

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The City Council may consider applicant qualifications for the Council vacancy in executive sessions which are closed to the public, and then make the appointment in a public meeting. You have the right, however, to have your application considered in a public meeting by providing a written request to the City Clerk.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
APPLICATION TO SERVE ON THE CITY COUNCIL

RETURN TO: CITY CLERK VIA EMAIL AT STACY.SALTZBURG@FLAGSTAFFAZ.GOV

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION: MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 5:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PUBLIC INFORMATION
(personal identifying information will not be released)

DATE: 10/11/2026

YOUR NAME: Gary M. Howell

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] **ZIP:** 86004

EMPLOYER: Retired **JOB TITLE:** N/A

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] **LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN FLAGSTAFF:** 52 years

Using additional pages, please answer the following questions in 250 words or less, per question:

- 1. What makes a good Councilmember?**
- 2. What do you think is the biggest issue facing Flagstaff? Give specifics and ideas for addressing the issue.**
- 3. What are your top three priorities for being a City Councilmember and why?**
- 4. ☒ What method do you expect to use to make a decision when you believe that there is a segment of the Flagstaff population not being heard on a particular issue?**
- 5. Please give an example of when you were in a position of responsibility and others disagreed with you on how an important matter should be handled. How did you help resolve the issue?**
- 6. What is your leadership style, please provide an example of your style in use.**
- 7. What is your understanding, awareness, and familiarity with the Flagstaff Zoning Code?**
- 8. A key role of the Flagstaff City Council is to adopt the city's budget; how would you balance the seven key community priorities and the realities of the city's financial position with the Council's role of policy development?**

I certify that I meet the statutory requirements of living within the corporate limits of the City of Flagstaff for at least one year, that I am over the age of 18 years, that I am a registered voter of the City of Flagstaff, *and that I have read and understand the right to have my application considered in a public meeting by providing a written request to the City Clerk.*

Gary M. Howell
Applicant Signature

I "Gary Michael Howell" (Also known as "Goose") have always been an Ethical, God Believing and a Law-Abiding Flagstaff City Citizen with a clean slate throughout my entire Long Life in Flagstaff. I have always tried to put back into my Flagstaff Community and Citizens increasingly, as I grow older. **Therefore, I want this Flagstaff City Council Member Appointment to allow me to continue assisting Our Community and the Flagstaff City Itself in Hopes of Bettering Our Flagstaff Citizens Now and in the Future!** I have the willingness to listen, study the information, work with people who disagree and consider the effects on residents and city finances. Thus, that sometimes is solved by compromise! **Which as I see it... is an ongoing situation and task for the City Council.** Please Note... that when I sign on to do something "I do My Very Best for My God, Family, Country and Community!" Along with.... **"I Show Up - To Do So"!** So, this appointment would be a Great Honor and Privilege to Serve on The Flagstaff City Council! Therefore, I also appreciate the opportunity to submit my application for your review. Thank You! Through my over Flagstaff 50 Years of Management, Staff Supervision, Contract Negotiations, Fundraising, Community Leadership and Lifelong Community Involvement. My Practical Skills in running businesses involved managing money, supervising employees and solving problems. **(Which Would Make Me a Good Councilmember)** (Please see my resume also)

Flagstaff has a Median House Pricing between \$679,000 to \$700,000. With way too many increases in recent City Permits and Timelines. (Given last week's meeting proposal to increase a New Build Permit of \$20,000) which means the City Council also needs to assist within this issue. Note, the time it takes for a Private Citizen, Builder or Big Builder such as Capstone also feels the squeeze on Higher Material Costs. Along with housing Sales are declining due to High Purchase Pricing. How would I address this.... is to control, cease and put on hold any Increasing City Permit Housing Fees. So, families can purchase a Home in Flagstaff instead of Purchasing a Home Out of Town in the County and other proximity housing subdivisions. Which also is seriously affecting our Flagstaff Public Schools Enrolment.

I am truly sad that I need to even bring this up – however **“Our Police and Fire Departments Save and Protect Our Flagstaff Residents.”** And it appears that their needs have been sidelined for a very long time for both Police and Fire Departments to be so far away from Their Standard On Duty Numbers. I believe that Flagstaff will need to increase Funding for Our Police and Fire Departments. As I just cannot phantom that it has been eight years for [REDACTED]

[illegible]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The method that I would use to make a decision when you believe that there is a segment of the Flagstaff population not being heard on a particular issue is listen to all the parties, gather more information from all parties including the excluded people before **making a decision and / or any council vote. This is America and All should have a say – prior to enacting a mandate.**

Fort Valley Road Traffic

Once again this is a Major Flagstaff City topic that has never rectified. And again, it has been swept under the rug for way too long. No visible results have occurred for years and again I am concerned “as to why this has not been reserved. Let’s put our minds together and get this done.

