

Laurel Humphrey

From: Peggy McCarthy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 12:27 PM
To: CityCouncil
Cc: Peggy McCarthy
Subject: application for Pro Tem position 6
Attachments: ApplicationPosition6 2 Cover Letter signed.pdf; ApplicationPosition6 2 FINAL signed.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached my letter of interest and my completed application for the Pro Tem City Council position 6.

Thank you,
Peggy

Peggy Ives McCarthy
[REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Tukwila network. Please **DO NOT** open attachments or click links from an unknown or suspicious origin.

August 15, 2025,

Tukwila City Council
6200 Southcenter Blvd
Tukwila, WA 98188

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Pro Tem City of Tukwila Council Position, No. 6.

My history with the City both as a resident and employee and the skills and the knowledge I've acquired over decades serving as a finance professional, uniquely positions me to serve as a Tukwila City Councilmember.

Personal History. The house where I live was my grandmother's. It's two-doors down from my parents' house where I grew up, one block east of the house in which my father was born and raised and three blocks west of the house in which my grandfather was born and my great grandfather had his Kassner Brothers blacksmith shop – the first business in the City of Tukwila.

Foster High School graduated not only me (as salutatorian), but also my husband, our four children, my parents, grandparents and many other relatives. At Washington State University, I was a member of the women's gymnastics team and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Business Administration with an accounting emphasis.

Professional. My career began as an auditor for an international accounting firm. After serving as the Director of Internal Control for a Fortune 500 company, I entered a professional hiatus. I undertook some contract work but primarily was at home to raise our four children. During this time, I was the Riverton Coop Preschool treasurer, helped in the elementary school classrooms, was active in PTA as president and member, coached T-Ball and volunteered in many other ways.

I reentered the workforce full-time in 1999 at the King County Housing Authority, first as senior accountant, then quickly advancing to Financial Reporting Manager. I successfully developed a reporting system that met HUD guidelines and facilitated management oversight, used creativity to maximize public housing subsidies and managed the accounting for a multi-million dollar Hope VI project.

In 2008, the beginning of the great recession, I joined the City's finance department as Deputy Finance Director. Revenues plummeted. To sustain the city, the Administration and Council worked collaboratively to develop a "three-legged stool" approach to sustain the City; one that added new revenues, cut costs and reduced staffing.

In 2012, I was appointed Finance Director after serving as interim Director for several months. In addition to daily departmental responsibilities, a focus was budgeting, long-term projections, financial reporting and management – all of which improved under my leadership. I retired from the City in the spring of 2019.

In Summary. My appreciation for the City of Tukwila extends not only to its natural beauty and my affection for the community, but also to its political history. My father was a planning commissioner for several years and a two-term council member – City business was frequently a dinner table topic.

My background, financial expertise and enthusiasm for the City position me well to help guide the City as a councilmember.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully,


Peggy Ives McCarthy



City of Tukwila

City Council

Application for Councilmember Pro Tem Tukwila City Council Position #6

Applicant Information

Full Name Peggy Ives McCarthy
Street Address [REDACTED]
City, State, Zip Tukwila, WA 98168
Phone [REDACTED]
E-Mail Address [REDACTED]

Eligibility Requirements, Notification and Signature

I understand that Councilmembers for the City of Tukwila must be registered voters in Tukwila, King County, Washington and must have lived in the City of Tukwila for 12 consecutive months prior to being appointed to office. I understand that as an applicant for appointment to public office, the information provided on this application will be available to the public.

Signature

Date

Peggy Ives McCarthy
8.15.2025

Additional Information

Are you registered to vote in Tukwila, WA?

YES ☒

NO ☐

Are you a resident of the City of Tukwila?

YES ☒

NO ☐

How long have you been a resident of the City of Tukwila? 65 years

How long have you lived at your current address? 35 years

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

Previous address and length of time at address.

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 which conducts business with the City of Tukwila?

YES ☐

NO ☒

If yes, please explain.

Time Commitment

Appointment to the City Council will require your attendance at a number of regularly scheduled and special meetings, which occur at various times including evenings and weekends.

Councilmembers also serve on Council committees, regional boards and commissions, and represent the City Council at various community functions.

Council activities generally require a minimum time commitment of 10 to 15 hours per week. Are you able to commit this amount of time and can you commit to arrange your schedule to participate fully as a member of the Tukwila City Council?

YES ☒

NO ☐

Have you ever attended a Tukwila City Council meeting?

YES ☒

NO ☐

If yes, please estimate how many Council meetings you have attended in the past year. 10

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of appointed Councilmember for the City of Tukwila.

Why are you interested in serving as a Tukwila City Councilmember?

I am concerned about the financial health of the City and with the preservation of Tukwila's unique character in the face of growth. I believe my skills and background will help the Council plan and make decisions that promote financial health, manage growth and achieve goals.

