

1. City Council Meeting Agenda

Documents:

[SPECIAL MEETING - 28 MAY 2019 - AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. City Council Meeting Packet

Documents:

[SPECIAL MEETING - 28 MAY 2019 - PACKET.PDF](#)



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 @ 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bashert
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
Council Member Brown
Council Member Symanns
Council Member Morgan
Council Member Wilcoxon

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. 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. AGENDA APPROVAL

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

VIII. WARD 3 VACANCY INTERVIEW

- A. John McMillian Interview
B. Desirae N.P. Simmons Interview
C. Annie Somerville Interview
D. Tyler Weston Interview

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

X. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XI. ADJOURNMENT



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 @ 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bashert
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson
Council Member Brown
Council Member Symanns
Council Member Morgan
Council Member Wilcoxon

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. 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. AGENDA APPROVAL

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

VII. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

VIII. WARD 3 VACANCY INTERVIEW

- 3 - 8** A. John McMillian Interview
[JOHN MCMILLAN WARD 3 APP](#)
- 9 - 15** B. Desirae N.P. Simmons Interview
[DESIRAE SIMMONS WARD 3 APP](#)
- 16 - 20** C. Annie Somerville Interview
[ANNIE SOMERVILLE WARD 3 APP](#)
- 21 - 27** D. Tyler Weston Interview
[TYLER WESTON WARD 3 APP](#)

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

X. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

XI. ADJOURNMENT



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name JOHN A McMillan

Residence Address 504 N. HURON ST.

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:

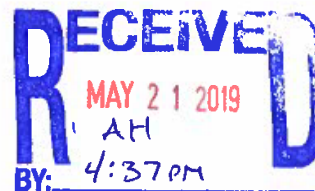
1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community 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 Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

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

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

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



FROM THE DESK OF

JOHN MCMILLAN

PM

CONTACT

John A. McMillan
504 N. Huron
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

EXPERIENCE

GENERAL MANAGER/ SALES MARKETING (PRODUCT DIVISION)

Ersco Construction Supply: Southfield MI 2004-2010

Oversce daily operations and standard operating procedures for company marketing and product sales. Equipment oversight and service consultation within the construction industry. Clients include- State governments and industrial /commercial accounts in a four state area with sales averaging \$30 million.

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

Five Star Products, Inc.: Fairfield, CT 1992-2003

Supervisor of marketing and technical service for all infrastructural, industrial, commercial and engineering products. Complete creation of forecasting budget requirements and customer development strategies. Twenty-four state territory in Central U.S.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Five Star Products, Inc.: Fairfield, CT 1988-1992

Responsibilities included sales ,engineering and complete technical job site service to all clientele within the mid-west region.

DIVISIONAL SALES MANAGER

Master Builders, Inc.: Cleveland, OH 1972-1988

Duties included the supervision and training of the sales and engineering group of over 46 employees in eighteen states and two countries.

PRODUCT MARKETING MANAGER

Master Builders, Inc.: Cleveland, OH

Responsibilities included the development of the National Distribution Procedures for a complex product line and the implementation of National Owner Purchase Agreements. Further duties included supervision, train and tracking of six personnel. Each required a comprehensive knowledge of the product, company and potential.

FROM THE DESK OF
JOHN MCMILLAN

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Master Builders, Inc.: Cleveland, OH

Head of product sales for highway/ bridges, power companies and wastewater treatment plants. Clients included engineers, municipalities and general contractors.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Master Builders, Inc.: Cleveland, OH

Sales in the Chemical Admixture division. Clients included Ready-Mix suppliers, as well as road and building contractors in the mid-west. Served as an important liaison to engineering firms through the exact documentation of job specifications in order to ensure customer satisfaction.

REGIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Hilti Fastening Systems, Inc.: Stanford, CT

1971-1972

Sales of Powder Actuated Tool and Hammer Actuated Drills (along with crete and metal fasteners) to contractors and owners in the construction industry.

EDUCATION

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Detroit, MI — Business Administration, 1971

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

East Lansing, MI — Business Administration, 1967

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

U.S.A. — Sargent, Engineering, 1967-1970

AFFILIATIONS

U.S. CERTIFIED CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION INSTITUTE
AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE, MICHIGAN CONCRETE
ASSOCIATION, NOVI CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, PARKS &
RECREATIONS COMMISSIONER, BOARD OF JAYCEES

Supplemental Questions

1. As an active resident for over 20 years, I am interested in helping achieve a brighter future for the city of Ypsilanti and the community at large. I care deeply about not only the city, but the residents as well, and would appreciate the opportunity to serve my constituents to the best of my abilities. We currently face many challenges and I hope to be able to help find solutions that would make Ypsi an even greater place to live and work.

