



# Willows City Council Special Meeting

October 12, 2021

Willows City Hall

**5:00 p.m.**

## Agenda

201 North Lassen Street  
Willows, CA 95988  
(530) 934-7041

### City Council

Larry Domenighini, Mayor  
Gary Hansen, Vice Mayor  
Kerri Warren, Council Member  
Jeff Williams, Council Member  
Vacant, Council Member

### Interim City Manager

Marti Brown

### City Clerk

Tara Rustenhoven

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT & CLOSED SESSION**

All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and are approved by one motion and vote, unless Councilmembers or the City Manager first requests that a matter be removed for separate discussion and action. Individuals wishing to address the City Council concerning Consent Calendar items or regarding matters that are not already on the agenda are invited to make oral comments of up to three minutes at this time. Please address your comments to the Mayor and Councilmembers, and not to staff and/or the audience. By State law, the Council is not permitted to undertake any action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. If you have any documentation that you would like distributed to the City Council, please mail it to the City Clerk at 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988 or email it to:

**6. CITY COUNCIL VACANCY – REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- a. Recommended Action: Review draft interview questions, edit as necessary and approve final list of questions for Council candidate interviews.

Contact: David Ritchie, City Attorney and Marti Brown, Interim City Manager,  
[mbrown@cityofwillows.org](mailto:mbrown@cityofwillows.org)

## 7. CITY COUNCIL VACANCY - INTERVIEWS

- a. Recommended Action: Interview four qualified applicants for the Willows City Council vacancy based on the qualifying applications that were received by the application deadline of Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Contact: David Ritchie, City Attorney and Marti Brown, Interim City Manager,  
[mbrown@cityofwillows.org](mailto:mbrown@cityofwillows.org)

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

**This agenda was posted on October 7, 2021**



Tara Rustenhoven, City Clerk

A complete agenda packet, including staff reports and back-up information, is available for public inspection during normal work hours at City Hall or the Willows Public Library at 201 North Lassen Street in Willows or on the City's website at [www.cityofwillows.org](http://www.cityofwillows.org).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Willows will make available to members of the public any special assistance necessary to participate in this meeting. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132). The public should contact the City Clerk's office at 934-7041 to make such a request. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

*The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider*



**Application For: Willows City Council (expires December 2022)** City of Willows

**Application Requirements:** 1. Application 2. Proof of Residency Documents (2 Required) - Sample documents include a Driver's License/State Identification Card, Utility Bill, Internet/Cable Bill, etc. Please bring the application and proof of residency documents to: City Clerk's Office. \*\*\*

Name: ROBERT LEE GRIFFITH

Full Address: 1039 NORTHGATE DR.

E-mail Address: GRIFF16CA@GMAIL.COM

Primary Phone Number: 530-330-9717

Secondary Phone Number:

Are you a registered voter?  Yes  No

Have you previously attended a City Council meeting?  Yes  No

Present Employer: RETIRED Job Title: N/A

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served:

Position/ Office Held:	Dates:
PLANNING COMM	2015 - Present
LIBRARY BOARD	2015 - Present

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

LIONS CLUB

Position(s) Held: Dates:

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

NASCAR

College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended:

Major Subject: BUSINESS

Degree/Dates: 1961

Special awards or recognition received: LIONS AWARDS

Please attach a statement explaining the reasons why you want to become a member of this City Council, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this Council.

SEE ATTACHED

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment.

City policy and state law directs all Council members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes  No

Signature of Applicant:

Date Signed:

By signing you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. You can submit the completed application with proofs of residency to the City Clerk's Office, 201 N. Lassen St. Willows, CA 95988. All information provided will be public information. **Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Thursday September 23 at 4:30 p.m.**

\*\*\* Add additional, numbered pages as needed.

By way of introduction, I am a born-again Christian and family man. I have family living in this city, and I would like to continue to see growth and prosperity. Part of the reason I am applying for this position is that I am subject to reasonable change and don't want to be part of the "we've never done it that way before" mentality.

My passion for the city is evidenced by my participation in the City Planning Commission and the Library Board for over six years and by attending many City Council Meetings. I would like to see Willows become a destination city by encouraging growth for businesses as well as residential dwellings. As we are currently facing many difficulties regarding water and sewer rates as well as regulations, I would like to be a part of resolving these issues. I believe city issues and business should be transparent to the community.

