



Application Questions

IMPORTANT! This online form will not save; it must be completed in its entirety all at once. It is recommend that you familiarize with all the required fields, on this tab and the Supplemental Questions tab, in order to return and complete it at all once:

- Application
- Voter registration card upload
- Cover letter upload
- Resume upload
- Answer the entirety of the supplemental questions

The timeline for filling the Council vacancy is as follows:

September 2, 2022: Applications due to City by 5:00 pm

September 26, 2022: A Special Meeting at 4:30 pm is scheduled to conduct candidate interviews followed by an Executive Session and council vote. The new Council Member will be sworn in on October 3, 2022.

To be considered, your application must be complete and received by the City no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2022. Additional written information after this date will not be accepted, unless requested by the City Council.

Inquiries and questions pertaining to this process or documentation should be directed to:

City Clerk's Office
616 NE 4th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

Contact Phone: (360) 834-6864 Email Address: administration@cityofcamas.us

Application

First Name *	Deanna		
Last Name *	Rusch		
Physical Home Address *	Street Address	[REDACTED]	
	Address Line 2	[REDACTED]	
	City	Camas	State / Province / Region Washington
	Postal / Zip Code	98607	Country United States
	Email *	[REDACTED]	
Contact Phone *	[REDACTED]		
Other Phone	[REDACTED]		

Eligibility Requirements, Notification and Signature

A Council Member for the City of Camas must reside within City limits and be a registered voter in Camas, Washington. In order to be eligible for appointment to a Council Member vacancy, applicants must have lived in the

City of Camas for 12 consecutive months prior to being appointed to office.

Are you a registered voter in Camas, WA? * Yes

Voter Registration Card * You can get it online at Voter Portal (votewa.gov), enter your details, in the left pane go to "Voter Registration" and save this screenshot in any manner to upload.

Rusch Voter Registration .jpeg 309.05KB

To confirm Residency and Ward, go to [MapsOnline, Clark County WA. GIS](#). Enter your address on the "Search" tab to confirm that your address is within Camas Ward 1.

Do you reside within Ward 1 of the City of Camas? * Yes

How long have you been a resident of the City of Camas? * 7 years as of October 2022

How long have you lived at your current address? * 4 years, 3.5 months

Previous Address If you have lived at your current address for less than 12 months, please list your previous address.

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Length of Time at Previous Address

Financial Interest or Business? * Do you, or any family member residing in your household, have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that conducts business with the City of Camas?

No

Washington State Qualification * I am legally qualified to serve in this capacity.

Yes

Attachment Cover Letter * Rusch Cover Letter.pdf 652.86KB

Attachment Resume * Rusch Resume.pdf 162.33KB

Signature * As an applicant, I declare that I am qualified for appointment to this public office and acknowledge the information provided on this application will be available to the public.



Deanna L. Rusch

Supplemental Questions

IMPORTANT! This online form will not save. Be sure to complete your application, voter registration card upload, cover letter and resume uploads, and the entirety of these supplemental questions before submitting.

Suggestion - prepare your answers ahead of time and when ready to submit the application, copy and paste them into the fields.

Question 1. *

1. Why are you applying for this position?

I enjoyed my prior time on Council and believe I have attributes that helped the City then and can help the City now. I am not interested in making city issues partisan and I am truly independent - I vote on the issue at hand. I want to help make Camas an inclusive community where all of our citizens can live and thrive. I want to serve my community again and believe my experience will allow me to do so and to assume the position seamlessly.

Question 2. *

What experiences, talents or skills would you bring to the city government that you would like to highlight?

My prior time on City Council from 2017 - 2019 will enable me to join the team and hit the ground running. My training and experience as attorney allows me a background in dispute resolution and negotiation. I am firm and fair, but also friendly and collegial. I bring with me a collaborative approach to use when possible in addressing city issues.

Question 3. *

What forms of Public Service or Volunteering have you been involved in? Provide details regarding the dates, roles and responsibilities.

For details, I would refer to my resume which has been submitted herewith. Generally speaking, I am currently the board co-chair for the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society. I am the board president for the Camas Washougal Community Chest. I am also on the board for the Downtown Camas Association. Through these organizations I have been honored to work and support animals, east county citizens in need, and our Downtown Camas.

Question 4. *

What is your vision for Camas four or five years from now? In some detail, explain how you would lead the community toward your vision.

