

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: 10/12/2026

YOUR NAME: Jim McCarthy (legal name: James McCarthy)

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED] **ZIP:** 86001-2898

EMPLOYER: Retired **JOB TITLE:** Retired

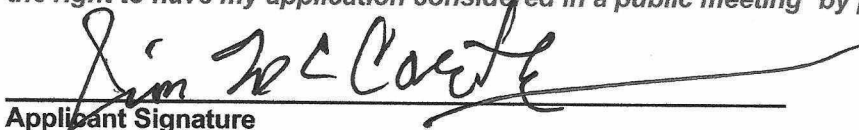
E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED] **LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN FLAGSTAFF:** 23 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.


Applicant Signature

Jim McCarthy

Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2898

October 11, 2026

Stacy Saltzburg:
City Council Members:

This is my letter of interest to fill the open seat on the Flagstaff City Council.

Most of you know me well. I am very experienced and certainly well qualified to serve on the Council again. I would like to complete the two years and two months remaining for the open seat.

I have the necessary integrity, knowledge, experience, and leadership abilities. These characteristics are discussed in the included application. I also have the appropriate temperament to work well with other council member, city management, and the staff. I am not far-left nor far-right; I am level headed.

It is interesting to me that people I do not even know walk up to me when I am in town. They often thank me for my eight years of service on council and comment that they wish I were still on council. They are a major reason that I am applying for this service position. I look forward to working for the people of Flagstaff.

Thank you for your consideration. If you appoint me or someone else, I hope the best for the council and for our fine city.

Sincerely,

Jim McCarthy

Application to Serve on the Flagstaff City Council

Applicant Jim McCarthy October 11, 2026

1. What makes a good Councilmember?

Integrity is the first important characteristic of a good councilmember. After that, knowledge, applicable experience, and leadership abilities.

It is important that a councilmember have a basic knowledge of how the city works. This includes the relationship between council members, the council itself, the city manager, the city attorney, and city staff. I served on council for eight years and understand these things.

It is extremely helpful if a councilmember has served on city commissions or boards. I was the council delegate to the Metro Plan, and was elected to be its chairperson. I have served as the council delegate to Mountain Line. I have served as the council liaison to the Transportation and Housing Commissions. Prior to being on council, I served six years on the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission, and was elected to be its chairperson. I served five years on the Water Commission.

A good councilmember has significant applicable experience. Most of my professional life has been as an engineer. Engineers take a rational approach to problem solving. Additionally, I headed up a department of approximately a dozen engineers, men and women. I was responsible for hiring, personnel management, and budgets. I also have a Master of Environmental Planning (land-use planning). That is valuable background for understanding land-use issues.

Regarding leadership, I have noted that my peers chose me to be the chairperson of P&Z and MetroPlan. Also see Item 6 below.

2. What do you think is the biggest issue facing Flagstaff? Give specifics and ideas for addressing the issue.

The cost of living, particularly the cost of housing, is an important issue facing Flagstaff. There is no easy fix to this problem, but we can make significant progress.

We need to be more flexible in our approach, while being respectful of existing land uses. An example is allowing auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs) in new and existing neighborhoods. In new developments, smaller lots can decrease construction costs and promote walkability.

The cost of housing is not just the cost of the home. It includes operating costs. When my home was built, we paid just a few hundred dollars extra to get added insulation in the walls and ceiling. Because of this decision, my home has never been hot in the summer, even though we do not have air conditioning. Most of my neighbors have added air conditioners, at considerably more initial and operating costs. Careful updates to our building codes could reduce the cost of owning a home. Besides the obvious savings in the summer, added insulation reduces heating demand in the winter (with the associated emissions).

While realizing the limits put on us by the state legislature, we need to address short term rentals. These are basically hotels in residential zones.

It seems that most homes in Flagstaff have unique floor plans. Each required separate architectural and engineering plans. We should encourage builders to standardize plans to save costs.

3. What are your top three priorities for being a City Councilmember and why?

Among my priorities, I want to evaluate the city budget and compare it to the city's priorities. I realize that we have budget retreats and we evaluate priorities, but I want to put an emphasis on this.

As noted above, I want to do whatever is possible to improve affordability in general and housing in particular. Besides the things I listed above, we need to have conversations with everyone involved to get new ideas.

We need to provide basic city services. This includes supporting our police and fire employees. It also includes reducing our contributions to climate change, and preparing for what is happening. By that I mean continuing our efforts to complete the Rio de Flag flood control project as well as preparing for wildfires. To keep our city vibrant, we need to support new and existing businesses, big and small.

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?

I believe that public input is critical. While I was gathering signature to get on the ballot and campaigning for votes, I walked neighborhoods daily. When someone answered the door, I did not give them a lecture. I told them who I was and then asked them what issues they would like to talk to me about.

I will continue to seek public input. After gathering input from all sides, I make decisions based on the inputs and by doing what is right for the city and our citizens. While on council, I stood up for people that were not being heard when they had a legitimate concern.

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?

While on council, we got a citizen petition that asked council to approve a proclamation to condemn Israel and stand on the side of the Palestinians. I sensed that the proclamation was going nowhere.