Next Topic: On giving an example of when I was in a position of responsibility and others disagreed with me on how important the matter should be handled how did you help resolve the issue?

While I was personally the owner of the Pic Quic Laundry Mat the City Asked us to install a suds free water system that would be going from the structure into the city waste plumbing systems and the sewers in Flagstaff. For weeks and months, we negotiated with them that the cost would be so ineffective (Close to a Million Dollars) to continue running the laundromat that we decided we would close it down as the City

Council asked and we made it into another businesses and it still is there, in the same area the Crystal Creek Sandwich Shop. Where the crystal Creek Sandwich Shop is still also in business at the South end of the building. And since the Crystal Creek sandwich shop is still there - it obviously worked for the better for the City of Flagstaff that was non-evasive.

Next topic: my leadership style and provide an example of your style in use.

I use the Cerenity Prayer **“God, Grant Me the Serenity to Accept the things that I cannot change and give me the Courage to Change the things I Can, and the Wisdom to know the difference”!** Also, my style is using common sense and then I also go to the 1 to 10 rules. With #1 being a lower in need topic that can come up again later. And the 10 higher necessary topic that requires to be immediately addressed. **I ALSO BELIEVE.... THE ONLY RATED #10.... “IS WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER IS SICK, DEAD OR DYING”!**

Whether speaking with one person or a large audience, I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in communicating and ministering effectively. **I believe every person can be reached when those who share the Word are compassionate and use the appropriate approach.**

For instance, I was responsible for 15 years to my shareholders in the Pic Quic’s LLC. And then again, when we were negotiating with the Flagstaff City Plans for our Laundromat, I was there and handled it with care. With a very applicable resolution in a non-combative way.

Next topic: What is my understanding, awareness, and familiarity with the Flagstaff zoning code?

I have an understanding on several topics of the Flagstaff Zoning Code (Title 10 and the 5 Different Types of Flagstaff City Codes) only when I was a (Concrete Contractor 20 years ago) and my Home Inspector Business.

However, HONESTLY.... I will need to be brought up to speed on several of the newer codes! (Which I can and will do, once appointed) I do know that the Flagstaff Zoning Codes. covers structures its land use under title ONE of the city code which divides all city properties into five primary district types these include rural and open space districts to protect open space residential districts covering single-forming and multifamily parcels commercial districts for business and services industrial and facility districts for industrial uses and existing development conservation districts to preserve established neighborhood character in historic areas.

Next and last topic: A key role of the Flagstaff City Council is to adopt the city's budget how would I balance the seven key community priorities and the realities of the city's financial position with the council's role of policy development.

However, HONESTLY.... I again will need to dive in to be fully brought up to speed on the (PBB) Current and Upcoming balancing of the seven key priorities topics and needs. Especially within the Councils role of policy development.

I do know several things about City Council Budgeting. The City of Flagstaff answers three many topics, those being possibly City Roads, Water Issues, Infrastructure and Possible Wildfires. Also, the Council’s Job is to calculate the Personal Costs, Non-Personal Costs, and revenues collected to programs that it offers. And do these Priorities fit into the Priorities of the Community and its Citizens. I also know and have heard that the City Council and the Flagstaff residents determine the community's key community priorities and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, I would work through a Cut Pie Grid for All Needs as an example.

In Closing, I appreciate Your Time and Efforts in this process and if I am chosen to Serve Flagstaff, as a Flagstaff City Council Member, I will do it with “Accountability – I do what I say!” – “Trust – I say what I mean” – “Love – I love who I serve’ – with a “Positive Attitude – I enjoy what I do”!

Respectfully Yours,

Gary “Goose” Howell

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[REDACTED]

MY LIFE AND WORK HISTORY

Working Draft — For Family and Special Friends to Review

This is an unfinished working draft. Family and friends can suggest corrections, add details, and identify anything that should be changed or included.

MY LIFE AND WORK HISTORY

Working Draft — For Family and Special Friends to Review

Purpose of this draft: This is a work in progress, not the finished version. It gathers the memories and details shared so far. Family and friends are welcome to suggest corrections, add dates or names, and point out anything that should be changed or included.

Early Life and First Job

I was born and raised in Northern Arizona, a region that has remained central to my life. My connection to Northern Arizona includes its people, Western heritage, railroad and logging history, and outdoor traditions. My family did move us to Southern California for my high school years at Katella High and the one year in College at Cal State Fullerton.