In four or five years I hope Camas has continued to plan for and manage smart growth. My vision for Camas is a thriving community where people can afford to live and work if they so desire, and one that is inclusive and welcoming to people of various different backgrounds. In four or five years I hope some of the major projects the city is facing (infrastructure and buildings, specifically), have been started or thoroughly planned out. In four or five years I see Camas having more and diversified affordable housing. I would love to continue working with the appropriate departments and stakeholders in moving these things along. I would love to help make sure the communication and outreach stays regular and consistent. In four or five years, we need to have a plan for a pool that the community has approved and/or for other recreational activities in town (especially for teenagers where services are lacking).

Question 5. *

Excluding finances, in your opinion, what are the most significant challenges facing the City of Camas today? How would you propose to address these challenges?

Infrastructure/new buildings: It is clear the infrastructure in Downtown and parts of older Camas needs to be addressed. We know the city needs two new fire stations. There are other city buildings in need of work. These are not small projects; these are multi-million dollar projects that will need to occur over years. We need a short and long term plan, proposals for funding, and a plan to get community support for all of these projects.

Public Safety: We need more staff and equipment for our fire and police offers. I am encouraged some positions seem to be present in the last few budget cycles, but it is not nearly enough given the current size of our city and lack of growth in either public safety department to keep up with a growing city.

Growth/Affordable Housing: Growth is mandated by the CMA, and there are appropriate ways to manage how we maintain compliance. I am encouraged by the increased efforts for public engagement as it relates to the North Shore. I would like to see more discussions about diverse housing - such as ADU's and infill development in older neighborhoods that allow it. We need some sort of multi family houses for families that want to live in Camas but cannot afford a house.

Question 6. *

What other elected bodies have you sought a seat on or been elected to? Provide details regarding the dates, organization/agency name, and responsibilities.

I was appointed to Ward 1 of the Camas City Council and served from 2017 - 2019. I unfortunately was not elected when I ran to continue my tenure. I also served as an elected Clark County Charter Review Commission Member for District 4 and served for 2021. I was elected to that position in a 6-person race.

Deanna L. Rusch

Camas, Washington 98607

Mayor Steve Hogan, et al
City of Camas
616 NE 4th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

Re: *Application for Camas City Council, Ward 1 Vacancy*

Dear Mayor Hogan, Interim City Administrator Swanson, City Council, and Staff:

I am writing to apply for the open City Council seat in Ward 1. As many of you know, I previously held this seat from 2017 to 2019. My resume is enclosed as is my application for the position, and I wanted to highlight a few additional items about why I am applying and how my relationships, experience, and integrity/humility will serve Camas.

RELATIONSHIPS

I have lived in Camas for seven years. During this time, I have built impenetrable relationships with governmental agencies and their representatives from Congress down to City Council, and this includes the city of Washougal. I have relationships with the heads of nonprofit agencies. I am proud to maintain strong relationships with many Downtown business owners. I pride myself on building and maintaining relationships. This will translate to my service on City Council as a lot of these relationships are with community stakeholders the city works with on a daily basis.

EXPERIENCE

There is no other applicant that has the experience I do. I served on the Camas City Council for almost two years in this exact position. I will hit the ground running. I will not need to be trained or given a traditional orientation. I will be able to participate in workshops and meetings from day one.

INTEGRITY AND HUMILITY

I am humble enough to know that the citizens voted for my opponent in 2019, largely because of the pool bond. I am humble enough to acknowledge that we did not go about that the right way. I am approaching this position with humility because I understand we may have not done it the right way and I am open to learning and hearing how we might do it better next time. I approach every decision I make in life like I would on Council; with integrity and an analysis of whether my decision will ultimately help people.

Finally, I love Camas. I live in a 1906 bungalow up by Crown Park with my dogs, Adrienne, Atticus, and Paisley. I would welcome the opportunity to join you on the City Council and I'm fully prepared to run for election next year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with you to answer any questions on how my relationships, experience, and integrity/humility can best collaborate with you all and help the City continue to move forward.

Respectfully,


Deanna L. Rusch

Deanna L. Rusch

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Camas, Washington 98607
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Experience

Family Law Attorney

Sept 2017 – Present

McKean Smith

Vancouver, WA

- Practice in all areas of Washington family law including but not limited to dissolution of marriage with high/complex assets, custody matters, LGBTQ family matters, and inter-state domestic relations.
- Independently manage 80-100 open cases at a time.
- Maintain a busy trial and court litigation calendar.

