

PAUL HINTERLONG FOR NAPERVILLE

SUPPORT PAUL ON TUESDAY APRIL 2ND 2019

Naperville Sun City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2019 Election

Name: Paul J. Hinterlong

Address: 15 N. Laird St.

How long have you lived in Naperville: Lifelong resident of 53 years

Birth date: November 19, 1965

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Education: Naperville North High School, College of DuPage

Marital status: Single

Have you run for public office before?

Yes

Have you held any elected office(s)? If yes, which office(s) and when?

Yes, Naperville City Council in 2009 to present.

Do you now, or have you previously held any appointed government position? If yes, which board or commission and when?

Naperville Planning and Zoning commission 2005-2009, Naperville Advisory Commission on Disabilities 2009 to present, Naperville Settlement Board 2013 to present, Naperville Special Events Committee 2011 to present, Community Alliance for Prevention Board 2012-2014, Naperville Comprehensive Transportation Plan work group 2002, Washington St. Corridor Study stakeholder group 2003, Downtown DuPage River Trail stakeholder group 2003, Centennial Park Skate Park Facility Citizen Committee 2003, Naperville's 175th Birthday Heritage Committee, Naperville's 175th Birthday Electric Light Parade Co-Chair 2006, Naperville's 175th Birthday Unity Committee Area Captain 2006.

Do you belong to any service groups or community organizations? If so, please list.

Naperville Healing Fields board member, Naperville Citizens Appreciate Public Safety (CAPS) board member, Alive! Center board member, Crime Stoppers board member, Memorial Day Parade Committee board member, VFW Post 3873 Auxiliary member.

Why do you want to be elected/re-elected to the city council? Please list goals you would like to achieve if elected.

With me it's all about giving back to the community I love and grew up in. I learned what community spirit is all about back in 1981 as a high school student when the community came together to build the Riverwalk for our Sesquicentennial Celebration. I knew some day that I wanted to be a part of giving back to my community just like the generation before us did.

The first goal I would have is to continue to be fiscally responsible with the taxpayers' money. In 2015 the council adopted a policy that charges us with specific goals and ends policies to meet.

We established three principles:

1. The city will pass a structurally balanced budget annually
2. The city commits to continuous improvement in the delivery of necessary and cost-effective services
3. The city will actively seek to increase its reserves to 25% and reduce its debt by 25% in the next 8 years. At the end of 2018 we are at 23.7% of our 25% goal for our reserves and have reduced our debt by 20.9% which is ahead of schedule. We're doing an excellent job meeting our obligations while also maintaining our AAA bond rating for the past 23 years. We also have the lowest tax rate in 50 years (.6815) and the lowest number of employees per 1000 residents in the last 50 years.

My other goals would be to:

1. Fill our vacancies in our retail and business corridors
2. Find solutions to our affordable housing shortages for our seniors, empty nesters, young families, and first-time home buyers
3. Work with our legislators to make the Market Fairness Act do what it implies so we can fairly gain and control the roughly \$3 million annually in online sales tax revenues
4. Continue our training program for public safety personnel so they will all have with the crisis intervention training they need to cope with the increase of mental health issues
5. Continue to aggressively work with our government agencies and social services groups to address the alarming rising opioid use and the associated deaths statistics down to zero.

What do you consider the top three issues facing the city of Naperville right now?

Economic growth, affordable housing, and mental health awareness.

We must work harder to attract more businesses to Naperville to bolster economic growth. From our small businesses to our large corporations, we must find sustainable solutions to increase our revenues, to cover our adopted principles, to pay down our debt, and to increase our reserves to secure a sustainable future. The additional new businesses will create jobs and, in turn, more revenues from the people that now will have some disposable income.

Whether you're a senior, empty nester, just out of college, or a young family trying to stay in Naperville or move to Naperville, it's extremely difficult to find something that's both available and cost-effective to meet your needs. It's imperative that we concentrate on finding solutions in our ordinances and zoning codes that will give us more opportunities for a diverse housing stock that will meet the needs of these individuals.