2. 33 years working in the corporate world and 4 years in the United States Air Force has taught me a lot about how to manage conflict and interact with all types of people. The specific strength I would bring to council would be my unique ability to see issues from other view points; things aren't always clear-cut and being willing and able to acknowledge other people's perspectives has made me an effective leader and a good communicator. Further, I am incredibly level headed and work well within a group. Lastly, I have extensive knowledge of and experience with various budgeting processes.

3. The three issues I believe the city needs to address are parking availability, Water Street and the improvement/better utilization of local infrastructure.

- I'd like to see the parking issue addressed because it is so closely tied to the eventual train stop, as Amtrak necessitates more parking than is currently available in Depot Town. One solution to this issue is to work with state and local government to build a parking structure. This would not only ease the parking pressure on local businesses but help secure the future of the train stop.

-As for Water Street, I would work to actively recruit business development on the property. Further, I would be diligent in my work to properly vet any potential developments in that area, a skill I obtained through working in the civil engineering sector.

-To better utilize local infrastructure, I would propose capitalizing on the incredible local parks in the area. As a city, we should be encouraging local events that introduce outsiders to our beautiful town, as well as bring business to the establishments in our city.

4. Over the past 20 years, I have worked extensively within the Ypsilanti community; I have sat on the Board of Friends of the Ypsilanti Freight house, donated countless hours working with The Heritage Fest, spent my weekends planting flowers in Depot Town, played Santa at both the annual charity breakfast AND the Depot Town tree-lighting. I have been involved with Cruise Nights for the past 17 summers, and worked with the Ypsilanti Fire Department. All of this work has resulted in the formation of valuable interpersonal relationships with other community members and leaders. I have strong ties to many different people, groups and organizations within Ypsilanti which would serve me well as a member of the City Council.

5. As a Council Member, I hope to help bring differing viewpoints together to achieve what is best for the future of our city. I hope to help find common ground, to increase cooperation and to foster civil discussion.

6. My vision for Ypsilanti is simple; I would like to see our city become more a vibrant and financially sound place to live and work, a place where new businesses and families come to lay roots.

5/21/2019

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is John McMillan and I am a long-time resident of Ypsilanti MI. I am writing today to express my interest in the vacant City Council seat for Ward 3.

I am confident in my ability to succeed as a public servant representing Ward 3. Not only am I an incredibly level-headed person, my dedication to the Ypsilanti Community is limitless. From my work with The Freighthouse to my involvement with the Fire Dept, I have contributed greatly to this community and look forward to continuing to do so.

I am uniquely suited for a position on council because I am willing to listen to all sides of an issue. Further, I excel at working within a diverse group of individuals, always focused on what unites people, and not what divides them. I have a knack for bringing people together to rally around a greater good, another quality which would serve the Council well.

As Viet Nam Veteran, a graduate of Michigan State and long-time Ypsilanti resident, I am grateful to call Ypsi my home.

Thanks for considering my request,



John McMillan

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Desirae N.P. Simmons

Residence Address 407 Charles St.

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 Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

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

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Desiraé Simmons

407 Charles St • Ypsilanti, MI 48198

May 21, 2019

To: The Ypsilanti City Council

I am submitting my application to fill the Ward 3 City Council vacancy. I did not expect to have an opportunity to serve Ward 3 and the greater Ypsilanti community through Council so soon after losing the general election in 2018. Even after my loss, I have remained committed to attending Council meetings and reading the minutes in order to best stay informed and to share information with others. I believe that I am the best candidate to complete this term because I am most ready to "jump right in," have broad support from voters in Ward 3, and bring an ability to problem-solve across difference and build consensus for promising solutions.

My life experiences have prepared me to serve as a Council Member and I do not take lightly the responsibility that brings. I grew up "at risk" of failure to succeed. I didn't know that, so I kept overcoming obstacles and achieving at my own level of excellence defined by myself. I prepared for opportunities I didn't yet know existed. I learned from the experiences of others so I could grow with purpose and empathy. I observed the way things worked and identified areas that needed improvement- and worked with others to explore the possibilities and put things into practice. My story is not unlike Ypsilanti's today. Outsiders see all of the problems and challenges in our community and look for opportunities to either extract value or to help us. But, Ypsilantians know how to come together and to do what's necessary for our community to thrive. We must recognize our strengths and best leverage our resources with an intention to build a city that is worth our efforts. I believe that we are in an important moment in Ypsilanti's history. Will we center our history and community strength and improve the living conditions for those who live here and make us who we are? Or, will we continue the status quo and kick the problem down the road like so many other cities do?

I am relatively new to Ypsilanti, yet I have already begun growing roots, building connections with people, putting my skills to work for this city. I know that there will be a learning curve and I am up for the challenge. I look forward to an opportunity to speak with you more about my application for appointment, and hope to earn an invitation to interview on May 28th. Regardless, you have a daunting task as I'm sure there will be other worthy candidates. I wish you luck in your decision and I'll see you next Tuesday!

