“We welcome your interest in joining our community. Durand is a welcoming community that embodies small town charm”. Mayor Ken McDonough

Apply: Send Cover Letter, Resume, and Five (5) Professional References to: walmshuni@gmail.com
We are the Railroaders!

Welcome to America’s hometown, Durand, Michigan. We are proud to be Railroaders. Durand, Michigan (pop. 3,334) is located in the southeastern quarter of Shiawassee County, in the heart of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Durand is very conveniently positioned along Interstate 69, connecting our state capital to Flint. Our neighboring Shiawassee communities include Owosso (pop. 14,641), Perry (pop. 2,135) and our county seat of Corunna (pop. 3,398).

Durand is a magnet for young families looking for great schools and outstanding parks and recreation opportunities. The Durand Area Schools, home of the Railroaders, features four schools educating from preschool to 12th grade. Durand Area Schools currently enrolls 1,380 students. The district and community are well known for one of the best marching bands, well-regarded STEM program and competitive FFA programs in Michigan.

The City of Durand has five park facilities. Trumble Park is the premier centerpiece of the community, located just north of the downtown district. Trumble Park features a picnic pavilion, volleyball nets, lighted basketball courts, baseball fields and many other amenities. You can visit Ironhorse/Lions Park and see a 1929 steam locomotive.

In addition to great schools and excellent parks, Durand has embarked upon the development of a Nonmotorized Transportation Plan. Over the next decade, the City plans to extend pathways, trails and sidewalks throughout the community connecting the city to adjoining communities.

Durand benefits from a traditional downtown and a bustling economic center along Interstate 69. Downtown Durand is a friendly, walkable and a placemaking venue. Merchants and the local Chamber of Commerce work tirelessly to promote Durand.

Location, Location, Location…..welcome to Durand!
DURAND’S DEEP COMMITMENT TO HISTORY

Similar to most Michigan communities, the City of Durand began with a strong agricultural base. The arrival of the Detroit to Milwaukee railroad in 1856 began to affect a definite change in the community. In addition to the railway, in 1876 a post office was established and Durand took off as a destination.

The Village of Durand was organized in 1887. By 1904, the Village offered municipal water, telephone service, electric plant, sewer service, and a volunteer fire department. On July 18, 1932, the City of Durand gained cityhood and adopted the City Charter in 1933. Major railroad development followed including the arrival of the Grand Trunk rail. By 1883, over 15 trains ran through the city each day. By the end of the 19th century, over 70 trains whistled their way through our city.

Historic sites within the City of Durand.

Durand Union Station

Purchased by the community for $1 in 1979, the Durand Union Station is a community magnet drawing over 15,000 visitors per year. Today, the State Railroad History Museum is a “must see” for visitors throughout the state and country.

South Side School

The South Side School was built in 1893 to serve those students residing on the south end of town. The two-story, red-brick structure was expanded in the 1930’s to serve a budding population. Today, the school serves non-educational purposes.

Durand High School

Built in 1920 and expanded in 1929 and 1954, the former Durand High School was the epicenter of activity until 1965, when a new high school was built. The school served as the district’s junior high until 1996. Today, the majestic building is home to the Sycamore House Senior Living Apartments.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Quickly familiarize yourself with Project Tim and the potential economic impact on the City of Durand

Complete the USDA funded South End Street Reconstruction Project

Manage the $6.5 million street improvement bond program that is set to expire in 2036

Work with the Chamber and DDA to create a plan to enhance Downtown Durand

Create a plan to successfully develop the Durand 65 acre Business Zone

Rely on a dedicated and talented Durand Team

Update the City’s Policies and Procedures Handbook

With the assistance of the Shiawassee Economic Development Program, develop a plan of action for the former Simplicity Building

Oversee completion of the ICE Grant for Wastewater Plant Improvements

Complete a Vacant Buildings Inventory to better assess Durand’s economic position

Work with the state and community leaders to finalize the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program
WHY DURAND?

