



**APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SALIDA
COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**

DATE February 9, 2024
 NAME Georgia Jacqueline Berndt aka Jackie Berndt
 ADDRESS 605 Hunt Street
 CITY Salida STATE CO ZIP 81201
 TELEPHONE # (home) 719-539-4525 (work) n/a
 (cell) 719-207-0453
 FAX # n/a E-MAIL medicberndt@yahoo.com

APPLYING FOR:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Adjustment | <input type="checkbox"/> Salida/Chaffee County Airport Board |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROST | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please fill out the following information about yourself and why you are applying for this position. (Attach resume or extra sheets if necessary)

BACKGROUND AND/OR EXPERIENCE (Business and/or Personal):

Salida Resident since 1956. Salida High School Graduate 1974
 Salida South Ark Volunteer Firefighter 1988-1990, Chaffee County Firefighter 1990-1996, Chaffee County Firefighter of the Year 1993. Chaffee County EMS Paramedic 1993-2010. Bookkeeper at Murdochs Ranch and Home 2011-2023.
 Lead Paramedic at 8th World Youth Day with Pope John Paul II in Denver 1993.
 Paramedic at US Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah 2002.
 EMS and Firefighter Instructor 1988-2000, first aid and CPR instructor for Salida High School P.E. classes 1988-1990. Past volunteer with Rotary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Chaffee County 4-H groups & help organize the first PeeWee Wrestling club 1980-2003. Received the Salida Chamber From the Heart award 2005. Wrote grant in 2000 for new ambulances. Help form 501(c)(3) non-profit Chaffee County EMS Foundation there I wrote grants for equipment and help with the Energy Grant that built the first Chaffee County EMS building in Poncha Springs. 2006 Director of Chaffee County EMS Foundation worked on the sales tax proposal for the sales tax to continue to fund Chaffee County Ambulance Services, Chaffee County Communication Center (Dispatch) and Emergency Management. Married to Ken for 48 years. We have two children, one grand son, and three step grand children. We are active members of the Catholic Church and enjoy attending community events.

PERSONAL AND JOB RELATED INTERESTS:

Personal interests include but are not limited to family and friends.
Job interests I enjoyed being a Paramedic for 25 years, while working as a Paramedic I was able to help many people who lived in Salida and helped with education classes at the local high school. In my spare time I was the Director of Chaffee County EMS Foundation and helped with the ballot issue to have sales tax go to EMS and Dispatch to help with needs. I was a volunteer fire fighter for South Ark Fire and Chaffee County Fire enjoyed teaching and being the Fire Training Officer for Chaffee County Fire for several years. I went to work 12 years ago for Murdochs Ranch and Home Supply as the book keeper and retired from there December 2023. Working with Murdochs I learned alot about sales tax, license, gun laws and customer service as well as working with a different group of people.

REASONS FOR APPLYING:

I believe in small businesses and that they are the backbone of the community. I would like to help foster their need to strengthen their business and listen to their need.
I will collaborate with law enforcement and the fire department to ensure public safety. As I believe that everyone deserves to feel safe and with the many diversities that are in our community I believe that open communication and accountability is essential for the growth that the City of Salida is going through.
I would like to represent the tax payers in Ward 3 and give back to the community I live in.
Having retired at the end of 2023 I would be available to work with the council, and citizen to help move Salida forward. I ran for Ward 3 in the last election and would like to follow that endeavor.

Thank you for applying, Salida City Council

Please return the completed application to:

City of Salida
448 E. 1st Street, Suite 112
Salida, CO 81201
or email to:
Clerk@cityofsalida.com

Letter of Support for Jackie Berndt Salida City Council, Ward 3

Jennifer Adamson <jensalida@gmail.com>

Mon 3/11/2024 6:45 PM

To: Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from jensalida@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Mayor Dan Shore and Salida City Council:

We need to complete the vacancy seat for Ward 3 with Voting in Jackie Berndt to be on the Salida City Council Team.

My Letter of Support Follows:

Jackie Berndt has the Energy and knowledge to Represent Salida City Council. She is a life time Salida resident. She is well known in our community for being a life of service.

In my past I also was a Firefighter and EMT. I understand it is a dedicated and demanding career. Training, Updating EMS material, Education and Communication skills. Keeping good physical and mental shape in stressful events that happens in emergency situations. With the City's Population growing that involves more

Emergency and assisting the Public's needs, even disasters. Our Fire Dept is expanding.

Communication skills are a must in these relationships with the City, Fire Dept, Law Enforcement, EMS Departments. Knowledge of Budgets, Emergency Equipment purchases, New Hires and Negotiating matters. Jackie is a Benefit and understands how these operations work. She is Valuable and Resourceful.