In Service,
Desiraé Nohāh Ponita Simmons

Desiraé Simmons

407 Charles St • Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Community Engagement and Activism

Ypsilanti City Council- Ward 3

Nonpartisan Candidate- March 2018-November 2018; Vacancy Appointment Applicant- May 2019

- * Multi-Tasked the responsibilities of being a candidate in a competitive race with the support of long and short term volunteers (social media, messaging, canvassing, networking, fundraising, delegating, managing creative designers, etc.)
- * Analyzed data to determine best strategy and use of resources (endorsements, process, materials, etc.)
- * Took the road less travelled by running as a progressive nonpartisan in a heavily Democratic area in order to mobilize more voters to cast a ballot

Citizen Subcommittee for Affordability and Accessibility

Appointed Member- February 2018-Present

- * Collected and presented data about the housing stock in Ypsilanti, MI
- * Condensed data from the full committee into an easy-to-digest format for the wider community
- * Recommending policy ideas to the Planning Commission and City Council

Untold Stories of Liberations and Love- Ypsilanti, MI

Collective Member- November 2018-Present

- * Create space for women of color in Washtenaw County to express themselves through poetry, connect with others to heal, and to publish their work in an anthology

Rising for Economic Democracy in Ypsi

Founding Member- October 2017-Present

- * Co-created a Community Benefits Ordinance/Agreement with City Council, community activists, and local residents
- * Advocating for policies and processes in city governance that center participatory engagement and the voices of those most disenfranchised within our community

Defend Affordable Ypsi- Ypsilanti, MI

Member- September 2017-Present

- * Serve as a property owner accomplice for renters who are in danger of being priced out due to gentrification
- * Joined "We Love Ypsi Schools" Think Tank and the Huron Valley Democratic Socialists of America Housing Subcommittee because of shared visions

Love, Resilience, Action, Ypsi- Ypsilanti, MI

Founding Steering Committee Member- November 2016-Present

- * Co-founded group that planned and hosted a resistance march in solidarity with the Women's March on Washington
- * Communicate the power of Ypsilanti's activist past through meaningful events that center social justice like the Standing Rock Salon and a plan for a DACA rally

America Coming Together- Cleveland, OH and Manchester, NH

Swing-the-State Volunteer- March 2004 and August 2004

- * Canvassed voters in NH to ask about their most important political issues and entered data collected
- * Informed people in OH of their voting rights and registered them to vote

Strategic Leadership

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice- Ann Arbor, MI

Executive Co-Director- January 2019-Present

- * Execute a co-leadership model for programming, administration, and relationship stewardship
- * Re-Organize organizational structure for alignment with its core values and needs of those most impacted by violence within a white supremacist and patriarchal society
- * Generate community participation and input to design internal and external policies and communications
- * Network with individuals and (in)formal organizations to achieve deep impact and transformational relationships
- * Center emergent strategy during time of change and implementation of audacious goals
- * Learn the landscape of faith-based organizing and connect with intersectional and intergenerational practices

Simmons College Scott/Ross Center for Community Service- Boston, MA

Associate Director, Undergraduate Service-Learning- August 2008-December 2014

- * Mentored Massachusetts Campus Compact Americorps VISTAs, Program Assistant, and Jumpstart Site Manager to grow within Higher Education and related fields
- * Redesigned Student-Led Program model to better align community impact goals with student learning and leadership development goals based on feedback from community members and students, with a focus on strategic progress
- * Created a multi-year community engagement program where students worked toward a capstone project for academic credit in collaboration with multiple academic departments
- * Fostered and maintained strong community partnerships for service-learning and Simmons College as a whole
- * Ensured program success through constant evaluation and feedback from all constituents
- * Researched promising practices and continually improved overall programming of the Center
- * Assisted faculty in developing and implementing service-learning courses throughout the college
- * Supported service-learning students with their placement selections, reflection sessions, and problem solving
- * Launched a SAT Prep and College Success program due to a gap in college services and the expectations of community members based on our mutually beneficial partnerships
- * Integrated diversity and inclusion practices into training and support services of the Center

Boards, Committees, and Key Collaborations**Michigan and Washtenaw County Democratic Party- Ypsilanti, MI**

Black Caucus Vice Chair- December 2018-Present

Executive Committee- December 2018-Present

Progressive Caucus Congressional District 12 Representative- February 2019-Present

University of Michigan- Ann Arbor, Michigan

LSA Campus Climate Committee Student Leadership and Empowerment Sub-Committee - December 2014-April 2018

(Awarded Diversity in Action Leadership Award) and Steering Committee- January 2015-February 2017