Durand is considered by residents and visitors as a wholesome, welcoming community.

Strategic location along Interstate 69 and close proximity to the State Capital.

Railroad Days in May of each year. A family-filled weekend with an annual BBQ Contest!

The Fall Harvest Fest with plenty of cider, pumpkins and downtown activity.

Concerts in the Park.....the setting is one to marvel at!

Rock the Block Downtown! All kinds of thrills!

Movies in the Park.....another Durand tradition focused on families.

The Durand Farmers Market...a regional draw!

Michigan’s “Railroad Community” drawing thousands of train enthusiasts to Durand

Our Durand Firefighters’ Candy Cane Run!

Amtrak service.....connecting Durand to the World

Durand’s deep appreciation for local Agriculture.

Our Labor Day Car Cruise.....amazing event!

“Durand Pride”....you’ll feel it the moment you come to town!
THE RIGHT FIT

The Durand City Council and staff are searching for a leader who will be more than a City Manager, we are focused on the “Right Fit”. Education and Experience matter, but understanding and embracing our culture will be paramount as we choose our next City Manager.

The ideal Durand candidate will bring the following personal characteristics and traits:

Be visible in our downtown business community and stroll through our neighborhoods.

Be an active listener to our residents. We don’t know it all.

Be driven, be able to show a history of demonstrated accomplishments.

Think deeply, but don’t fail to act. Listen, Learn, Act.

Bring strong work habits and high energy.

Be straightforward….with strong demonstrated communication skills.

Knowledge of economic development is vital. It’s at the top of the list.

Focus on residents and merchants getting to know you on a first name basis. Have a presence in the community.

Bring a solid understanding of the operation of public utilities.
CITY OF DURAND AND COMMUNITY OPERATIONS

FAST FACTS:

Durand Police Department

Under the direction of Police Chief Jason Hartz, the Durand Police Department operates with a sworn personnel of 10 officers. Five of the officers are full-time. In 2020, the department will respond to just under 2100 calls for service. The annual police budget exceeds $600,000.

Durand Fire Department

Under the direction of Fire Chief Nick Spaniola, the Durand Fire Department operates with a staff of 15 paid-on-call firefighters. In 2020, the department expects to respond to approximately 90 calls for service. The department has a strong mutual aid pact with neighboring Vernon Township. The annual fire budget is approximately $120,000.

Durand's Annual Budget

With the day-to-day leadership of Clerk-Treasurer Lisa David, the seven-member Durand City Council oversees an annual budget of $8,500,000. The Durand General Fund Budget is $2,200,000. Currently, the City of Durand is served by 20 full-time employees.

Durand Department of Public Works

Under the direction of Public Works Director Andrew Bisaha, the City of Durand provides the community with water and sewer service. The department is currently overseeing a $5,000,000 water infrastructure and associated street improvement project on the south end of the city.

The City of Durand is highly regarded for providing excellent customer service and offering exemplary public services.
HOW RAILROADERS DESCRIBE DURAND

• WELCOMING & FRIENDLY
• ADAPTIVE & DETERMINED
• WHOLESOME & PROUD
• RAILROAD TOWN PLUS
• COMMUNITY TO GROW WITH
• HARD WORKING
• WALKABLE & SAFE
• PERFECTLY LOCATED
• HISTORICAL & QUAIN'T
• GREAT POTENTIAL
• FAMILY ORIENTED

We expect our new City Manager to embrace Durand and our quality of life. Like any community, we face challenges. However, we embrace those challenges with determination and collaboration.
THE DURAND PROCESS

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Please submit your cover letter, resume and five professional references to Frank L. Walsh, Walsh Municipal Services, LLC. Applications will be received at walshmuni@gmail.com. Please indicate on your cover letter whether you desire confidentially as allowed under the Michigan Open Meetings Act. The City of Durand is an Equal Opportunity Employer.