As a long-time, involved resident, I care deeply about the City. My wish is for the City to be successful in creating a safe, vibrant, forward-looking community through pragmatic, community oriented decision making and sound financial management and budgeting.

Describe your background in community service, including any volunteer work you have done in or around Tukwila.

Tukwila has a rich and varied history. I served as the Tukwila Historical Society president and helped restore the organization in 2024 after a multi-year operating hiatus.

Pride in being a Foster High School Bulldog is profound as evidenced by the 50-year longevity of the annual Foster High School All Class Reunion and Picnic. I have served as lead organizer of the event for several years. In 2024, with the help of others, I successfully moved the reunion venue from outside the city to Tukwila Community Center - thereby showcasing the beautiful facility, its grounds and the City.

I have served in various other capacities over the years. I was a lead advocate for retaining Tukwila Fire, served as Tukwila Children's Foundation board member and treasurer, assisted the Foster High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor and was a member of the FHS Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, delivered meals to Tukwila Elementary students through the Snack Pack Program, coached T-Ball, and served as PTA president.

What do you think are the most important issues facing Tukwila in the next 2-4 years?

Challenges are inevitable but through effective leadership, cohesive and boundless vision and shared values such as honesty, transparency, and service, our elected officials, together with the support of the community, will prevail in ensuring that Tukwila remains a City of Opportunity, the Community of Choice.

Three important issues facing the City are 1) financial sustainability, 2) growth management/housing, and 3) public safety.

Realizing City goals is dependent on creating and following a financially feasible plan - proactive, with sound projections, realistic timelines, taking into consideration all options, stress testing each major decision, focusing on priorities, engaging in compromise.

The recent code changes that permit a range of housing types and increased housing density intensifies the need for thoughtful planning and proactive decision-making, in consideration of public spaces, traffic flow, parking, pedestrian only areas, retail in order to retain and enhance the liveability and unique character of Tukwila.

Public safety remains paramount. The efficacy of the City's Police Department will continue to be a priority to ensure the community feels safe and current practices achieve results in a cost effective manner.

Describe your understanding of the importance of regional collaboration and partnership in city government.

Many challenges faced by the City, for instance housing the unsheltered, and the benefits enjoyed by the community, for instance local and regional public transportation, cross jurisdictional boundaries.

To develop a cohesive approach and an effective response to these challenges and opportunities, in alignment with the City's interests, it is imperative that the City work together with neighboring jurisdiction on policy development, oversight and budgeting/resource allocation.

Many examples of regional collaboration and partnership exist including the development and operation of SCORE jail and Valley Communication Center, and membership in various regional committees and task forces.

Summarize your experiences working collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.

I've worked collaboratively with others from different backgrounds - cultural, geographic, economic- in several situations.

In February 2020, as a student at the University of Salamanca, Spain, I worked collaboratively with staff and fellow students (only 2 out of 110 were from the USA) to achieve Spanish language learning goals and to organize and undertake welcoming, and entertaining social events.

At the City of Tukwila, I worked collaboratively with many City staff who had backgrounds different from my own - including the three interns I hired from Foster High School to help in the Finance Department.

At the King County Housing Authority, my first hire had been born in China and grew up during the Cultural Revolution - a fascinating personal story. Many of my teammates also hailed from countries other than the USA and had unique and interesting backgrounds.

Many Tukwila School District students and parents come from diverse backgrounds. I worked collaboratively with many as a volunteer in the classroom, as PTA president and fellow TSD parent and through my involvement with the Foster High School Future Business Leaders of America club.

Discuss your qualifications relevant to the position of Tukwila City Councilmember.

Commitment - As a long-time, involved resident and former City of Tukwila Finance Director, I've demonstrated my dedication and commitment to the City through my volunteer work, leadership roles and contributions.

Knowledge and Experience - My expertise in budgeting and financial management, especially as it pertains to the City, would be an asset in creating a sustainable financial model. As the City's Finance Director for 7 years, I prepared or managed the preparation of the City's biennial budget. I'm familiar with the fund structure, expenditure types, revenue sources and know where to look for information and which questions to ask to fully vet issues. My knowledge of City operations is high.

I also know the City from the standpoint of a resident. Having lived here for many years, I've seen the City grow and change, community events come and go, yet Tukwila has managed to retain its neighborly, small town character.

Judgment - Historical knowledge adds context and strengthens judgment and decision-making. My history with the City as a resident and former Finance Director is a benefit. I've engaged in priority setting and problem solving; I've faced the trade-off dilemmas of budgeting and made the hard decisions to keep the City financially sound and functioning well.

Collaboration - I value others' options, listen with an open mind, and treat others with respect.

Please provide any additional information or comments you believe will assist the City Council in considering your application.

Dedication, institutional and historical knowledge, financial expertise, operational familiarity, a collaborative spirit - this is what I will bring to the Tukwila City Council if appointed.

Thank you for your interest in serving the Tukwila community as a member of the Tukwila City Council.