



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Christopher Caryl
Residence Address 1447 Witmire St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Home Phone [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 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024.**

Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

Aaron Smith, Interim City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

CHRISTOPHER CARYL

Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | [REDACTED]

December 20, 2023

City of Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti, MI, Michigan 48197

RE: Ward 2 City Council Member

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to apply for the post of Ward 2 City Council Member with the City of Ypsilanti. With more than twenty years of professional experience in a variety of fields, my most recent and current job title is Small Business Owner (local). Throughout this time, I have honed a multitude of skills and experience, making me the ideal candidate for this role.

As a local small business owner, I have developed three important skills, which I can bring with me to enhance your Ward 2 City Council Member role. Firstly, I have gained experience dealing with a variety of stakeholders, from customers and vendors to investors and the local community, all of which have prepared me for the diverse relationships and collaborations on the Council.

Secondly, I have honed my ability to organize and stay focused when managing multiple projects. The Ypsilanti City Council requires rigorous attention to detail, and I am sure I can bring this skill to the role.

Lastly, being both in hospitality management and running my own small business has made me a master in the art of negotiation. This is a necessary skill for a Council member, when trying to navigate competing interests on the Ward.

I offer many other key skills needed to be a successful Ward 2 City Council Member, such as Communication, Teamwork and Collaboration. Specifically, my excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, will be invaluable when engaging with the local community, allowing me to understand the needs of citizens and discuss meaningful solutions. I have proven experience working in teams, fostering successful collaborations and bringing projects to completion. Additionally, my collaborative approach will help create lasting relationships with the local stakeholders on the Council.

All in all, I believe I am an excellent candidate for the role of Ward 2 City Council Member. I am passionate about serving the local community and would like to contribute my unique qualities and experiences to this role. I am confident that my combination of experience and key skills will make me a strong candidate for this role. It is my greatest wish to be of service to my community, and serving as ward 2 council member would be the most effective way for me to fulfil this wish and support or city.

I look forward to discussing my application further.

Sincerely,
Christopher Caryl

[REDACTED]

Christopher Caryl

[REDACTED] | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SUMMARY

Highly motivated professional with ten plus years of entrepreneurial and management experience. Skillfully creates and maintains professional and loyal relationships with co-workers, staff and clients while managing administrative and sales employees. Comfortable working independently as manager and leader and as collaborative team member. Applies business acumen and experience and exercises decisive judgment to meet and exceed organizational goals.

SKILLS

- Contract Negotiation
- Operations Management
- Staff Management
- Business Planning
- Business Development
- Project Management
- Customer Service
- Professional Networking
- Issue Resolution
- Process Improvement
- Public Speaking
- Consulting

EXPERIENCE

Business Owner/Operator, Self Employed Contractor, October 2016-Current
Ypsilanti, MI

- Supervised staff, managed payroll and ensured compliance with labor regulations.
- Monitored inventory levels, ordered supplies as needed, and maintained accurate records of purchases.
- Ensured that all safety protocols were followed in order to maintain a safe working environment.
- Reviewed customer feedback and made changes as necessary to improve customer service.
- Implemented new technologies into the business model in order to streamline processes.
- Developed pricing models based on cost analysis of materials, labor, overhead expenses.
- Managed daily operations such as sales transactions, accounts receivable, payable, shipping, receiving functions.
- Maintained up-to-date knowledge of local laws regarding business licenses, permits, taxes.
- Provided leadership through coaching employees on best practices for problem solving.
- Took care of escalated customer concerns to increase satisfaction.
- Developed estimates for residential remodeling services based on in-depth knowledge of labor and material expenses.
- Interviewed, trained and supervised employees.

Manager, Sidetracks Restaurant
Ypsilanti, MI

Assistant Branch Manager, Exotic Automation & Supply Inc.
Jackson, MI

911 Call Taker, Huron Valley Ambulance
Ann Arbor, MI

Kitchen Crew Member, Fabulous Food
Ann Arbor, MI

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BBA

Executive Management / Human Resources, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI May 2013

Associate of Arts

Business Administration, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor MI December 2011

Associate of Applied Science

Occupational Studies, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor MI December 2011

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Ypsilanti City Council member?

As a candidate for the position of a Ypsilanti City Council member, I am passionate about contributing to the development and growth of the Ypsilanti community. I believe in the power of public service and the impact that it can have on people's lives. I have always been interested in politics and have been an advocate for civic engagement.

I am confident that my skills and experience make me a prime candidate for this position. Throughout my academic and professional career, I have demonstrated leadership, critical thinking, and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups of people. Because of the nature of my work and previous experiences, I have also had the opportunity to work in, around, and with a very diverse portion of the community.