I tried to bring all sides together. I drafted an alternate resolution that showed a way that Palestinians and Israelis could peacefully coexist. I referenced the two-state solution that now exists in Ireland. The north is controlled by the English leaning Irish, while the south is now an independent nation. Neither side is totally happy, but they are coexisting. The violence has stopped. I drafted a resolution that proposed a similar solution for the Mideast. The resolution got some support on council, but the majority rejected the resolution, possibly because it was not a local issue. Based on the council decision, which I respected, I moved on to other issues.

6. What is your leadership style, please provide an example of your style in use.

I believe in collaboration. I realize that I do not always get my way. However, I try to convince others about issues that I feel strongly about. I do this with data and logical arguments. I am not crazy left or crazy right. I am a rational fair-minded person.

An example is when council was leaning toward supporting a proposal by Lowell Observatory which would have allowed development inconsistent with the land grant which Lowell got for their land. Congress gave the land to Lowell with the strict provision that the land only be used for “observatory purposes.” While I am a strong supporter of Lowell, I did not support ignoring Congress’s intent to make the Lowell land very special.

After doing research on the history, I wrote a one-page summary of the issues. I presented the ideas at a council meeting. After reviewing the data, council decided to not provide the requested support. I believe that council appreciated my rational approach.

7. What is your understanding, awareness, and familiarity with the Flagstaff Zoning Code?

I am very familiar with the zoning code. While on P&Z for six years (prior to me being on council), I reviewed the draft code updates, along with other P&Z members. I provided extensive edit suggestions, most of which were incorporated before sending the draft to council for final approval. As noted above, I have a master degree in land-use planning.

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?

The seven community priorities require some compromises, but we can address all of them. High performing governance is necessary for achieving all the other objectives. A safe and healthy community is the highest priority. That goal ties into environmental stewardship, which ties into the community being livable. A basic role of council is to ensure that the community is inclusive. Council can not lead without an engaged community. To achieve these goals, we need a sustainable and adequate infrastructure, including roads, water systems, and some services provided by private firms. All these things tie into a robust and resilient economy.

Public Meeting Option: I am waiving my right to have my application considered in a public meeting.

Thank you, Jim McCarthy

JIM McCARTHY

Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2898

EDUCATION

- Master of Environmental Planning, Arizona State University (1997).
 - Graduated with distinction.
 - Academic achievement scholarship.
 - Thesis: Analysis of aircraft regulations intended to substantially restore natural quiet at Grand Canyon National Park.
- Previous graduate work: Organic and water chemistry, industrial hygiene, environmental engineering.
- BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Arizona (1971).

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

City of Flagstaff (December 2016 to December 2024)

- City Council Member Elected and served as a city council member.

Honeywell (formerly AlliedSignal) (July 1997 to February 2003)

- Senior Project Engineer Lead engineer on various teams and lead engineer for drawing revision process. (Subcontract for first five months.)

Arizona State University (Fall 1995 semester)

- Graduate Assistant Organized symposium to make development recommendations for north Phoenix. Wrote Heritage Fund grant proposal to study suburban wash corridors.

AlliedSignal (July 1983 to January 1995; and August 1971 to August 1982)

- Project Manager Supervised eleven engineers with an annual budget over \$5 million. Led Total Quality team that redefined role of managers.
- Development Specialist Development team leader; responsible for concept, design, budget, schedule, and customer coordination for pneumatic control systems.

Hughes (August 1982 to July 1983)

- Test Equipment Designer Designed mechanical aspects of test stands for electronic equipment.

Learjet (March 1981 to August 1982)

- Liaison Engineer Represented Engineering in Customer Service and Flight Departments.

Previous Experience

- Technical Writer Prepared proposals, specifications, and other reports.
- Turbine Engine Performance Analyst Computer modeling.

JIM McCARTHY

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Nominee for Arizona House of Representatives; came within 56 votes of replacing eight-year incumbent.
- Speaker at a Nature Sounds Society Field Recording Workshop.
- Speaker at Environmental Psychology Symposium in Tucson, Arizona (sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association).
- Conservation delegate to Grand Canyon Working Group, which was charged with negotiating a way to meet the requirements of the Overflights Act.
- Chapter chairperson for Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club (Arizona Chapter).
- Member of Flagstaff Planning and Zoning Commission (six years, one year as chairperson), member Flagstaff Water Commission (five years).
- Council representative on MetroPlan (regional transportation organization). Served as chairperson.
- Eagle Scout, former committee chairperson and cubmaster for Cub Scouts.
- Naval Reserve while earning my bachelor degree. Electronic Technician (E-4).

PUBLICATIONS

McCarthy, James. 1997. Analysis of aircraft regulations intended to substantially restore natural quiet at Grand Canyon National Park. Master of environmental planning thesis, Arizona State University.

McCarthy, Jim. 2001. The power of place and the importance of natural quiet at Grand Canyon National Park. *Boatman's Quarterly Review* 14 (1): 10-12.

Steiner, Frederick, James M. McCarthy, et al. 1999. Concepts for Suburban Desert Character in the Northern Sonoran Desert. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 65 (2, Spring): 207-222.

McCarthy, James, Kim Shetter, and Frederick Steiner. 1996. *Findings of the North Sonoran Land Use Character Charrette*. Tempe, Arizona: Herberger Center for Design Excellence.

HOBBIES

- Folk guitar, songwriter.
- Photography.
 - American Rivers 1995 calendar, honorable mention.
 - American Rivers 1993 annual report, portrait of Al Gore.
 - Photos in Pickin' in the Pines program.
- Backpacking.
- Whitewater rafting.