

**THE CITY OF PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN  
COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Platteville shall be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Police Department Community Room, 165 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Platteville, WI.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. WORK SESSION – Common Council Candidate Interviews [7/23/19]**
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*If your attendance requires special accommodation, write City Clerk, P.O. Box 780, Platteville, WI 53818 or call (608) 348-9741 Option 9.*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to apply to be a member serving on the Common Council of the City of Platteville.

As a Chinese first-generation college student who valued education as the most important thing in life, I found that it is easy to bond with people since historically Platteville is an educational hub in the surrounding area. Not only did I receive a M.S. in Education from UW-Platteville which helped me launch a successful job back in China; but also, years later, I called it home to raise my son here. I like the most about Platteville is the unselfish work ethics of the people I work with. They devoted a lot of time and energy for very little returns. They made their best efforts even for volunteering duties.

My qualifications for serving on the Common Council include, but not limited to

- My experience in the educational field (college lecturer, admissions consultant, community ambassador for online courses, gifted students advocate and a mother who has tried many educational programs for K-12 students around the country)
- Being a tour guide for the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums (providing excellent customer services)
- Serving on the Commissions on Aging

I understand that as a member of the Common Council, we play the leadership roles to give advices on management, finance, budget, land and etc at city level. If I am appointed, I want to focus on the constructive and creative planning in the area of library, museums, recreations, local businesses and tourism. As the governor Tony Evers emphasizes on the early childhood education and invest significantly, I think we can also follow his step and put more investment and resources on providing up-to-date innovative learning and playing opportunities for kids under 7. By doing that, we can not only retain the existing talents and their family, but also attract more valuable ones. A vibrant city is built by active hands and vivacious minds.

I was not born with all the skill sets, but I learn from trying and making mistakes. I feel thankful for all the people I worked with in the past showed me different ways of being a leader. A leader could be a servant, who was doing all the groundwork; a leader could be a mentor, who helped others grow. Although I am from another culture, I think work can be done. I believe empathy is the key, along with will to collaborate, effective communication, being creative and using critical thinking skills while solving the problems. At last but not the least, being a resilient positive thinker, I smile at the difficult situation when I encounter it.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other question. I hope to hear the good news!

Best Regards,

Shanshan Thompson

08/22/2019

*Staci Strobl*  
*510 Western Ave.*  
*Platteville, WI 53818*

August 22, 2019

Common Council  
City of Platteville  
75 N. Bonson St.  
Platteville, WI 53818

Dear Common Council,

I would be honored to be considered for membership on the Common Council of the City of Platteville. This is my fifth year living in Platteville and I have come to care deeply about its civic life. I currently serve on the Plan Commission and the Community Development Board. I also volunteer my time extensively to serve the community. I am a weekly trail maintenance volunteer for the Platteville Community Arboretum (PCA). I was President of the Rotary Club of Southwest Wisconsin (2018-19) and continue to volunteer my time in the club, working for the community at such events as Southwest Health Berry Fest and by contributing to food pantries and community tree-planting, among other activities. Additionally, I have significant leadership experience as Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education, and a former Department Chair of Criminal Justice, both at UW-Platteville. My experience and knowledge of parliamentary procedure and governance is well-developed.

Platteville is a growing small city that can boast a high quality of life and strong community cohesion. In my time here, I have come to know many wonderful people who care deeply about their city and from them I have been inspired to be involved. I have several favorite aspects of the city, in particular the new Platteville Public Library, the David Canny/Rountree Branch trail, and the historic buildings dotting the downtown area. I also greatly appreciate the natural landscape of the Driftless region, its rolling hills and oak trees.

If appointed, I have three areas of improvement I would champion, though I also anticipate learning about other important issues and contributing thoughtfully in a variety of ways. The first issue is affordable housing, particularly for low-income residents, and young families who seek to buy starter homes. The recent *Housing Study and Needs Assessment* report (January 2019) has identified the challenges we face in this regard, but I think with planning we can make a difference. The second issue I am interested in is water management and flood preparedness. Last year's rain was extensive, highlighting the need to be proactive to avoid trail bridge wash-outs and over-run culverts and sewers in the future. The third area is economic development. I would like to contribute to policies and programs that would attract new small businesses to our downtown area, as well as maintain a positive and beneficial relationship with our larger businesses.

I have the characteristics that would make an effective and enthusiastic Common Council member. I am involved in the community, listen and talk about civic life with a wide variety of people around town, and have leadership experience. I possess strong public speaking skills. Most importantly, I would approach the position with a sense of service and with the ethos that my job is to represent others in the community and to think selfless-ly and broadly in helping the city in its important decision-making.