So Cool, So Just Planning Team- December 2014-Present (Collaboration with the Ginsberg Center and Community Action, Social Change in the School of Social Work)

Sociedad Latina- Mission Hill, MA

Governing Board Member- 2012-December 2014

Greater Egleston High School- Roxbury, MA

Governing Board Member- 2008-December 2014

Simmons College- Boston, MA

African-American Alumni Association- Director of Student Outreach- June 2009-June 2014

Black Student Association Advisor- 2010-2014

Social Justice Steering Committee- 2008-2014

Academic Honor Board Graduate Student Representative- September 2005-May 2006

Student Advisor for Multiculturalism- September 2003-May 2005

Phillips Academy- Andover, MA

Co-head of Gay/Straight Alliance, Eco-Action Group, and Social Functions- 1999-2001; Member of Af-Lat-Am Society- 1997-2001

Education

Simmons College, College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Studies, Boston, MA

Master of Science in Communications Management, May 2006

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Marketing Communications, with minors in Psychology and Art, May 2005

Honors: magna cum laude, Academy, Barbara Lee Internship Fellow, Mary F. Sneed and Ferebee Scholarships

Phillips Academy, Andover, MA

High School Diploma, June 2001

Continuing Education Coursework: Visual Thinking Strategies; Photography; Educational Psychology; Introduction to Public Policy and Theory; Social Policy; Gender and Leadership; Political Communications; Race, Class, and Educational Achievement; Children's Literature; Susan Schecter Social Action Framework: Domestic Violence

Desiraé Simmons

407 Charles St • Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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

I ran for Ypsilanti City Council in 2018 because I was asked to and because I saw a need for my skill-sets to serve the community in an additional capacity. I believe we need to center the rich history of Ypsilanti along with the voices of our diverse community, especially those under-represented in decision-making and most impacted by the effects of oppressive systems. I believe in the need to make visible progress on issues most important to our community while also honoring a participatory and transparent process that extends even the least connected member an invitation to join in at any time. I believe that City Council should operate as a unified body with shared goals; even if everyone does not agree, each member should feel heard, respected, and that a good faith effort was made to find the best possible way forward for the people of Ypsilanti.

I am applying for the vacancy because I was asked to and because I feel a sense of duty. At this point in the term, it is important to be aware of conversations Council has been having over the past year and longer. Also, Ward 3 had a very community-engaged presence in the late Pete Murdock. He was responsive to constituents and he was present and approachable. I would like the opportunity to continue that legacy. Lastly, my previous candidacy engaged new voters in Ward 3 and I would like to continue educating folks about the political system and ways to advocate for what they need by practicing democracy.

2) What strength would you bring to the Council?

I bring many strengths, and I'm not sure which will emerge as most valuable with the current Council and City Staff. A few to list: ability to research and study, mediation and conflict-resolution, communications, connects with others easily, asks good questions, strives for excellence, cares about people, sees opportunities in problems, able to mobilize others, invested in my work, strong network that is continually growing, learn quickly and then able to explain to others, and more.

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?

Current Priorities:

- a) Affordable and Accessible Housing- The Planning Commission has a Subcommittee for Housing Affordability and Accessibility. I am currently a member of this group. We will be making some recommendations to the Planning Commission based on all the data and feedback we have collected. As a Council Member, I would likely advocate for policy solutions that the subcommittee recommends.

Desiraé Simmons

407 Charles St • Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- b) City Services and Infrastructure- It is important for people to know what to expect, when to expect it, and how much it will cost when thinking about our services and infrastructure projects. We must also think about areas where we have gaps in our services, such as with recycling for rentals with more than a certain level of units. As a Council Member, I would look to support our City Manager and staff to insure they have the resources and direction needed to make timely decisions that center the values we uphold in the budget process.
- c) Relationship with Our Educational Partners, specifically YCS, EMU, and the UM- Even though City Council is separate from our educational partners, the city is impacted by the decisions made by each of these entities. People may base their decision on whether to move to or remain in Ypsilanti based on the perceived quality of Ypsilanti Community Schools. EMU students, faculty, and staff often live in our community and some students decide to stay. Also, enrollment and investment decisions by EMU and the U-M also matter. We need to have open communication to build trust and a mutual understanding of one another's goals. We need to work together. In the past, the School Board and City Council has held meetings together, I see this as a positive step. I also see having ongoing presentations from EMU, as Mayor Bashert suggests, as a step in the right direction.

- 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.**

My resumé lists out much of my visible community involvement work. As mentioned above, I am currently serving on the Planning Commission's Subcommittee for Housing Affordability and Accessibility. We are proposing evidence-based solutions/policies that can be achieved through partnership with City Council. Based on Ypsilanti's population and our housing stock, our community is not affordable and accessible for many who live here. City Council has a responsibility to respond to the needs of the community, and housing is a human right. I've also served on many boards and in organizing teams which helps me understand the multiple roles of governance, collaboration, and getting things done.

