Employment Opportunity

City Manager

City of Port Huron
The Position

Port Huron is a full-service community with an excellent, stable workforce of 232 FTEs and $20.3 million general fund. The current city manager is retiring after serving Port Huron for almost six years. Bruce Brown states, “They have been extremely satisfying and productive years for me and the city, and I will miss being a part of the emerging economic developments now on the drawing board.”

The candidate is required to possess a Bachelor’s Degree (MPA or equivalent desired) and be prepared for a long term engagement. The successful candidate should have outstanding communication skills including public speaking, success in executive team building and demonstrated skills in economic development. The candidate needs to have the capacity to serve as the community’s ambassador, relate to people with tact and diplomacy and think outside the box. Port Huron is seeking a proven, dedicated manager with experience in finance, budgeting and downtown development. The new manager is expected to become actively involved in the community.

Compensation
$110,000+ DOQ, excellent benefits

Qualifications

⇒ Bachelor’s degree in Business Management, Public Administration or similar field is required. Master’s degree preferred, but not essential
⇒ Managerial experience, 3-5 years either government or private sector
⇒ Experience and/or expertise in economic development, finance and budget, downtown development and legislative affairs highly desirable
⇒ Must be a skilled communicator, both oral and written
⇒ Must be a skilled public speaker with the ability to present clear and concise presentations
⇒ Must have the ability to handle difficult situations and people with tact and diplomacy
⇒ Must have the ability to participate in and execute strategic plans
⇒ Must be skilled in promoting effective community relations, business relations, intergovernmental relations, employee relations and relations with council members
⇒ Must have the ability to exercise discretion
⇒ Must have the ability to make recommendations for council consideration and adjust, if necessary
⇒ Must have good computer skills, organizational skills and follow-through
⇒ Must have the ability to lead others, take direction and be innovative and creative, and able to multi-task
The City and Its Organization

The City of Port Huron operates under the council-manager form of government. In 2010, the voters approved a new city charter, changing the terms of office for the council, resulting in a stable and effective city council. Its seven-member city council is now comprised of a mayor that runs independently from the others for a two-year term, and six members elected three at a time for staggered four-year terms. The city council is the legislative body responsible for overall policies and direction of the city of Port Huron. The council appoints the city manager. The city manager appoints all of the remaining city employees. The city government is composed of eight departments (each headed by an exceptional professional) that have been streamlined over the last five years to create efficiencies and increase effectiveness. City Hall anticipated the severe future economic constraints several years ago and reduced the staff by over 25% without impacting the level of service to our citizens. Financially, the city is in excellent shape and carries a 21% fund balance as a hedge against future financial challenges and approves a balanced annual General Fund budget of approximately $20 million.

Our Community

Port Huron, Michigan is located at the confluence of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, in the heart of the St. Lawrence Seaway. A city of 30,000 people with a metropolitan population of almost 100,000, Port Huron offers small city atmosphere with big city amenities. The historic downtown is managed by Main Street, Inc., and boasts a unique assortment of restaurants and coffee houses, residential lofts and commercial opportunities.

Educational opportunities abound with an excellent public education system, a charter school, St. Clair County Community College and Baker College. A unique Culinary Arts Institute is under construction as an adjunct to a new Convention Center.

With its designation as “The Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes,” Port Huron has become a tourist destination for water related activities and events. Watching the Great Lakes freighters pass through the community on the St. Clair River has attracted thousands of tourists who are intrigued by these massive ships passing only a few yards away. Freighters carry more cargo through Port Huron each year than goes through the Panama and Suez Canals combined. The historic Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat Race has headquartered in Port Huron for more than 85 years and draws boating enthusiasts from across the United States and Canada. The International Offshore Powerboat Races have captured the imagination of visitors as Port Huron has partnered with Sarnia, Ontario for this one-of-a-kind event.

In recent years, the city council and city manager have worked closely on a shared vision for our community resulting in many successful projects. Some examples are:

- A $28 million project (a collaborative effort between the city, county of St. Clair and Baker College) that includes a Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Freighters Restaurant, St. Clair County Convention Center and Michigan Culinary Institute.
- The development of 19 new, locally-owned restaurants in our downtown area as well as 50 loft apartments with 50 more on the drawing board.
- Creation of a comprehensive program to combat and significantly reduce blight in our neighborhoods with a new code enforcement unit being instituted, use of “overlay zoning districts” to eliminate future rental housing, creation of an in-house blight court and adoption of various ordinances to improve the quality of life for our residents.
- A new transit center in our downtown
- Creation of a number of “quality of life” programs including an outdoor sculpture exhibit, enhanced metropolitan recreation programs, expanded Blue Water Fest as an adjunct to the Mackinac Sailboat Race, creation of the International Offshore Powerboat Race, the addition of Rockin’ the Rivers concert series on the banks of the St. Clair River and Chilly Fest.
The Michigan Municipal League is the one clear voice for Michigan communities. Through advocacy at the state and federal level, we proactively represent municipalities to help them sustain highly livable, desirable, and unique places within the state. We create and offer our members services and events that range from traditional to cutting edge, in order to help educate and inspire them to remain focused on their passion for the area they represent. We are a non-profit, but we act with the fervor of entrepreneurs; our people are dynamic, energetic and highly approachable, passionately and aggressively pushing change for better communities.