If selected to serve on the Ypsilanti City Council, I will bring my unique perspective, passion for public service, and dedication to the community to the table. I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside other council members to make Ypsilanti a better place to live, work, and play.

2. What strength would you bring to the council?

As a business owner and lifelong Washtenaw County and 13-year resident of the city, I have a unique perspective of how things operate from the "other side of the table. This perspective accompanied with my diverse skill sets and experience which range from problem-solving, project and staff management, big and small picture orientation, professional communication, collaboration, accounting, and more; are what give me multiple angles to derive results that will effectively boost our city. Additionally, the nature of my job requires an immense amount of creativity but also a strong business acumen. It is the synthesis of these two styles that has and will continue to make me stand out as a strong leader who can provide creative, new and/or alternative solutions to complex problems.

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?

- a. Remedy the DPS facilities, reorganize the city's development and financial focus, create opportunities for businesses and residents to flourish, and bring in more density in the downtown area.
 - i. The DPS issue is an absolute must to ensure that we can continue to serve our city and protect its citizens by fixing roads, trimming trees, etc. The staff at DPS cannot do this if they have no safe "home". We need to find responsible short-term solutions to keep them safe and working and at the same time develop a long-term solution that will be both financially responsible and beneficial for the department and our city.
 - ii. While we are most definitely working against a tough financial situation in the city, we need to look at exactly where our focus is and how we're addressing generating more revenue for the city so that we can improve it in ways we have not in the past. If it means that we have to step back from certain programs because we need to be tighter with the budget so be it, but a broad view of all

things needs to be taken and all expenditures need to be reviewed for necessity and consistency.

- iii. Creating/generating opportunities and interest in development within the city will require a lot of hard work and outreach between the council and developers. Ideally, generating interest in mixed-use building sites, new buildings, renovation and reuse of old buildings, and new programs to promote entrepreneurial as well as big commercial businesses to operate within the downtown area is critical. One of the largest disparities I believe we have is a lack of a decent department store in the downtown area. Residents need a place to purchase groceries and general goods within walking distance of their homes. We have a decent public transportation system that we need to use to help promote the usage and development of this kind of business within the downtown area. Additionally, the train depot in Depot Town is an absolute must and can only help generate more business within that area and what we hope is a growing and upgrading downtown area.

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 Council member.

I helped to build a wheelchair ramp at Growing Hope greenhouses as well as worked on the large oven in the back. In the early days of my business, I also helped with the construction of the fence for the garden at Parkridge Homes on Harriet St.

These activities show an understanding and commitment to helping non-profits and the community at large, something the council as well as the city is deeply invested in. We need to take care of our own!

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

I hope to foster a better relationship between the city and its residents as well as help to develop positive goals and results that will help the city grow, prosper, and be a great place to live for decades to come.

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

A safe, vibrant bustling city that is full of the most diverse of residents. Schools that are sought after to attend. Artists, businesses, entrepreneurs, and entertainers who want to be in and are happy to call the city their home. A supportive system that helps youth, underprivileged, homeless, and impoverished citizens in a way that generates community involvement and residential equity. Environmentally conscientious public transportation linking all sections of the city together with resources and activities spread out throughout the city that all residents want to enjoy. A city center that features more green spaces and perhaps walking-only business areas akin to Boulder, Colorado for example.

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

I am a strong advocate for the equality of opportunity for all residents and equal treatment for all individuals. I am passionate about the environment, nature, and humans in general. I feel like as the world progresses, we are slowly losing touch with what makes us...us. I like direct and warm, kind interactions that foster trust and long-term relationships. Humility, respect, and clear consistent communication are key factors in success in every walk of life from personal to professional.

A side note for you regarding my schedule and involvement:

I understand that the previous person holding this position was very much non-participatory. I myself want very much to help and to be involved. That said, I do have a few scheduling conflicts in the near future that would make in-person or general attendance impossible.

December 29th 2023 to January 14th 2024 I will be out of the country on a preplanned trip

January 16th to 21st I will be in Maryland completing construction on my fiancés' condo to ready it for sale. I will be available by phone/video for the interview on the 18th

February 17th to March 2nd I will be out of the country getting Married in Grenada! I will be only available by email and prefer to focus on my wedding and honeymoon during this time period.

After those prescheduled obligations I will be here in the city and have only my regular job responsibilities to focus on for the foreseeable future.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I hope to talk to all of you soon!

Christopher (Chris) Caryl

