

Contact Information

* Name
James Smiley

* Home Address*
511 Victoria Dr

*You must be registered to vote in the City of Staunton. You can determine this by checking your voter card or by calling the Voter Registration Office at 540.332.3840.

Phone
[REDACTED]

Mobile Phone
[REDACTED]

* Email
[REDACTED]

Qualifications

*** How long have you resided in the Commonwealth of Virginia?**

I have lived in the Commonwealth my entire lifetime, being a resident of the city for 59 years.

*** How long have you resided in the City of Staunton?**

I have been a resident of the City of Staunton for 59 years.

Have you ever been elected or appointed as an Officer or Commissioner for the City of Staunton?

No

*** Please indicate why you are interested in serving on City Council:**

I am submitting my application to serve the remaining time of Andrea Oakes' term on council to work to make our city a welcoming and wonderful place for people to live, visit, work, and reside in. I feel that we have an opportunity to move Staunton forward to benefit everyone not just a select few. The current members of the council appear to be moving along together and I would love to continue to see that cooperation and respect continue. This city is truly a gem and we all need to recognize how fortunate we are to live here. I know that people are not going to agree on everything, however, we can agree to disagree with one another with respect. I feel that I can bring professionalism and knowledge from a lifetime of experience of living and working in Staunton, VA. Thanks for your consideration.

*** Please indicate areas of your experience and knowledge that you see as important for consideration of your application for appointment:**

Everyone has their experience and knowledge to bring to the table to keep Staunton City moving forward. I am not going to get on my soapbox about how I would be the best choice when not knowing who has or will apply for this position. Below I will list some of the experiences and knowledge that I could bring to the council that I feel make me a front runner for consideration. 1. I am a lifelong resident that loves this city. If I wasn't, I would already have been gone. 2. I have seen the successes and failures of past city decisions and would use that knowledge and history to not make the same mistake again and again. 3. I am a city landowner both as homeowner and a commercial property owner. I understand how taxes and fees affect everyone at all social economic levels. 4. I operated a very successful business within the city for 31 years. I understand business, and let's all be honest, we know that running any government organization is business. My business history and knowledge will bring a dimension to the council that should help to make good discussion and views presentable to all members of the council. I am proud to say that my brother continues to own and run the family business still in the city of Staunton 5. I served 7 years on the Staunton City School Board with the last ones as Vice Chairman of the School Board. I certainly understand the pressures on our schools and as a member of council could speak up for the school system with a degree of knowledge of the schools' challenges that only a past Board member could understand in detail. I am a proud graduate of Staunton City Schools and want every child to be able to make that same statement with pride. I could go on, but I feel these bullet points show how I could be a valuable asset to the council. Please feel free to reach out to me for any additional information that you may need.

*** Please list any relevant leadership skills or educational training:**

Leadership skills are an interesting concept for being on the council. Leadership skills are learned from observing real leaders in action at a personal level. A lot of the time, council candidates won't really have an opportunity to be in a leadership position and that's great, they still make wonderful members. I have been fortunate in my life to have witnessed great leaders while on the school board and various business committees I have been on. As I stated earlier, I was Vice Chairman of Staunton City Schools. I was also fortunate to be Lay Leader at the church I have attended my whole life. Both of these positions have shown me what real leadership is all about. I was also on Carpet Cooperative of America advisory board. I served on Pergo America's advisory board also. Most of my educational training came from real life. Of course, I had ongoing education in my field of business. One huge educational experience came from being the Staunton City School Board member to oversee the construction of Shelburne Middle School. Because of my experience as a contractor and knowledge of the construction industry, I was appointed as a lone contact to work directly with the contractor to keep the project moving and on budget, having the ability to authorize change orders immediately up to \$250,000. I am proud to state that the project was completed early and under budget, thank you Lantz Construction, you were great to work with. Obviously, life has given me many more skills and training that I can list here and gives me more every day. Thank you again for your time and consideration on this appointment.

Indicate if you are attaching additional information pertinent to this application.

No attachments were necessary

Attachment
SKIPPED

* **Digital Signature**
James Smiley

* **Date and Time**
01/24/2023 12:00 AM

Be advised that upon submission, this application and supporting documents become a public document and will be published by the City of Staunton.