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

I plan to build and maintain communication channels with Ward 3 residents to share information, hear questions, and receive feedback on my performance- I hope this helps to insure a trusting relationship. I plan to learn more about municipal governance and its ability

Desiraé Simmons

407 Charles St • Ypsilanti, MI 48198

to actually impact people's living conditions as I decide whether to run for the seat in 2020. I plan to be an engaged council team member who will share my unique perspectives, and those of my constituents, to help us reach the best, most intentional results possible.

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

My vision is for Ypsilanti to be a model for how a community addresses income inequality, racial disparities, and a general lack of access to resources. We would have community responses to issues that center relationship-building and participation. As an example, we could have a youth jobs program that teaches skills that can be used to support seniors who own homes (i.e. lawn mowing, simple maintenance). Instead of some community members denying that gentrification and displacement can happen, even in Ypsilanti, we all come together to insure, as Shape Ypsi suggests, that "everyone no matter their income can find a home here." We will have vibrant parks, a public transit system that gets you across the city as easily as it gets you to Ann Arbor, and pedestrian safety standards that are respected. People will feel that their tax dollars are well-spent and that they know what is going on in the area because we have a thriving community newspaper.

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

The City Council and many staff members already know me pretty well. For others reading this application, know that I am very reliable and able to juggle multiple responsibilities. I do not do it alone. I appreciate all of the energy this community has and its resilience in the face of adversity. I have deep gratitude to those who have made Ypsilanti the place my family is choosing as home and I look forward to working with you all!



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Annie Somerville

Residence Address 40 E. Cross St. APT 5 Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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 Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

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

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

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

May 20, 2019

Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
1 S. Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Mr. Hellenga,

As the city moves forward, I would like to express my interest in representing Ward 3 on Ypsilanti City Council. As a graduate from Eastern Michigan University and a resident of Ypsilanti for over 6 years, I have a unique perspective of the struggles currently facing the city. My position as a legislative aide in Lansing has provided me the skills to work effectively within local government, building coalitions and effecting change. My background in political engagement allows me to strike a balance between concerned constituents like me, the democratic process, and actionable pursuits for the City of Ypsilanti.

Regards,

Annie Somerville
40 E. Cross Street APT 5
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

ANNIE SOMERVILLE

40 E CROSS ST APT 5 Ypsilanti, MI 48198 | [REDACTED]

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC HONORS

B.S., Eastern Michigan University | POLITICAL SCIENCE | WINTER 2018

Magna Cum Laude

Departmental Honors

Undergraduate Symposium participant 2017

Robert O. McWilliams Memorial Scholarship 2016

Francis R. Warren Scholarship 2016

Pi Sigma Alpha - National Political Science Honors Society

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

LEGISLATIVE AIDE | MICHIGAN STATE SENATE | JAN 2019-PRESENT

Managing daily reception and constituent needs, scheduling, maintaining the office email, attending district events, and assisting with legislative research.

CAMPAIGN MANAGER | DAYNA POLEHANKI FOR STATE SENATE | AUG 2018 - NOV 2018

Managed the day-to-day operations of the campaign and candidate. Developed and coordinated a successful grassroots field operation. Recruited, organized, and trained volunteers. Assisted with call time and fundraising. Managed campaign calendar and events. Maintained VAN and NGP databases. Developed GOTV program.

FIELD DIRECTOR | JEFF IRWIN FOR STATE SENATE | APR 2018 - AUG 2018

Developed and coordinated a successful grassroots field operation. Recruited, organized, and trained volunteers. Managed part-time field organizers. Developed and managed GOTV program.

CAMPUS FELLOW | CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT | AUG 2016 - DEC 2016

Organized voter registration drives across campus. Hosted voter education events and developed GOTV program on campus.

FIELD DIRECTOR | Barb Fuller for State Representative | MAY 2016 - AUG 2016

Developed and coordinated grassroots field operation. Managed VAN database. Recruited, organized, and trained volunteers.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

SERVER | SIDETRACK BAR AND GRILL | SEPT 2014- DEC 2018

Successfully engaged with customers in a high volume environment. Worked with team members to provide excellent customer service. Developed a new hire training program.

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

Over the last 6 years that I have lived in Ypsilanti, I have watched the decision-making process within the walls of city hall and often hoped that students, renters, service industry laborers, and young professionals could have been a part of those conversations so that the plans we make for the future of our city are inclusive, equitable, and represent the best interests of all citizens. I am interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember so that voices like mine can have a seat at the table when major decisions are being made.