I have been a strong supporter of the Basin Street Project from the beginning and felt satisfaction attending the Rumiano Cheese grand opening, as a part of the start of the total development of that area of the city. As a member of the Planning Commission I strongly supported the rezoning of 80 acres to allow the apartment complex to be built, thereby ensuring the needed infrastructure for development of the residential area.

I am also currently a member of the Willows Lions Club and sit as Region Chair. My wife and I were awarded the Lions Couple of the Year for my district. And I have received an award for my service as Region Chair. The Willows Lions supported the Street Fairs, and it was so satisfying to see the community coming together weekly. I would be in favor of more community activities.

As you may conclude, I enjoy serving my community and hope to see continued growth and prosperity for the City of Willows.

**Application For: Willows City Council (expires December 2022)**

**Application Requirements:** 1. Application 2. Proof of Residency Documents (2 Required) - Sample documents include a Driver's License/State Identification Card, Utility Bill, Internet/Cable Bill, etc. Please bring the application and proof of residency documents to: City Clerk's Office. \*\*\*

Name: Casey Hofhenke

Full Address:

1065 Northgate Dr  
Willows, CA 95988

E-mail Address:

chofhenke@sbcglobal.net

Primary Phone Number:

530 330 9227

Secondary Phone Number:



Are you a registered voter?

Yes  No

Have you previously attended a City Council meeting?

Yes  No

Present Employer: Amazon

Job Title: Leader of On Road Execution

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served:

Position/ Office Held:

Dates:

Position/ Office Held:	Dates:

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Position(s) Held: Dates:

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended:

Major Subject:

Degree/Dates:

Special awards or recognition received:

Please attach a statement explaining the reasons why you want to become a member of this City Council, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this Council.

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes     No     Unsure

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment.

City policy and state law directs all Council members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes     No

Signature of Applicant:



Date Signed:

9/15/21

By signing you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. You can submit the completed application with proofs of residency to the City Clerk's Office, 201 N. Lassen St. Willows, CA 95988. All information provided will be public information. **Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Thursday September 23 at 4:30 p.m.**

\*\*\* Add additional, numbered pages as needed.



**Application For: Willows City Council (expires December 2022)**

**Application Requirements:** 1. Application 2. Proof of Residency Documents (2 Required) - Sample documents include a Driver's License/State Identification Card, Utility Bill, Internet/Cable Bill, etc. Please bring the application and proof of residency documents to: City Clerk's Office. \*\*\*

Name: *Susan Cecon*

Full Address: *407 N. Plumas St.  
Willows, CA*

*P.O. Box 373  
Willows, CA 95988*

E-mail Address: *sucecon@sbcglobal.net*

Primary Phone Number: *530-517-0238*

Secondary Phone Number: *N/A*

Are you a registered voter?

Yes  No

Have you previously attended a City Council meeting?

Yes  No

Present Employer: *self*

Job Title: *Farmer, business owner, yoga instructor*

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served:

Position/ Office Held:

Dates:

<i>N/A</i>	

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

*Willows Thrift Store, Music Education in Schools  
Young Ladies Institute, Farm Education in Africa*

Position(s) Held: Dates:

*N/A*



Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

\* See addendum

College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended: American River College (1970's)  
Physical Trainer Certification through Massage School (1970's)  
Major Subject: International Sports Sciences Association (2005)

Degree/Dates: Satva Yoga Teacher Training, India (2013)

Special awards or recognition received: Many online courses for self improvement and continuing education:  
Federalist Papers, nutrition, brain research, Quantum Physics, physical therapy.

Please attach a statement explaining the reasons why you want to become a member of this City Council, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this Council.

\* See addendum

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment. *unsure*  
City policy and state law directs all Council members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes  No

Signature of Applicant: *Susan Aceon* Date Signed: *9/23/2021*

By signing you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. You can submit the completed application with proofs of residency to the City Clerk's Office, 201 N. Lassen St. Willows, CA 95988. All information provided will be public information. **Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Thursday September 23 at 4:30 p.m.**

\*\*\* Add additional, numbered pages as needed.

## **Addendum: Susan Ceccon application for Willows City Council**

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

My many interests include: health and fitness, music, residential landscaping and interior design, farming, music, jewelry making, recycling, repurposing, event planning, networking, travel and culture.

I am a people person who enjoys communicating with many kinds of folks. I like getting things done and have strong skills for logistical, social, spatial, and financial problem solving.

Why I want to become a member of the Willows City Council:

I was raised in Willows and believe it is my time to serve my community. I know many people here who trust me to be honest and brave enough to ask questions.