Please include my letter of Support for Jackie Berndt at the upcoming City Council meeting. If you could please Read Letter to City Council.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Jennifer Adamson

Salida, CO 81201

To: Mr. Dan Shore
Salida City Mayor

From: Denien Nachtrieb
PO Box 477
224 Pinyon Lane
Poncha Springs Resident

RE: Recommendation letter for Jackie Berndt, applicant for Ward 3 City Council Position

Dear Mr. Shore,

My name is Denien Nachtrieb, and I have known Jackie Berndt since I was a young girl in grade school. Now, I know that I am not a Ward 3 or Salida City resident, but I have known Jackie most of my life, and I am 69 years old.

To me, Jackie has been, and is a fair and good person to know. She thinks of the of what is right, what is fair, and does the homework for the subject at hand that will work for all. She is not one that makes hasty decisions and will research all she can to know the subject at hand.

She was employed and retired as an EMS paramedic for Chaffee County and in that field, you don't make hasty decisions, and has also worked alongside Salida Fire Dept. She has been involved with her children in the Salida School system and supports youth programs, and supports the Downtown businesses, and is a supporter of our Chaffee County Veterans as her family has been.

Living, graduating from Salida High School and working in Salida, Jackie has experienced and has lived with the many changes in Salida. As an all-around good person who is civic minded, she is willing to listen to the facts, both sides of a discussion, and is not judgmental, I believe she will do a great job! She will express her opinion, but with consideration of all the facts.

Again, I know that I am not a Salida resident, but I grew up in Salida, and I believe Jackie Berndt is a great local candidate who can work with the Salida City Council and be a good choice for the Ward 3 City Council position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Denien (Dee) Nachtrieb
PO Box 477
Poncha Springs, CO 81242
Hm: 719-207-4399
Cell: 907-388-9568

February 22nd 2024

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council

Please except this letter of recommendation and personal reference for Mrs. Jackie Berndt who as recently applied for Council position in Ward 3 which was recently vacated by Harold Kasper .

Mrs Berndt has been a life long resident of Salida. She has been a volunteer and participant in many community programs to the betterment of our community and citizens, those programs included EMS, Chaffee county search and rescue well as local youth programs. She and her family have been very successful in a respected heating and plumbing business for several generations.

Mrs. Berndt has a personal caring concern and commiment to our community which is to keep it a special place it is and contine to inhance it to be the best for all who live and work here.

Mrs. Berndt is and has been of impicable

**charicter and will be a assit to our council
community and citzens if chosen.**

**Thank you for your service and consideration
of Mrs. Berndt to the appointment of the Council
position in ward 3 if appointed she will make a
pesonal commimtment to Council and our
community.**

Respectfully Yours


Michael W. Bowers

Retired Salida Police Officer

And City Councilman.

Dear Salida City Council,

3/12/24

I manage a store on F St.

In the last year, the level of crime and general mayhem downtown has escalated.

Transients in bloody fist-fights in front of our store? Check.

Transients vandalizing and trying all the doors in the alleys trying to find a vulnerable business? Check.

Transients lurking in the alley near my car, making it risky to leave at night? Check.

Mentally disturbed and medicated individuals inflicting themselves on myself and my customers? Check.

It is not just me. Other businesses tell me they have similar experiences. Law enforcement tries, but the volume of calls is overwhelming.

I kept thinking the Salida City Council would recognize the problem and act. Nope! No action, and no explanation. Our problems are being ignored. And as we approach warmer weather, it will only get worse.

Is high-crime Salida the new normal? Because that is not acceptable.

I was finally forced to do exactly what some Council members have implied they don't want us to do: I armed myself.

What else can be done? If ignored, these problems will not simply go away. Proactive policy change is needed.

Fortunately, we have an opportunity to infuse new leadership. There is an open seat on Salida City Council, and Jackie Berndt has applied for the position. I know Jackie, and I trust her to push for positive change. She has no personal agenda-she just wants to help Salida be a better, safer place.

Since our current Council has refused to even discuss these issues publicly, I think it is time for them to admit they have no stomach for dealing with this crisis. If they can't or won't engage in taking political action to aid law enforcement, they need to bring into their midst someone who can. Jackie Berndt is that person.

I urge Salida City Council to do the right thing. Appoint Jackie to Salida City Council, and put her crisis management experience to work for the people of Salida.

Denice Garrou, Salida

Dear Council and Mayor
March 11, 2024

I am writing to request that you appoint Jackie Berndt to fill the Salida City Council vacancy. Jackie's experience is just what Salida needs. Her work as a firefighter and paramedic demonstrates to me a life of sacrifice and public service

To me it is important that she has lived in Salida her entire life. She knows the people and the problems that we face. As a senior and retiree I feel that I would be comfortable talking to Jackie. Many do not understand how many changes we have seen in the last 30 years. The last 10 have been accelerated and not always to our benefit.