2. What strength would you bring to the council?

I am a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, a current legislative staffer, and a former server in Depot Town. I have had the privilege of engaging with residents in the community through my involvement on campus as well as my time living and working in Ward 3. Those experiences will allow me to bring a much-needed perspective to the council and decision-making process.

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?

My top three priorities as a member of City Council would be continuing to improve our parks across the city, building a better relationship with the university, and making sure that Ypsilanti is a place where recent graduates choose to stay.

Our parks are most beneficial to our city when residents are actively involved in the planning process. Throughout my term, I will host regular discussions to talk about the condition of our parks and what residents hope to see in them. In addition to community discussions, I will work to secure grant funding that can address our needs at the local and state level.

As a Councilmember, I believe that it is important to have a relationship with university administrators, faculty, and students. I will work to have regular dialogue with members of the Eastern Michigan community.

In an effort to make sure that recent graduates can stay in Ypsilanti, I believe that we need to focus on bringing more jobs to our city while simultaneously ensuring folks can buy homes here. In an effort to accomplish this goal, I will work with local, state, and federal officials to draw attention to economic development needs that would benefit our City and current/future residents.

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.

While I have never had an official position on a local board, committee, task force, or commission, I have been present with other residents in the audience to listen to the folks who have been elected or appointed to represent our city. As a young woman, being in the audience and independently engaging in local issues is just as important as having a seat at the table. I've been able to work on issues I'm passionate about with local leaders this way, and I'm hoping to continue doing that as a council member.

As a former campaign staffer, I understand the concerns and needs of Ypsilanti residents. Now, as a legislative aide, I regularly attend local meetings and events in Ypsilanti, in order to create a bridge between city, county, and state interests/goals/governance.

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

In addition to my priorities listed earlier, I would love to work on improving parking in Ward 3. As a former employee and current resident of Depot Town, I believe that ensuring adequate parking is essential to making sure our residents who work and/or live here are not burdened by additional development.

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

My vision for our City and community is ultimately achieving an Ypsilanti Promise partnership between YCS and EMU/WCC, modeled after the Kalamazoo Promise. If we can attain that goal, Ypsilanti will provide greater opportunity for the next generation.

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

Over the last 6 years in Ypsilanti, I have had the privilege of getting to know the residents of Ward 3, through my work on local campaigns and while serving them food and drinks. I am confident that if given the opportunity to represent them, they will trust me to serve them well and advocate for the best interests of everyone in Ward 3.



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #3 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name TYLER WESTON
Residence Address 302 N. Grove St.
Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone 81 22 11
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 Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

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

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

**Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Tyler Weston / Ypsilanti City Council Cover Letter

5/20/19

Dear Council Members + Staff,

My name is Tyler Weston and I am a 6-year resident of the 3rd Ward and a 16-year resident of Ypsilanti. Eight years ago, I started my entrepreneurial journey as the “Ypsi Real Estate Guy”, at the time I recognized a lack of pride in our city from other real estate agents, just having bought my first home here, and thought that there was an opportunity for a business as well as a social advocate in this space. Over the course of the last eight years I have served nearly 400 people in helping them to buy or sell their home in the Ypsilanti area and have also helped revive our commercial districts thru my work with entrepreneurs, and land lords.

Over the course of the last 10 years I have worked with many nonprofits to help those in most need in our community in various roles (Ozone House, Big Brothers Big Sisters, 826 Michigan, YMCA, Mentor 2 Youth, Special Olympics, etc.). I fell in love with the children in this community and have done my best to be a good servant to their needs. This has included working one on one with young people as a mentor, coach, trainer, and even helping to create Ypsilanti International Elementary School. I have also worked diligently with these nonprofits in committees on boards and in spaces that I can advocate. I also give 10% of my commission proceeds to one of six local nonprofits and have given 45K in the last two years to help contribute to the greater good.

Five years ago, I was asked by our then mayor Paul Schreiber to consider running for city council. I had never thought about running for office before but Paul and others saw something in me that I didn't, a leader that could bring a positive attitude to council that was grounded in service to others. I fought a hard campaign that year and came up just 100 votes short of winning the seat over then incumbent Brian Robb. But thru the process became even more aware of the issues facing the city and the way I would apply my talent to help solve them.

I am excited for the opportunity to serve the city of Ypsilanti and work with council and staff towards achieving all of our mutual goals of a city that its residents can be proud of. My talents lie in property management, real estate, marketing, leadership, teaching, entrepreneurship, and innovation. I bring a positive attitude and a career filled with examples of working on a team towards common goals and mutual successes. My knowledge of the city and its inner workings is extensive as someone who both lives here, has a business here, and has worked with staff and council many times in the past. Thank you for your consideration.

Tyler Weston



TYLER WESTON

302 N. Grove St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

To attain the Ypsilanti City Council third ward council seat.

EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 2014 – CURRNET

REALTOR, REAL ESTATE ONE – YPSILANTI

I committed to Real Estate One as an agent when they decided to open a new office here in Ypsilanti as well as help contribute to local charities. I have been our offices top producer as well as in the top 1% of Realtors nationwide for the last four years as a part of this organization.

FEB 2011 – OCTOBER 2014

REALTOR, EDWARD SUROVELL REALTORS / HOWARD HANNA

Edward Surovell Realtors provided the training and support that allowed my career as Realtor to blossom. In my first year I took home this prestigious companies first ever "Rookie of the Year" awards for closing 16 transactions in my first calendar year something nearly unheard of in our industry for a first-year performer

EDUCATION

APRIL 2010

BACHELORS DEGREE BUSINES ADMINISTRATION, BAKER COLLEGE

The business administration degree from Baker College gave me the knowledge necessary to move from idea to execution. Understanding how a business works and what components add up to a successful one has allowed me to create my own business as well as recognize the strengths in others while working in the commercial real estate space.

APRIL 2000

ASSOCIATES DEGREE BUSINESS MARKETING, BAKER COLLEGE

The degree in business marketing from Baker College allowed me to hone in on my talent of marketing. This focus has allowed my ability to understand the business I am looking to attract and how to gain their attention to my products and services.

SKILLS

- Excellent listener
- Team Leadership
- Passionate Advocate
- Research
- Marketing

ACTIVITIES

Committee Member - Ypsilanti International Elementary School /Oct 2015 – Oct 2016

I was one of a small group of committee members that helped to form the Ypsilanti International Elementary School at what was previously Prospect Elementary School. Our committee moved from concept, to planning, to action and ultimately helping to market the schools to the public.

Chairman - Community Schools Facility Advisory Board Ypsilanti Community Schools /Feb 2016 – March 2018

I chaired a board of citizens, leaders and school staff to make recommendations to the YCS school board about what to do with our vacant, under used, and fully occupied schools to ensure quality education and quality neighborhoods for our young people. The board fully adopted our recommendations which has led to a healthier school district and a better use of our assets.

Volunteer - Ozone House Youth & Family Services / Jan 2010 – Present

Ozone House is an amazing organization that helps the homeless population as well as young people with a multitude of services. In 2011 a Program started called "Work Zone" in an effort to help our young people find employment in Ypsilanti and prepare for interviews. And we have had 100s of successful job placements in Ypsilanti thru this work. In 2018 I was honored with the second ever volunteer of the year award for my work with this organization

Board Member - Mentor 2 Youth / Sep 2013 – Jan 2015

Mentor 2 Youth serves more than 315 youth throughout Washtenaw County thru its multi-site afterschool programs current operating at four locations and three that run throughout the summer. M2Y changes the lives of students thru programs focused on empowerment, opportunity, and tutoring.

Project Manager / Member - Eastern Leaders Group /Jan 2013 – Current

The Eastern Leaders Group is made up of leaders in Eastern Washtenaw County that work on developing our side of the county though awareness and funding. The group has brought many successes to this side of the county in its five years since inception. One of the major improvements you can see when driving around Ypsilanti is the major facade improvements that have happened along Michigan Ave and Cross Street. We also worked to better understand why downtown Ypsilanti properties were vacant and held an investors event with the DDA and Spark to help bring investment to our city.

Head Coach - Ypsilanti Special Olympics / Sep 2009 – Present

I am a proud coach of Special Olympics basketball here in Washtenaw County. I started a team in Ann Arbor in 2009 and a team in Ypsilanti in 2010. This experience is one of most rewarding things I get to do. I am so proud of these athletes and our programs continue to grow year to year. We have recently added a program at EMU that combines Students with Special Needs Athletes.

Big Brother - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County / Sep 2010 – Aug 2014

I was a Big Brother for almost four years and am so happy that I met my little brother. We play basketball, talk, hang out and have a great relationship. In 2013 the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County asked Damon and I to share our story for marketing to show how important and enriching these relationships and this organization are to our community and the individuals it serves.

Founder / Volunteer - East Washtenaw Basketball League / May 2016 – Present

East Washtenaw Basketball League was formed in a partnership between, Ypsilanti Community Schools, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and the YMCA with the mission to provide free recreation for young people between the ages of 13-19 in the Ypsilanti Area thru basketball. In year one we had 150 participants and are continuing to grow.