City Councilperson

Dec 2017 – November 2019

City of Camas, Ward 1, Position 1

Camas, WA

- Represented the citizens of Camas (population of approximately 25,000) as part of the city’s legislative body.
- Served as liaison to the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Joint Policy Advisory Commission for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department, and the Hotel Lodging Tax Advisory Commission.

Attorney/Senior Attorney

May 2015 – Sept 2017

McKinley Irvin

Vancouver, WA

- Practiced in all areas of Washington family law including but not limited to dissolution of marriage with high/complex assets, custody matters, LGBTQ family matters, and inter-state domestic relations.
- Independently managed 50-70 open cases at a time.
- Achieved high benchmarks for productivity and client origination.

Associate Attorney/Managing Attorney

Dec 2009 – May 2015

Stahancyk, Kent & Hook

*Vancouver, WA/
Portland, OR*

- Practiced in all areas of Washington and Oregon family law including but not limited to dissolution of marriage with high/complex assets, custody matters, LGBTQ family matters, and inter-state domestic relations.
- Independently managed 30-50 cases at a time.

Associate Attorney

Feb 2007 – Nov 2009

Law Office of Stephen J. Bedor

Lake Oswego, OR

- Practiced in all areas of Oregon domestic relations litigation, including divorce, custody, post-judgment practice, modification practice, adoption, child support, spousal support, restraining orders and parenting time.
- Independently managed 20-30 open cases at a time.
- Assisted senior attorney in document preparation, legal research, trial preparation, discovery and client communication.

Volunteer Experience

Co-Chair

2021 - Present

Board Member

2020 – Present

West Columbia Gorge Humane Society

Washougal, WA

- Serve as a board member for the humane society that provides all domestic animal welfare services for Camas and Washougal.
- Serve as co-chair of the board and assist with short and long term planning for the humane society.

Charter Review Commissioner – District 4, Position 1 **2020**
Clark County Charter Review Commission *Camas, WA*

- Served as an elected commissioner to a 15-member commission tasked with performing the first review of the Clark County Home Rule Charter.

President **2022 - Present**

Board Member **2020 – Present**

Camas Washougal Community Chest *Camas, WA*

- Serve as a board member (and president for 2022-2023) on a non profit that raises money and provides grants to local non profit entities in Camas and Washougal.

Board Member **2020 – Present**

Downtown Camas Association *Camas, WA*

- Serve as a board member on a non profit to help support, grow and preserve Downtown Camas' history, economic base, and overall success.

Member **2018-2021**

Chairperson **2019 – 2021**

100 Women Who Care Clark County *Camas, WA*

Volunteer Attorney **2010 – 2020**

Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program *Vancouver, WA*

- Provided legal advice and document preparation assistance to low income family law clients in Clark County.

Education

Juris Doctor **May 2006**

Gonzaga University School of Law *Spokane, WA*

- Law Scholarship (Merit Scholarship) – 3 years
- Dean's Scholarship (Public Service/Leadership Grant) – 3 years
- ABA Law Student Division Liaison to the ABA Forum on Entertainment & Sports Industries
- Sports & Entertainment Law Club, Treasurer, Founder and President
- Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, Historian
- William O. Douglas Committee for First Amendment Rights, Selected Member

Bachelor of Arts in Law, Societies and Justice **March 2003**

University of Washington *Seattle, WA*

- University of Washington Honors College
- Pi Beta Phi International Fraternity, Chapter Treasurer

Honors and Awards

Woman of Vision

Daily Journal of Commerce **2021**

Selected Lawyer – Family Law **2018 - Present**

Best Lawyers in America

Rising Star **2010, 2012 – 2021**

Super Lawyers

Accomplished & Under 40 **2012**

Vancouver Business Journal

Washington Outstanding Young Lawyer **2012**

Seattle Met Magazine

DECLARATION AND AFFIDAVIT OF CANDIDACY

State of Washington }
County of Clark } ss.
City of Camas }

DECLARATION

I, Deanna L. Rusch, declare that I am a registered voter residing at _____, City of Camas, Clark County, State of Washington. I further declare that I am legally qualified to assume the office of COUNCIL MEMBER, if selected. I hereby request that my name be placed before the City Council, as a candidate.

AFFIDAVIT

FURTHER, I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, and the Ordinances of the City of Camas.

Deanna L. Rusch

Signature of candidate as registered to vote

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of September, 2022.

(SEAL)



Ciera M. Natemier

Signature of Acknowledging Official

Notary

Title of Acknowledging Official