the individual and the community as a whole. In my experience as a research laboratory manager, I wrote and reviewed NIH grants and budgets. I have served on the boards for four very different non-profits: Channing-Murray Foundation, CDC Daycare, The Ecology Center/Recycle Ann Arbor, and Educate Youth. Of these, only Educate Youth serves the Ypsilanti community directly. As a board member of the Ecology Center for six years (president for one), I worked with program directors and staff on budgets, programs, union contracts, law suits, personnel evaluations, as well as restructuring from a flat collective to a tiered collective that recognized the expertise of long term staff. (From all of this, I have the stamina for long meetings that leave important decisions to late hours.)
- 3) The three priorities for the city are economic development, equitable services for the diverse culture in our community, and improving our standing in the region. Ypsilanti's financial problems stem, in part, from large percentage of land that is off the tax rolls, departure of large employers, and misguided development deals. Eastern Michigan University, the largest player in the city, has not been the best partner to the city. That partnership needs to be cultivated to render more benefits to the city. I muse about more services from the university to defray costs (financial and psychosocial) the city of Ypsilanti currently incurs from having the university here. The days of attracting a large manufacturing operation to bring in revenue are gone. We need to be more creative in encouraging development of diverse small and medium size businesses and advertising abroad. Festivals used to be a big part of bringing people to the city. We have an amazing river that runs through our city with more potential for recreation and business. With the recent legalization of cannabis in Michigan, Ypsilanti could take advantage of the anticipated rapid growth of that industry in growing, processing, and retail. One of the loudest complaints against the International Village development was that it did not represent the culture of Ypsilanti and would not benefit all segments of our population. The Community

Benefits Ordinance is a critical step in assuring affected populations are empowered in future development. However, we need to empower each resident to participate in the community as a whole before requests for proposals or bids. As we cultivate relationships with residents and businesses, we also need to cultivate relationships with our neighboring communities. There is a lot to be learned from dialog with our neighbors on what they can offer us and we can offer them.

- 4) I am a founding board member for Educate Youth (EY) and currently board president. Educate Youth's mission is to provide programming for Ypsilanti teens which promote positive outcomes in all areas of life. EY addresses the academic needs of youth who fall through the cracks of schools in Ypsilanti area with after school programming. EY also addresses the psychosocial needs of the participants through mentoring; youth led discussions and field trips to colleges and local businesses. To this end, EY received a small grant from the City of Ypsilanti this summer. My role on the board is to support the executive director, who creates the programming, and help organize the board with respect to employee relations and financing. As with any small organization, you do what needs to be done including tutoring, providing transportation for participants, chaperoning events, and shoveling the walks. For the past two years I have been a member of the Ypsi Bike Co-op. The mission is to increase access to biking, especially in underserved populations. We teach folks how to repair their own bikes and get bikes into the hands of people who need them for basic transportation as well as recreation. Through the booth at the Saturday Ypsilanti Farmer's market, this year we serviced 250 bikes, received 16 donated bikes, and given 21 bikes to community members. Gail and I have opened our home to at least 6 community youth for short and long term residence. This has ranged from a weekend stay with help to secure long term housing and counselling to a two year guardianship. You do what needs to be done.
- 5) This is only a two year term, so there is not room for lofty goals. I do not have a pet project to advance. Mostly, I want to lend a hand in some heavy decisions.
 - a. I would like to facilitate communication between council, commissions, and citizens to reestablish mutual respect and common goals. I believe the Council suffers a crisis of faith within the community. That needs to be healed.
 - b. I would like to help draft a plan to increase the participation in a recycling program for the city. The demolition of the drop off station required an alternative site, now being filled by Recycle Ann Arbor's Ellsworth facility. This is a good stop gap measure, but participation is anticipated to be low. We need a pick up program for multiunit dwellings. Pete Murdock has presented various options for such a program. I intend to help flesh out those plans and get them started.
 - c. I am currently digesting the report on the options of removing or repairing the Penninsular Dam. I intend to finish that by December 4, to help design a plan which considers public comment dealing with the dam in the next two years. Either option will require raising more funds, so I intend to engage in that endeavor.
- 6) I envision Ypsilanti as a unique, welcoming community of mixed cultures. I want to see us overcome the struggles between those cultures to achieve a state when each person is represented in the decisions of the city. Through that process, we can move forward with

economic development that reflects our diversity and does not leave segments of our population behind. I don't have a specific plan for establishing a particular type of business in a particular place, because that needs to be decided by the community. We who live in Ypsilanti understand what a great place it is to live. We need to revitalize partnerships with other local governments and universities to let the rest of the region know what a great place it is.

- 7) I look for a commonality with each person I meet that will allow me to relate to and understand them better. I try to avoid categorizing people and their conclusions, but to look at the essence of their values. From there we can venture into how we can develop together. There are a lot of unique travelers in Ypsilanti with more in common than we may think.