Ypsilanti City Council Questions

Tyler Weston

5/20/19

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

I am always interested in applying my talents to problems that I am passionate about. Working in and with the city over the last eight years has really enlightened me as to the city's problems and heightened my awareness as to how my talents and knowledge could help put our city in a better position to succeed for all of its citizens. My background in property management and real estate translates well to understanding not only how a city's budget works but also how to directly impact those problems thru my previous experiences and successes. In addition, I am a citizen that is always listening to my neighbors new and old and getting their perspectives and frustrations. I can be a very "on the ground" council member because of my reputation and good standing with our neighbors to ensure that our city is performing up to expectations and that we are not missing out on great opportunities to serve our citizens. Also, simply, I enjoy being a servant. I am always looking for ways to allow my talent to be put to best use for my clients, and the citizens of Ypsilanti. My business motto is "serving you, our community and the greater good" and I do my best every day to hold to this standard, serving in city council allows me to serve more people and advocate for the greater good in even more ways than I currently do.

2. What strength would you bring to the Council? My biggest strength is knowledge that anything that "I" want to do can only be done with the power of "we". I understand what it feels like to work as a team towards a common goal and the perseverance that it takes to get to that goal. I would point to Thompson Block a project that I have been involved with for over six years as an example of my stick-to-itiveness for a goal that creates benefit for our community at every level. In short, I know how to play my role and how to work inside of a team environment. In addition, I have an optimistic viewpoint that is grounded in realism. I know how to act professionally in representation of others as it is what I do every day very successfully.

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? We need to have a deeper understanding of our city owned assets as a city council and devise a clear and strategic disposition on how we make the "highest and best use" of each and every city owned parcel and building. If we are going to ask that our citizens keep good repair and responsibility of their homes and businesses then we need to lead by example. We need to better educate our public on our budget as well as articulate how we got here. We need to make it in a form that is easily understood and well communicated to every citizen. Lastly, we need to leverage our greatest asset, our people. We have so much talent in our community we need to give this talent pathways to get involved in our city so we can lean on our own knowledge to the best decisions, policies and practices going forward.

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.**

As you see on my resume I have had extensive work with nonprofits here is a list of the nonprofits I have worked with and my role (in brief) in each:

YMCA (vol, program director, committee member / **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (big brother, marketing committee, fundraising committee) / **Ozone House** (2018 vol of the year, Workzone, Fitness Friday) / **826 Michigan** (Vol, Event committee) / **Gillenwater Scholarship** (funder) / **Ypsilanti Community Schools** (committee to form Ypsilanti International Elementary School, Co-Curricular Committee, Facilities Advisory Board Chair, Man Up Kid Down co-creator) **East Washtenaw Basketball League** (creator) Eastern Leaders Group (project manager, member) Ypsilanti Jaycees (Chairperson of the year, Community Vice President) **Ypsi P.R.I.D.E.** (committee member for 9 years) **Paint Ypsi** (Board Member, vol) **Mentor 2 Youth** (board member, vol) **Special Olympics Ypsilanti** (funder, head coach) **Ypsi Promise** (board member) **Boys and Girls Club of Huron Valley** (Advisory Board) **Friends In Deed** (advisory board) **Ypsilanti Open House** (committee Member)

What all of these experiences and many others give me is a large breadth of understanding our community and ALL the people in it from age 0-100 from many walks of life. Working successfully with these organizations allows me to bring assets to the table in the form of their participation in our city's future and success. This allows me to truly be a city council member that is deeply rooted in understanding our problems and how to apply solutions.

5. **What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?** I want to bring civility and citizen empowerment to the council chambers. I want to use my talents to work with staff on making the highest and best use of our city owned assets and to open up better methods for those looking to get involved in our city. During this time, I will bring hopefulness to the chamber and a glass half full mentality. I am hoping to bring a greater sense of pride to our citizens when thinking of the city they live in.
6. **What is your vision for our City and community?** My vision is one of knowledge of self (as a city). We are having an identity crisis as a city as to what we are and who we want to be. We need to claim our identity thru the lens of the amazing historical accomplishments we have made as a city with a vision of hopefulness and fearlessness as we move forward. It is up to the leaders of the city to inspire this vision of hopefulness and a positive future vision. I also want to be a city that reports to its citizens as to what it is working on and where it wants to go so we can show our citizens a track record of progress towards our mutual goals as a citizenry.

7. **Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?** I love this city so much. I am extremely well read on its history, and every day I dedicate myself to doing my part in progress for all its people. I have helped to restore our commercial districts thru my hard work and diligence (Go Ice Cream, Ma Lou's, Ypsi Running Company, Back Office Studio, Dalat, Thompson Block, Brick and Mortar, etc). I have helped to restore our residential real estate market. I am a supporter of 6 non-profits financially. I spend almost of my money both personal and business with local businesses and contractors. But above all this I am extremely motivated to serve. Service to me is a process in which I put others wants and needs above my own. Every day I engage in service to my community, I hope that you will allow me to do just that, serve, along with the rest of you on council. Thank you for your service and consideration.