

City Council Candidate Application.txt

Maggie Burleson, MMC  
City Clerk

City of Asheville

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Application Form

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND SEVERAL MEETINGS OF A BOARD PRIOR TO APPLYING AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD

Name of board or commission(s): Asheville City Council

Your name: James W. (Bill) Oglesby Home  
Phone #: 828-215-2716

Street address: 879 West Pointe Drive City:  
Asheville, NC Zip Code: 28806

Mailing address (if different):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Employer: Self-Employed "Bill Oglesby Insurance & Financial Services"

Your position: Owner Office Phone #:  
828-665-7733

Resident of City Asheville \_\_\_\_\_ County Buncombe Race  
Caucasian \* Sex M \* Age 62 \*

Are you a United States Citizen (circle one)? (YES) or No

Residence location (check one): Central \_\_\_\_\_ North \_\_\_\_\_ South \_\_\_\_\_ East  
\_\_\_\_\_ West XXX \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you become aware of the opening?  Webpage  Current Volunteer  eNews

Government Channel  Newspaper  Radio  Organization  Agenda  Other

Please indicate the area(s) of expertise that you can bring to the above board(s), and then in detail list education, experience, reasons for your interest, and other factors that support your interest in serving (use additional sheets if necessary). Expertise:  Legal  Technical  Fundraising  Community Contacts

Business Management (Financial)  Business Management (Operational)  Public Speaking

I have been living in the Asheville area for 37 years. I have excellent fundraising experience

and have consistently supported various political candidates who have run for office with

successful fundraising support. I have also worked with the Asheville Land of the Sky Shrine

Club and have actively supported their fundraising efforts for over 15 years for the Burn and

Crippled Children's Hospital in Greenville, SC. As a board member for Habitat for Humanity, I was the

fundraising chairman for their first solicitation of funds to build the first Habitat for Humanity

home in Asheville and we successfully raised over \$35,000 in the early 1980's.

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In regard to my Community Contacts, I served as the President of the Asheville Jaycees which enabled

me to meet many of our city and county political leaders and many Asheville business leaders which has been

invaluable to me throughout the past years. I also served as a County Commissioner from 1976 - 1980.

In that capacity, I was able to meet many of our community leaders, business leaders, and political leaders.

I became much more knowledgeable about how our political system works as a result of holding this office. I currently

serve as a board member on the North Carolina Housing and Finance Agency, in Raleigh. I was appointed

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to this board by Representative Bruce Goforth and have served on this board for over 6 years. This

appointment enables me to interface with agencies, builders, realtors and constituents and other political

entities on a regular basis.

I was educated in Baton Rouge, Louisiana but have spent the majority of my adult life in Asheville.

In my insurance career, I continually upgrade my skills and take a number of classes on a regular basis. These

educational seminars along with my experience in the insurance business form the foundation for my

formal ongoing education.

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Return to: Signature: James W. Oglesby

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk

Post Office Box 7148 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Asheville, N.C. 28802-7148

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: mburleson@ashevillenc.gov

Telephone: 259-5601 Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: 259-5499

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\* This information is requested for the sole purpose of assuring that a cross section of the community is appointed.

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1. What motivates you to apply for this position? I enjoy working for my community so that others benefit from my

hard work, dedication, commitment, and passion for making Asheville a community that all citizens can be proud of.

With the influx of new residents, we must continue to work to improve Asheville's services, infrastructure, education,

and overall quality of life for all residents. There are many needs for our existing residents and in these tough

tough economic times, we must ensure that we are working to provide and enhance job opportunities, fair housing,

social services and programs for those in our city who are struggling. I am committed to making a difference.

2. Where do you fall on the conservative-liberal spectrum in terms of fiscal and social policy?

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I have been, and always will be, fiscally moderate conservative. My social policy embraces diversity and

inclusion of all individuals. As you can see from my volunteer work, I am passionate about helping those

who are less fortunate. However, I understand that there are fiscal limitations and I pride myself in

being able to balance the two. We need to continue to capitalize on volunteerism and other social organizations

to work effectively with our community boards and agencies.

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3. In your eyes, what should be the top 2 or 3 priorities our City Council should be focused on in the upcoming year and why?

a. Continue to improve the infrastructure and utilities. Because many of our internal systems have become

old and outdated, we need to ensure that these systems are improved and modernized so that future growth will

not be compromised.

b. The Civic Center issue needs to be addressed and resolved once and for all. We need to look at remodeling,

improving, or relocating this resource that has become tarnished in the past few years. It can be a

tremendous resource if brought up to the proper standards and to the level it was once designed to serve in our

community.

c. The City Council and our city planners need to address the UDO policy to make it more "citizen-friendly."

Many residents, future home owners, and builders are unknowledgeable about the policies and procedures that this document addresses.

We need to make it more viable and understood by those who will be affected by it.

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4. What do you consider the most crucial problem, need, or cause for the citizens of Asheville?

How would you approach its resolution or champion the cause?

I feel the biggest issue to face us is taxation. In these difficult and challenging economic times, I feel that

we should not raise taxes and cause further burdensome problems for our citizens and businesses. We need to attract

more businesses so that we can offer employment opportunities and raise our tax base. We should look at other cities

that have been successful in doing this, both instate and out of state. Since our number one industry is tourism,

I feel it is crucial that we find more innovative ways to bring tourists into our area as has been done by such towns

as Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and other areas surrounding us. We have a wonderful Chamber of Commerce building and we

need to partner with the Chamber to optimize attracting more conventions and tourists to our area. We must also

work with the Tourism Board to ascertain their needs and the support they require to support the tourism industry

here in Asheville.

5. 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years will be financially tough for the City. What will be your top funding priorities and what would you like to see reduced to balance the budget?

Since I am not privy to the city's current funding priorities and capital needs/expenditures, I am not

able to make any comments on supporting funding priorities or reducing or eliminating programs or

entitlements concerning our budget. However, your statement concerning our tough financial times for the next

fiscal year and beyond are correct. I feel that the City Council should request from the city manager that all

departments bring to the council by Febr 1, 2009, a 10% reduction of all department budgets. The Council should

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prioritize the cuts versus the needs so that there is a rationale for reducing some budgets more than others.

I also feel that each department head should look at their staffing requirements to see if there are individuals

whose hours could be reduced to a 30 hour work week so they could continue their employment with benefits.

I would rather reduce hours than have a layoff or termination. I think with the overall departmental reductions in

hours, we can bring this budget into the balanced column and continue to provide adequate services to our citizens.

It will take a total team effort and the cooperation of all management and council members to ensure the city's

financial stability for the near term.