As a long time resident, successful farmer and entrepreneur, I understand the culture and needs of Willows.

I would be working toward:

1. Trust building between the City Council, City Staff and residents
2. Improved communication between the Council and the public
3. Making the finances of the City understandable to the community

**Application For: Willows City Council (expires December 2022)**

**Application Requirements:** 1. Application 2. Proof of Residency Documents (2 Required) - Sample documents include a Driver's License/State Identification Card, Utility Bill, Internet/Cable Bill, etc. Please bring the application and proof of residency documents to: City Clerk's Office. \*\*\*

Name: Forrest J. Sprague

Full Address: 801 Applewood Way Willows, CA 95988

E-mail Address: forsprague@aol.com

Primary Phone Number: (530) 514-8700

Secondary Phone Number: N/A

Are you a registered voter?  Yes  No

Have you previously attended a City Council meeting?  Yes  No

Present Employer: Retired Home Builder Job Title: Owner/manager

Previous Governmental Bodies/ Elective Offices Applicant has served: Chief of Staff for a Senator

Position/ Office Held:

Dates:

Willows Planning Commissioner	1990-91 +/-
Glenn County Planning Commissioner	1992-93 +/-
Glenn County Supervisor	2000-2004

Civic or Charitable Organizations to which Applicant has belonged:

Member of the Glenn County Republican Central Committee

Member of the Founding Board of Directors of Oak Tree Christian School

Past Deacon of a local church

Position(s) Held: Dates:

Past chairman of the Glenn County Republican Central Committee early 1990s

Past ex-officio member of the GCCC for Senator Maurice Johannessen mid-1990s

Past ex-officio member of the GCCC for Senator Jim Nielsen early 2000s



TR

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents:

Economic Development, Civics and Public Policy

Cabinet and furniture building, restoring used furniture

Legal research, writing "white papers" and analysis of government codes/regulations.

College, Professional, Vocational Schools attended:

Navy Aviation Electrician School, 1969, Sierra College 1972-1975

Major Subject:

Construction Management, Business and Real Estate Law

Degree/Dates:

Equivalent to AA Degrees in the subjects. Took the topical classes, not the full curriculum.

Special awards or recognition received:

Medals for military service from 1968-1972. Appreciation Resolution from State Senator.

Please attach a statement explaining the reasons why you want to become a member of this City Council, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this Council. See attached

Any other information which you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application:

See attached

Are you associated with any Organization/Employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, please name the Organization or Employment.

City policy and state law directs all Council members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes  No

Signature of Applicant:



Date Signed: Spet 29, 2021

By signing you are confirming that you are the person listed in this application, and that all information provided is truthful and correct. You can submit the completed application with proofs of residency to the City Clerk's Office, 201 N. Lassen St. Willows, CA 95988. All information provided will be public information. **Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by** [REDACTED]

\*\*\* Add additional, numbered pages as needed.

# FORREST J. SPRAGUE

801 Applewood Way Willows, CA 95988

---

September 29, 2021

City of Willows  
201 N. Lassen St  
Willows, CA 95988

ATTN: Tara Rustenhoven

Below is supplemental to my application to fill the current vacancy on the City Council.

## **My reasons for becoming a member of the City Council:**

- Currently, there is an intense mistrust in the overall management of the City and a lack of confidence in the City Council's ability or even a desire to make changes for the better.
- I want to regain the public's trust in the City Council by insisting on sound, positive and visible management practices at all levels of city government.
- I want to restore transparency and accountability to all financial aspects of the City.
- I want to provide a business perspective to the City's economic development efforts.

## **Other information for the Council's review of my application:**

Former Chief of Staff and Principal Consultant to a California State Senator. Duties included:

- Monitored the constituent casework and community relations activity performed by the staff working in three District Offices covering 13 counties within the 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District;
- Managed all the daily activities of the legislative staff in the Senator's Capitol office; and
- Provided analysis to the Senators interested in agriculture, natural resources, land use, state budget, and local government related issues.

Accomplishments included:

- Spearheaded the performance audit that resulted in streamlining the application, review and building approval processes conducted by the Office of Public School Construction;
- Composed legislation that modified the Department of Fish and Game Codes that simplified their approval process for the Streambed Alteration Agreements required for maintenance projects done by flood control districts and public works departments;
- Provided the analysis of land acquisition and construction costs for new building projects proposed by the Department of General Services to the Senate Budget Committee that oversaw that agency's activities; and
- Chief Consultant to the Senate Select Committee of the CALFED Water Program.