I never get involved in these things but I feel strong enough on this issue to finally speak out. We should be grateful Jackie has volunteered to serve. We should be grateful Jackie has volunteered to serve and should be willing to accept her experience.

Please appoint Jackie Berndt, so people like me can feel we have somewhere to turn to if we have a problem.

Thank you for listening

Nancy Hardman
616 F Street
Salida, Co. 81201

City Council Ward 3 vacancy appointment

lindahayden@bresnan.net <lindahayden@bresnan.net>

Mon 3/11/2024 8:46 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from lindahayden@bresnan.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council and Mayor, I strongly recommend that Jackie Berndt be appointed to the vacancy on the Salida Council for Ward 3.

She is a lifelong resident of Salida who has been actively involved in almost every aspect of this community. She has been a paramedic and an instructor in that field, an instructor for the Fire Department, and a member of Rotary. She was one of the Colorado paramedics chosen to work at the Winter Olympics in Utah. Jackie also volunteered with the Boy Scouts, and Girls Scouts. In 2005, she received the From the Heart award which is given to recognize a citizen's generosity of spirit and volunteerism.

Jackie would also be an asset to the City Council due to her financial background as the bookkeeper for Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply for the past 10 years, and due to her ability to write grants which is a very important area of expertise. She wrote and received grants for the Chaffee County EMS Foundation for ambulances that were acquired as well as for the first Chaffee County EMS building in Poncha Springs.

As a council member, Jackie would be a fair and important asset to the entire community.

Please appoint Jackie Berndt to the City Council Ward 3 vacancy.

Thank you,

Linda Hayden

1505 Holman Ave
Salida, Co. 81201

Letter of Support for Jackie Berndt

Tony <redchiles77@gmail.com>

Mon 3/11/2024 5:18 PM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from redchiles77@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council members

I am writing in support of Ward 3 City Council Candidate Jackie Berndt. I request this letter of support be included in the next City Council meeting packet.

I have known the Berndt family for most of my life and I can say without reservation that the Berndts are among the finest people I know.

I believe this community is lucky to have someone like Jackie willing to volunteer for this position. A life filled with obstacles and achievements has tested Jackie and prepared her for the challenges this community faces today.

Jackie Berndt will tackle issues head-on with common sense and integrity and make Salida a better and safer place for us all.

Please join me in reaching out to Salida City Council in asking them to select Jackie Berndt as the Ward 3 representative.

Thank you,

Anthony Tafoya
1520 F Street
Salida CO 812012

March 12, 2024

Dear Council,

I am writing to support Jackie Berndt for Salida City Council.

I learned in Salida Schools that the Revolutionary War was fought over taxation.

Remember "No Taxation without Representation"?

Well, I am taxed by the City of Salida, but I do not feel represented.

I feel like those of us who lived in Salida our whole lives are ignored by city government.

I guess city council works on the big picture things I never see, but never looks back. They never worry about the things happening every day that make life more difficult for people like me.

Jackie Berndt cares about people. She cares about Salida and wants to make our lives better.

Isn't that what our government should be doing? Making our daily lives better?

Please select Jackie Berndt for Salida City Council. Give her a chance to show what she can do.

Debbie Salazar
610 Caldwell Ave
Salida, CO 81201

Council and Mayor,

You face an important decision Tuesday, filling a vacancy on Salida City Council. How do you select among so many candidates?

I believe longtime locals are underrepresented on council, especially someone to represent older citizens who have lived in Salida their entire lives. Years ago, it seemed like everyone on council was old and retired. Now all the current council members are still working. Where are they supposed to find the time to digest meeting packets that can be 300 pages long? More than ever, Council needs at least one member who is older, wiser, and retired. Ideally, this person would also have the time, talent and drive to fully study all the information that comes before Council.

I love sports. My friends would say too much. When drafting team personnel, there are two major philosophies.

First, draft the best available athlete. Find the person with the greatest upside, regardless of the position they play.

Second, draft for need. Select the best person that addresses the greatest positional weakness on your team.

With the current opening, Salida City Council is fortunate. Jackie Berndt is the most experienced candidate while simultaneously filling the greatest void in council demographics. The choice is clear. Please appoint Jackie Berndt to Salida City Council. Don't select someone else, and force this armchair quarterback to compare your lousy draft choices to the Denver Broncos.

Luke Parker, Salida

Council and Mayor

March 12, 2024

First, do no harm. I wish the Hippocratic Oath for medical practitioners also applied to politicians.

Some Council actions, though well-intentioned, are hurting the local economy: Scout Wave, excessive STR Tax, paid parking downtown. Times are already difficult without added obstacles.