On January 20, 1970—my 16th birthday—I began working at Lucky Grocery Stores. That morning, I was polishing my shoes to apply for a job when the phone rang at 8:00 a.m. Frank Hacket called and told me to report to work at 9:00 a.m. My father, Mike Howell, was a controller for Lucky Grocery Stores.

Moving back to Flagstaff and Purchasing Pic Quic

On February 1, 1974, I moved from Anaheim in Orange County, Southern California, back to Flagstaff, Arizona. I began working at Pic Quic, which was owned by George Nackard, who also owned the building.

My father, Mike Howell, and family friends and godparents Bob and Darel Spackeen helped me pursue the purchase of Pic Quic. Their support helped make the transaction possible. I worked at the store from February 1 through April 1, 1974, helping maintain the merchandise, customers, and day-to-day continuity during the transition. The purchase was completed on April 1, 1974, and I began as a part owner through sweat equity, later purchasing more shares of stock in the business.

Pic Quic — Owner and Operator

I / we owned and operated Pic Quic on Milton Road in Flagstaff from April 1, 1974, to January 1, 1989. When I / we acquired the business, it was a large convenience store with an attached laundromat. The store sold magazines, food, dairy products, general merchandise, limited Northern Arizona University apparel, liquor, beer, and wine. A drive-up window allowed customers to purchase several items without leaving their vehicles.

I eventually expanded the store's sporting-goods offerings to include firearms, ammunition, hunting clothing and supplies, fishing equipment, licenses, fishing tackle, bait, and live bait. My name was on the store's liquor license and Federal Firearms License, and I personally handled purchasing and ordering firearms, ammunition, and sporting-goods inventory. I built relationships with wholesalers and expanded the selection available to local hunters and anglers.

The store was open from 6:00 a.m. until midnight. I opened the store and laundromat each morning, got operations running, and made sure cashiers had their starting funds counted and checked against the previous night's close. I handled supplier orders and deliveries, shelf stocking, bank deposits, and weekly staff scheduling. The laundromat operated mostly on its own with a hired employee working from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pic Quic was a family business that helped support me and my family, including my parents, brother Tommy, and sister Debbie. The income also helped my parents pay for Tommy's college education as he pursued a career as a clinical psychiatrist. Debbie attended college for a time and later opened a travel agency in Flagstaff serving the Northern Arizona University community.

Staffing needs changed with the day and season. Fridays and Saturdays were especially busy, and on Northern Arizona University football game days we could have four employees and three registers running continuously. My name was on the liquor license, and I understood the importance of responsible operations and dependable service.

During my years at Pic Quic, I was involved with several outdoor and conservation organizations, including the Coconino Sportsmen's Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and National Wild Turkey Federation. My roles across these organizations included member, chairman of the board, president, firearms-safety instructor, and auctioneer.

I helped with and organized fundraising events supporting conservation and outdoor traditions. I served as an auctioneer at events in Flagstaff and Winslow benefiting the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. In the early 1980s, I helped establish a Northern Arizona chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. I organized a turkey-calling contest featuring national turkey-calling champion Tommy Humphries of Quaker Boy Turkey Calls, followed by Flagstaff's first National Wild Turkey Federation fundraising and habitat-conservation banquet.

The Pine Country Pro Rodeo

During my ownership of Pic Quic, I was a 10-year member, board member, and advertising chairman for The Pine Country Pro Rodeo. I helped organize and promote the annual rodeo, sell advertising, distribute programs, secure sponsors, and recruit a well-known professional rodeo stock contractor.

Each year, I traveled with fellow committee members to Las Vegas to attend the National Finals Rodeo. We worked to secure sponsors, recruit a stock contractor, and help arrange rodeo dates and negotiate contracts. I took pride in helping organize and promote what I believe were some of the best rodeos our community had ever seen.

Optimist Club and Community Fundraising

I was a 10-year member of the Optimist Club during my Pic Quic years. I participated in community activities and fundraising, including selling tickets for the Z Banquet reverse raffle. The grand prize originally was a new 280 Z sports car. After the Optimist Club disbanded in the 1980s, the event continued under the Flagstaff Exchange Club as the Z Banquet, and the prize later changed to \$10,000 in cash as vehicles became more expensive. I later participated in the Exchange Club.

Outfitting and Guiding

After us selling Pic Quic on January 1, 1989, I began working full-time as a hunting guide and outfitter. I operated Howell Wildlife Outfitters and worked in Arizona, California, Utah, New Mexico, and Kansas.

Around 2003, I joined United States Outfitters (USO), based in Taos, New Mexico, as a contract supervisor. I supervised hunts in Arizona and assisted with hunts in New Mexico. Some hunts involved more than 100 hunters, guides, and cooks over five- or seven-day periods. I continued working with USO until 2015.

