

**Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire**

2018 Primary Election – Oshkosh City Council

1. Please provide some personal background information.

Matt Mugerauer

Customer Service Team Lead – 4imprint, since 2006
And a local small business owner

List any community activities you are involved with:

- City of Oshkosh Rental Housing Advisory Board, Chairperson
- City of Oshkosh Long Range Finance Committee, Board Member
- Youth Sports Coach
 - Oshkosh Youth Soccer Club 2014-2018
 - Oshkosh Fast Club Softball 2017-2018
 - Oshkosh West Basketball Club 2018
- Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis
- Member of the OASD Recreation Department Softball Commission since 2007 (3x President, 2x Vice President)

2. Why do you want to be on the city council?

I believe in my community. Oshkosh is a great place to raise a family, work and invest in. And I believe we have what it takes to continue to make Oshkosh a better place to live, work and play. I can be a voice of reason and common sense for the citizens of Oshkosh. And I would bring a high level of personal integrity and accountability to council.

We need council members who will ask questions, listen, seek out minority opinions and then make the best decisions for the entire community. That is what I will do as City of Oshkosh Common Council Member.

3. What specific issues will be your area of primary focus?

Economic Development

Oshkosh must continue to grow. If we are not growing, we are dying. We cannot afford to stop or even slow the progress we have achieved. I am excited for where we are and where we can go economically. There are many positive economic indicators in employment/unemployment, residential and commercial real estate and local investment in Oshkosh.

Budget and Finances

We have to continue to refine how we budget and finance our operations and capital programs. We have to lead in a fiscally responsible manner, while maintaining the economic growth we have achieved, and doing so with less state aid and limited property tax revenues. It takes making sound, well informed decisions.

Strategic Plan

Annual revisions to and refining of our strategic plan are essential to being able to respond to important and time sensitive economic opportunities. The strategic plan shapes and guides the actions of council and staff. Everything they are working towards is defined in the plan.

Community Relations and Communication

Improved relations between city staff, residents and the business community is what will position us best for the future. I will work to improve and build upon the relationships we have with our service organizations, businesses and industries. This city's best asset is its people. The people who own businesses, work here, live here, are raising families and growing roots here. They are what makes Oshkosh great.

Special Events Policy

The special events policy and fee scheduled that was implemented in 2017 is a problem for this community. The fee structure is too high, and will have a negative impact on events held in Oshkosh. We are Wisconsin's Event City. We should be able to find a reasonable way to protect the taxpayer, address the true cost of resources provided by the city, while also realizing the benefit that so many of these events provide for the community as a whole.

4. Please outline what you consider to be the City of Oshkosh 3 – 5 most critical issues.

- **Residential Housing**

The City of Oshkosh has a lack of available new construction single family housing. While we have seen development of multi-unit apartment complexes, availability of higher end market rate apartments and new construction of single family homes has lagged behind. To be able to attract and retain talent that comes to the area to work, we must have desirable housing that meets the needs of the community.

- **Debt and Aging Infrastructure**

The City of Oshkosh still carries a significant amount of long term debt, which has an effect on our ability to replace our aging infrastructure. To their credit, the city is on a path to reducing our long term debt. Our goal must be to find a way to replace more of the aging infrastructure, without increasing our debt or significantly affecting other vital programs.

- **Communication**

There is still a communication disconnect between city hall and the citizens of Oshkosh. Concerns fall upon deaf ears at times, messages are not properly

conveyed to the citizens or groups that need the information most. Timely and accurate information is essential to a well informed electorate. While I know being able to reach every person all the time is not an attainable goal, it should still be our goal.

- **Homelessness, underserved and less fortunate**

As a community we need to come together and find a way to combat the homelessness. With multiple agencies and groups supporting different segments of the underserved and less fortunate in Oshkosh, we have to coordinate those resources, and find a way to provide long term assistance to those that need it most, while also addressing their short-term needs.

5. Is there something that the City of Oshkosh is not presently doing that you believe will significantly improve the quality of life and strengthen the local economy? What is that and why do you believe it to be desirable?

Oshkosh Corporation choosing to stay in Oshkosh and build its new corporate headquarters has revived the talent attraction and retention discussion. With a strong jobs market, businesses are competing for talent like never before. The City of Oshkosh, UW-Oshkosh, Oshkosh Area School District, Fox Valley Technical College, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and GO-EDC all need to work together to ensure Oshkosh is a talent destination. A talented diverse workforce is key to survival in a local and global market. While these groups are individually doing what they can, a strong community strategic plan will help pool resources and expertise.

Ensuring we are an accepting and open community, increased community engagement, and hosting a variety of cultural, artistic and family friendly events will continue to improve our quality of life.

6. How will city government improve or be strengthened as a result of the leadership, drive, energy and vision that you bring to the city council?

I believe in this community and know we have a great future ahead of us. I set myself apart with my willingness to seek out information and opinions. My willingness to be a voice of reason and common sense for the citizens of Oshkosh. I would also bring a high level of personal integrity and accountability to council. Finally, I make this promise to the citizens of Oshkosh. Every single vote I make as a council member will always be for what is in the best interests of this community -the entire community.