

**Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire**

2023 Spring Election – Oshkosh City Council

1. Please provide some personal background information.
 - a. Name - Courtney Hansen
 - b. Occupation - Apartment Maintenance
 - c. List any community activities you are involved with - Common Council

2. What are your background and qualifications for this City council position and what value will you bring to the City Council personally?

I was born and raised in Oshkosh! I have a degree in business management and work within the city every single day. I see the many facets of Oshkosh and believe my skill set along with experiences can help our city make the best decisions for our community presently and for future generations.

3. Please outline what you consider to be the City of Oshkosh's 3 most critical issues.
 - Retaining workforce talent
 - Bringing new businesses to the city
 - Increasing art and culture in our community

4. What are the biggest challenges the city faces currently and in the next 5 years? What should the city do to respond and overcome these challenges?

Increases in taxes and inflation. We need to increase our financial resources by taking advantages of situations now before the market drops more. We can also look into ways to be more frugal to help with the growing need.

5. Previous City Councils have considered proposals to change the policy on how to fund the current street improvement and sidewalk replacement program. Past proposals included establishing a Transportation Utility Fee Program or a Transportation Assessment Replacement Fee as a means to eliminate special assessments for street reconstruction/improvement projects and the sidewalk replacement program. Do you support this type of a program? If so, what should be the basis to establish a transportation fee? Please discuss your position.

I believe we should have a program that assists residents to help pay for special assessments. I would be happy to consider a transportation fee if it is reasonable and overall helps our community and it's citizens. I would need information on how this fee would impact our citizens and businesses before being able to establish a basis.

6. Municipalities across the State are moving to Fee for Service approaches to pay for the delivery of municipal services that were otherwise funded by the annual property tax levy. Do you support a funding approach like this? If so, what current city services would be appropriately funded as a Fee for Service? If a new Fee for Service is imposed, should property tax payers receive an equal, proportionate tax levy credit?

I believe the system we have now is optimal. Having everything wrapped into one bill, although it's a hard number to swallow seems more helpful than having many different fees. I would be open to looking more into it as it comes before our council but we haven't see this yet in Oshkosh.

7. The City established a Storm Water Utility in 2003 for the purposes of managing storm water run-off issues in the community. Residential property owners are assessed for one equivalent runoff unit (ERU). Non-residential property owners are assessed annual fees based on the amount of impervious space (parking lots and roof tops) to determine the amount of ERUs that exists on a parcel. The initial (annual) storm water utility fee in 2003 was \$19.10 per ERU and has grown to \$237.72 per ERU in 2023. Do you find this rate of increase acceptable? Do you believe that continued rates of increases at that level over the next 20 years is acceptable? Please outline any ideas you might have to curtail the growth in storm water utility fees.

I agree the increase has been tremendous and needs to be slowed down. But I can also attest that even just 10 years ago half of our city would be underwater after medium amounts of rain. To continue efforts to correct the storm water problems having money in the fund is good, but we need to ease off the increases and use the money appropriately and as fiscally responsible as possible.

8. With a low unemployment rate and strong local economy, many employers are reporting difficulty in attracting and retaining talent. What is the role of the city in attracting people to Oshkosh and ensuring that Oshkosh is an attractive place to live and work.

I believe our city needs to increase our awareness of art and culture to become more attractive for workforce talent retention. We are lacking in art/culture for now but have a strong push supported by many citizens.

9. The State of Wisconsin currently imposes levy limits on local municipalities, but allows for levy increases based on new development. Do you support the continuation of this? Should there be modifications? Should this be repealed? Please discuss.

I agree that limits are necessary to keep a municipality's levy in check, but also that there should be more wiggle room to help communities grow if need be. The state is sharing money to help local governments less and less, so we need to grind ways to fill that gap.