But what about the seemingly forgotten Poncha Springs vs Salida lawsuit? By refusing new sewer line connections, Salida has effectively blocked new residence construction in Poncha since 4/6/22. Two years! Simply put, Salida signed a contract with Poncha to provide wastewater services and infrastructure, but is not fulfilling the terms. Poncha offered to negotiate and pay some of the costs, but this was rejected. (tinyurl.com/598swd3y) The only winners are attorneys billing hourly to kick the can down an endless road.

The architect of this disaster was former City Administrator Drew Nelson. There is so much at stake. Isn't it time for a reset, a thorough examination of the details?

Housing is supposedly the #1 issue. Most of the attainable housing in South Chaffee used to be built in Poncha Springs but is now stalled by City of Salida action. Why isn't this the primary focus of council? Why aren't CHA and BETCH raising hell?

What can the good people of Salida do to help? A recent resignation left an open council seat, to be filled by council vote on March 19. This creates an opportunity to change the dynamic.

Fortunately, we have one applicant with the perfect blend of knowledge and experience: longtime Salida resident Jackie Berndt. Recently retired as the bookkeeper at Murdoch's, Jackie has pledged to devote full-time effort if appointed to Council.

Brokering a deal with Poncha was part of Jackie's recent Council bid. She will be relentless in pursuing an equitable settlement.

Jackie would also provide needed diversity to council. As a lifetime Salida resident of Salida, she has deep roots. Perhaps the 20+% of Salida's retirement-age population would feel better represented. Jackie's long experience as a Paramedic and firefighter would enhance council with streetwise experience of the harsh realities now confronting Salidans. Jackie could serve as a liaison between council, first responders and the public; bridging issues that divide us.

I request Salida residents write to city council. Urge them to appoint Jackie Berndt to the open seat in Ward 3. Please attend the council meeting on March 19 to speak on Jackie's behalf. Help Jackie make Salida a better place.

Vince Phillips, Salida

Re: Letter for meeting packet

tazman1048@q.com <tazman1048@q.com>

Thu 3/14/2024 10:34 AM

To:Sara Law <sara.law@cityofsalida.com>

You don't often get email from tazman1048@q.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Salida City Council,

All I hear in Salida is that we need more housing, especially affordable housing. Since the land is cheaper, most of the affordable housing built in Southern Chaffee County is in Poncha Springs.

At least it used to be built in Poncha Springs.

That was until unexplainable Salida City Council action prevented most future construction in Poncha from taking place. I wonder, did this Council ever stop to consider the negative impact this would have on others?

I know many people struggling to find housing. I know many unemployed construction workers. I know businesses in Poncha that are struggling to stay afloat. Surprise! Hundreds of houses under construction in Poncha would have addressed all these issues by enhancing the local economy. Instead, there is real misery to be found in the results of Salida's policy. Why did Salida City Council do this to their sister city?

I do not vote in Salida, but I experience the damage Salida City Council has caused, as do many others.

If appointing Jackie Berndt to City Council is what it will take to get council to act in the best interest of all the public, then please appoint Jackie Berndt.

And please remember that future city council action can have far-reaching consequences for people's lives.

Joseph Biehner,

Poncha Springs

Dear Members of the Council,

I am writing in support of Jackie Berndt as a candidate to fill the council vacancy. Jackie's commitment to our community and her dedication to public service make her an ideal choice for this important position.

As a former paramedic and firefighter, Jackie has firsthand experience working with law enforcement, the fire department, and emergency medical services. Her collaborative approach will ensure that Salida remains a safe and welcoming place for all residents and visitors.

Jackie also understands that small businesses are the backbone of our community. She is passionate about fostering an environment that encourages entrepreneurship and supports local commerce, strengthening our economy and community bonds. Jackie's focus is on hand-up, not hand-out. Without a vibrant economy, we lack the economic resources to help those who deserve it without simultaneously pulling others down.

Jackie's lifetime residency makes her well-suited for the council position as it gives her a strong grasp of local issues. Couple this with her extensive community involvement as a Rotary Volunteer, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Volunteer, and Youth Wrestling Volunteer, and Jackie demonstrates a life committed to serving others. Additionally, her leadership role as the director of the Chaffee County EMS foundation highlights her ability to effectively lead a team and make meaningful contributions to our community. Jackie spent 30 successful years as a paramedic and firefighter, not possible unless you are a team player.

I believe that her appointment would bring valuable diverse perspectives to the council. Sometimes the best ideas are derived from considering opposing viewpoints then finding common ground.

If Council has any concerns about Jackie, they should just ask her. I find Jackie's candid nature refreshing in a world where so many hide what they really think. Jackie is dedicated to listening to concerns, synthesizing solutions, and making decisions that will enhance the future of Salida.

In conclusion, I urge the council to appoint Jackie Berndt to the vacant seat. Her experience, common sense, dedication, and collaborative spirit make her an exceptional candidate who will work tirelessly to represent the interests of our entire community.

Karen Van Note, Salida