Sincerely,



To whom it may concern:

The opportunity to have the possibility of serving a community I have grown to love would be such a privilege to me. I personally haven't lived in Platteville too long, however I have slowly started to get to know the city. I have had multiple family connections to the city and its residence. My father went to high school at Platteville for a short time after his parents divorced. My brother is also an alumnus at the University of Wisconsin- Platteville, he is seven years older than I am, and now my cousin just became an alumnus of the university. But history only means so much. What am I doing now? I am the Student Body President for the University of Wisconsin- Platteville. I am the voice for the student body, and I feel I would be a great person for this position. As some of you know already, I have made an effort to make it to most of the common council meetings so far and will continue to do so. Sitting in the audience it really made me want to say my opinion on matters, however I obviously couldn't. There were some instances that I saw the students' voice being a perfect fit. This is where I see my biggest qualification. I see myself being the students' voice on the council, since many of them call this place home.

What I love about Platteville is how welcoming the city is to new people. It is such a beautiful area! Everything from the rivers to the flowing hills it so beautiful. Also, the small-town charm is something I love. Growing up in Galena, it was something I really didn't care for but now I love the small-town charm and the growth of small business. It is great to see the amazing things the city does. It is hard to truly put my love for the city into words, but it is truly a joy to go to school here.

I would like to focus on the university and city relations, not that they are bad, but communication is always a plus. Having me on council will open up this pathway and would allow many of the students voices to be heard. Also, another improvement would be adding improvements to the city with activities to do that will spur new families to check out the city or have people stay here after college. It would be cool to get a new face on common council to share ideas.

I think being able to represent the people and not be a trustee is what makes an effective council member. I have always prided myself on being a representative. I am always willing to set aside my own views and beliefs for the people I represent. I am also going to do my best to hear community members views on issues, since I will be representing them as well. It is a fine line between being a trustee and a representative but after my experience of being president, I have developed this skill and hope to continue to use it on council. I see myself as someone who can represent a wide range of people and I would especially love to represent the students and their voice.

Thank you,

Ben Behlke

RECEIVED  
8/23/19

August 22, 2019

Michael A. Denn  
1270 Stan's Court  
Platteville, WI 53818

Attn: [cityclerk@platteville.org](mailto:cityclerk@platteville.org)

I feel that I am qualified to fill the vacant At-large Alderperson seat as I served on the Planning Commission for several years when Merle Strauss was City Manager. I served on the Park Board for five years and President for two of those years. During that time we were working on the new pool project. I also served on the City Council for three years during the term served by City Manager Larry Bierke and City Manager Karen Kurt. During that time, I served three years on the City Council, three years on the Licensing Committee, three years on the Planning Commission, and three years as council liaison to the Police and Fire Commission. I chaired the Zoning Board of Appeals for two and a half years of my three year term. While serving on the City Council, we put city employees back to a 40-hour work week, set up a rotation of city equipment, brought the David Canny Hiking Trail to completion, built a new library, purchased the Pioneer Ford building for economic development, and improved our ambulance service by combining it with Southwest Health Center.

I have been a Platteville resident for sixty eight years and have seen many changes and improvements. We have much to offer to new residents and I am proud to say I belong to this community.

If appointed, I would like to work on reducing our debt load. Another project would include the ongoing Kallembach properties that are now a problem.

I believe that to be an effective member of the Common Council, you need to do your research on all new projects brought to the City Council, get out in the public, and communicate with the community.

August 22, 2019

Jason Artz  
985 N Court St  
Platteville WI 53818

Dear Common Council Members:

I am grateful for the opportunity to be considered for the vacant council seat, previously held by Alderperson Cena Sharp. During my employment at UW-Platteville the last 7+ years, I have served in several capacities in campus governance. Last spring, I completed a second 2-year term on the Academic Staff Senate, having the role of Secretary for the first term and Vice President during the second term. I have also served as Chair of several university committees in addition to my role as Academic Staff Senator.

Originally, I came to Platteville as an undergraduate student in 2001, and ended up becoming a resident after I completed my Master's degree in 2007. Since then, I have started a family, and have fallen in love with the many things Platteville has to offer. As a parent, I have many positives to say about our schools, specifically the elementary schools where my daughters currently attend. The park system offers many opportunities for our youth and families, and the recently completed Rountree Branch Trail adds a vital recreational opportunity for our area.

When considering areas of focus and/or improvement, I believe that making data driven and needs driven decisions is important. It is vital for our community members to be able to provide a voice and input into what their needs are versus what a handful of individuals think are the needs of the community. If selected, I would want to spend some time reviewing existing data and continuing to look for opportunities in which additional data will be important for decision making. One area that has stood out for me since being in Platteville is housing, specifically in the areas of rental properties and the lack of options for some demographics. I previously have owned a rental property, and have been frustrated with accountability of landlords at times. I am also concerned about the removal of the requirement of having a rental inspection from the city code.

As an effective common council member, I feel it is important, to the best of their ability, to be free of any personal agendas and/or solely focused on only supporting specific issues. While it is impossible to meet the needs of every citizen in our city, I feel it is important to work as much as possible to have an impact on the most people we can. I also feel it is important for a council member to be a strong listener – being able to hear others and refrain from defensive responses. Approaching issues and discussions with a sense of curiosity rather than who's right or wrong is essential for civil discourse.

Thank you again for taking the time to review my consideration for the vacant Common Council seat. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Jason Artz*