



# 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 <sup>cell</sup> [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.

## 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.**

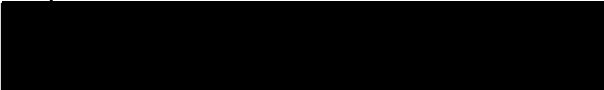
Applications received after 5:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

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

**Steve Wilcoxon**

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 Wilcoxon

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.