



Candidate Questionnaire for Whitewater Municipal Election

April 3, 2018

Councilmember at Large: James Allen

What motivates you to want to become or seek another term as a Common Council member?

I'm motivated to serve another term in order to continue working on the items important to all citizens of Whitewater. Included are grocery store recruitment, increasing our tax base with more new construction and single-family homes, managing the city as a business, keeping our tax rates down while providing quality services to our citizens, maintaining the safety and quality of life we have all come to enjoy.

What aspects of your background will help you best represent the people of Whitewater on the Council?

My background is in business. I bring a common sense business acumen to running our city and it's \$12M budget.

Life-long resident of Whitewater

Attended schools in the Whitewater Unified School District and UW-Whitewater

10 years experience on Whitewater City Council

25 years experience on the Whitewater Community Development Authority (CDA)

Founding member of the Whitewater Area Tourism Committee, the United Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Birge Fountain Restoration Committee

10 years experience as chair of the Whitewater Fourth of July Corporation

What role can the Council play in restoring a grocery store to Whitewater?

As to "restoring" a grocery store in Whitewater, the City council was poised to purchase the old Sentry building. The CDA had a deal a grocer in Lake Mills who was willing to lease about 2/3's of the building and it was projected that leasing the remaining 1/3 of the building would have been a break-even or even a small positive cash flow for the entire project. Unfortunately, the University Foundation already had an option to purchase the building and decided to move forward with the purchase.

I voted in the affirmative with the CDA to send four people to Indianapolis for a conference on opening a cooperative grocery store. These four individuals brought back every bit of information possible on how to successfully operate and get a co-op up and running. The group did a presentation to the CDA after the conference and again, I voted with the CDA to give the group a \$10,000 grant to continue the work of moving forward with the co-op initiative.

I was also instrumental in adding the feasibility for a co-op style grocery store to the Perkins Feasibility study.

Most recently I created a sub-committee within the CDA for grocery store recruitment. I felt we had exhausted our efforts of attracting people coming to us and that it was time for a small group of us to go out and find them!

This week I and the sub-committee are going out and meeting with folks from three different grocers to tell them all about Whitewater.

What role can the Council play in maintaining and improving the quality of public education in Whitewater?

How can the retail environment in Whitewater be enlivened?

What can the Council do to improve town-gown relations?

What would you do to encourage broader citizen participation in municipal government?

What can the Council do to help give the public library the space it needs?

I support a reasonable addition to our public library.

What can the Council do to promote gun safety in our community in the face of inaction from Madison and Washington, D.C.?

What can the Council do to support the immigrant population of Whitewater?