Hunts for Hope

Through Hunts for Hope, my late wife Sue and I organized and provided hunting opportunities at no cost to participants or their families. The program served Wounded Warriors, disabled veterans, youth with disabilities between the ages of 10 and 18, and children with life-threatening illnesses.

Over the years, I personally took 20 Wounded Warriors, 2 youth hunters with disabilities, and 13 children with life-threatening illnesses on hunting experiences. These outings gave participants opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, pursue their interest in hunting, and create lasting memories without placing a financial burden on them or their families.

Sadly, nearly all the young hunters I took into the field have passed away. The one local Flagstaff youth who remains living is Jack Stalker. Remembering these young people and the time we shared outdoors remains a meaningful part of my Hunts for Hope experience.

Through this work, I devoted my time, outfitting experience, and knowledge of the outdoors to help others experience the outdoors despite serious illness, disability, or the challenges of military service. Hunts for Hope reflected my commitment to service, compassion, and sharing the outdoor traditions that shaped my life and career.

Honestly, I have never cried as hard as I did when I was notified of their deaths.

I continued my Hunts for Hope operations through 2014 while also operating Howell Wildlife Outfitters and working as a contract supervisor for United States Outfitters.

Howell Home Inspections

In September 2008, I began operating Howell Home Inspections as a full-time, licensed Arizona home inspector. I continued in this profession for 17 years, concluding my home inspection career on September 30, 2025.

During this time, I balanced my home inspection business with my continued involvement in Howell Wildlife Outfitters and Hunts for Hope. My years as a business owner and professional inspector reflected my commitment to hard work, responsibility, attention to detail, and serving people throughout my career.

Community Service in Later Years

I joined the Flagstaff Exchange Club in 2008 and have served as a member, board member, treasurer, and two-time president. I am serving as president now since July of 2026.

Since 2022, I have been involved with the local Childhelp committee and its annual banquet, including the fundraiser known as "25 Men Who Think They Can Cook." In 2024, I prepared elk sausage and blue shrimp

cocktail. I attended the banquet again in 2026 and continued to support the event. I believe it is one of Flagstaff's best fundraisers because it helps children.

Since 1999, I have also taken part each year in the Marine Corps Christmas Party and Toys for Tots activities.

In 2017 I joined the Northern Arizona Hospital Certificate Holder with my Father Mike Howell. Where I am still doing for the now named "Northern Arizona Hospital. Where I actively pursue staying as a Community Advisor to try to assist our NAH Facility in helping our community.

Family, Loss, and Remembrance

One of the most difficult losses in my life was the passing of my youngest son, Arron, also known as AZE, who died at the age of 35, approximately 14 years ago.

I also lost my precious and beloved wife, Sue, in 2017. She passed away from breast cancer at our home here in Flagstaff. Sue was my cherished partner in life and in our Hunts for Hope work, where we helped provide hunting opportunities to people facing serious illnesses, disabilities, and the challenges of military service. She was my Rock!

I am grateful that my son Greg is still with me and doing well. Greg works as an AutoCAD engineer and lives in Cottonwood, Arizona.

Family, Faith, and the People Who Enrich My Life

I feel truly blessed to still have my two siblings in my life. My brother, Tommy Howell, currently lives in Apache Junction, Arizona, and my sister, Debbie Howell, lives in the Forest Highlands area of Flagstaff. I am grateful that both of my siblings are still with me, and I treasure the connection we share as family.

I am also blessed to attend Christ Church of Flagstaff every Sunday with my sister, Debbie, and her husband, Vince Beaver. My faith and the opportunity to worship and spend time with family each week are important parts of my life.

I am also fortunate to have a very special companion and best friend, Cass White, who lives with me in my home in Flagstaff. Cass is a wonderful person, and despite the ongoing health challenges she faces, she brings love, friendship, and companionship into my life. I truly love her and feel blessed to have her by my side.

As I continue this chapter of my life, I am thankful for my family, my faith, the people who care about me, and the companionship and friendship that make each day meaningful.

Retirement and Continued Outdoor Adventures

After concluding my 17-year career as the owner and licensed home inspector of Howell Home Inspections on September 30, 2025, I began enjoying retirement.

Retirement has given me more time to pursue two lifelong passions: hunting and fishing. I enjoy taking hunting and fishing trips, spending time outdoors, and continuing to appreciate the wildlife and natural beauty that have been such an important part of my life.

After decades of multiple business ownerships, professional work, conservation involvement, and community service, I am enjoying this new chapter and the freedom to spend more time doing what I love.