Mental health situations have become a priority for our public safety departments. Currently all of our fire personnel and 30% of our police personnel and other city personnel are trained in our crisis intervention training program (CIT). We need to put all of our public safety employees through the training program to give them what they need to help them cope with situations that arise in their jobs every day.

What is your position on city property taxes? Can Naperville continue to keep the current level of staffing and services without at least a small increase? If yes, what cuts or sources of new income would you suggest to fund such things as pay increases, infrastructure improvements/maintenance and equipment purchases?

The last thing I want to do is raise any kind of taxes, especially property taxes. As a council member, I'm always looking for ways to be more efficient and to promote doing more with less. We have looked at our other revenue streams to see if there's any room to increase revenues and still be competitive with our surrounding communities. For instance, the fees we charge for permits and fines. What needs to happen going forward is we need to stress the importance of shopping local, economic growth, and to continue to fight for our fair share of the retail sales taxes from online sales.

Every dollar we Naperville residents spend outside of our own community is a dollar we have to make up in our revenues. Shopping local also keeps our businesses thriving and helps with the economic growth we are trying to achieve. We're losing \$3 million a year to online purchases, and we need to continue fighting for those dollars with the help of the chamber and our legislators. If we could get this accomplished, we would be able to meet our budget shortfalls without reducing staff or services.

What is your vision for the fifth Avenue development? What should the breakdown for the commercial/ residential/ office uses? Should the city own the property or sell it to a developer?

My vision would be a vibrant neighborhood development that has a live, work, and play concept that could be self-sustainable and have all the amenities that a transportation-oriented development should have. My vision also includes pedestrian-level amenities to share with the surrounding neighborhoods like walk-ability, open space, and conveniences for all to enjoy. Maintaining the characteristics of the neighborhood is equally important along with the safety of pedestrians that will be using the development as a visitor, commuter, or resident.

It's too early in the process right now to try to determine a breakdown of the uses, and Ryan Companies will have to come up with the uses that will be balanced to make the development sustainable. One use that isn't included in your question is parking. How many parking places are needed for commuters, tenants, office use, retail, health facilities, etc.? We will have to decide the appropriateness of the development in terms of satisfying all the needs of all stakeholders including the neighbors, residents, commuters, infrastructure needs, and other desirable amenities.

This is the largest development the City of Naperville has ever undertaken. We hired S.B. Friedman as a consultant to give us direction and guidance on what's the best direction for the city. The question of whether we should continue to own the property or lease it will be determined after we receive their recommendations. My initial feeling is to own the property for the control of it (for instance, to sustain affordable daily parking rates to protect our commuters), though I will hold my conclusion until their recommendations are published.

Should the city make an effort to keep Ribfest in Naperville? If yes, how would you accomplish that and what location would you favor? If no, are there ways to offset the economic effect in terms of tax loss and local business impact?

I'm all for keeping Ribfest in Naperville, yet I realize it's going to take the efforts of many to accomplish this. The city doesn't own any parcels of land big enough for the event at its current size, and the park district doesn't have an alternative site at this time. If the organizers of Ribfest want to continue as is, then I'm afraid we probably cannot find a space solution to fit their needs. I would like to work with the organizers to find a scaled-back solution to allow for its continued success.

How do you propose solving the leaf pickup issue that occurred this past fall? Should the city end the practice of picking up residential leaves raked into the street and switch to a system in which residents are required to bag their own leaves for landscape waste collection?

I've lived in Naperville 53 years and cannot remember an early snow event like the one this fall. This snow, before we had completed our leaf pick-up program, was very unfortunate. I believe the city could have responded better. The city spends roughly \$1 million in our leaf pick up program which equates to about \$23 per household. If we moved to a bag-your-own leaf pick-up program, I would guess many of us would spend more than that in the cost of bags alone, plus the many hours it would take to bag them. So as a lesson learned, the city is currently looking for ways to become more efficient in the way we pick up the leaves, and I think that's the right decision going forward.

What is your favorite Naperville restaurant and why?

I think it's a tie for me between Hugo's and Meson Sabika. They have excellent waitstaffs, welcoming atmospheres, and delicious food for the money. They are both great community partners as well, which is an added plus.