

# Boards & Commissions Application



I am interested in serving on the following boards/commissions. (Please indicate the order of preference).

1. Harrisonburg Electric Commission 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**As an applicant/member of a Council-appointed Board or Commission, your name, address, and phone number will be available to the press and public. Information will be kept on file for three years. Public discussion of information contained herein may occur in the meeting at which appointments are considered by the City Council.**

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss.  Dr. (Please type or print clearly)

Name: Shearer Abram ("Abe") J Date: 11/04/2020  
(Last) (First) (M.I)

Home Address: 907 Ridgewood Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 Own/Rent? Own

Phone Number: 540-810-7470 Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: Investment Advisor / Partner Employer/Organization: Strategent Financial, LLC

E-mail: shearer.abe@gmail.com Harrisonburg resident for 32 years.

Were you referred by anyone:  Yes  No Name of Referring Party: Hobey Bauhan

How did you hear about volunteering on a board or commission?  Cable  Website  Council Meeting  
 Other: have had interest in HEC for years

### Why do you wish to serve on a board or commission?

Some of my most appreciated experiences in life stems from the 4 years spent on Harrisonburg City Council (2012-2016). From the individual relationships formed with city officials, to all of the residents I met and represented, and becoming involved with the various related entities (like HEC); it was truly an excellent and fulfilling life experience, and I continue to desire to be involved.

I am very proud of our home, our residents, and the various well run institutions we have been blessed with in Harrisonburg.

### What relevant experience or education do you have to this board or commission?

My knowlege of and experience with HEC stems primarily from my time on council.

HEC has long served a unique and important role in Harrisonburg. Residents are served well by HEC for a number of reasons, many which I am uniquely familiar with from experience as a council member. We are fotunate to have affordable and reliable electricity, and as tax payers, have traditionally seen generous financial support from HEC through the city's budget, fulfilling many ongoing needs (i.e. public education, infrastructure, etc). HEC is also critical to current and future economic development in the city.

I am a very forward thinking person, but one that doesn't lose sight of the past either. Institutional knowledge, or knowing where we came from, is equally as important. Balancing that, alongside future and important ermerging energy initiatives / technologies will only increasingly be important moving forward. As is so often the case, finding the proper balance is important, and that is something I genuinely appreciate and understand.

Serving as a voice and advocate for both, and the symbiotic relationship between the two, is a natural fit for me.

**What other interests or concerns do you have regarding the community?**

Most importantly, community "interests or concerns" should focus on the impacts we have on people. Our residents, our schools and other institutions, our local businesses, and more. Making sure our city is positioned well with a favorable and supportive environment for them to be happy and successful should be of foremost concern.

All decisions have an impact, and often positive and negative implications to weigh. This is an important intellectual exercise I think for any decision maker to be prepared to jointly contemplate before acting. HEC leaders are faced with this on an ongoing basis, and continually strive to weigh options and outcomes, making informed decisions in the interests of the most citizens.

So - this dynamic is probably the "interest or concern" (not so much a "concern" really, but perhaps "awareness" is a better word) most relevant to serving on this board, in my personal opinion. We need to be prepared to evaluate the world and our decisions through an evolving lens, while not losing sight of the background as to why things are currently done in a certain manner. As new ideas emerge, we should evaluate thoroughly and objectively, contemplating that balancing act critical for prudent decision making.

I have no doubt HEC as an organization will continue to evolve, supporting our community as the world progresses, just as they have done for over 60 years. The interdependent relationship between HEC and the city of Harrisonburg is truly a special one, which most other communities just don't have the good fortune of having.

It would be a true honor to be involved as a voice for the continued stewardship of our community's resources, as well as being a voice for the people we ultimately serve.

**Please list any past or present community involvement e.g. City Council, Board and Commissions, Citizen Academy, etc. in Harrisonburg or elsewhere:**

Current:

Bridgewater Retirement Community, Board Member  
Shenandoah Valley Economic Education, Inc (Chair)  
Salvation Army Advisory Board  
Harrisonburg First Church of the Brethren, Finance Chair

Past:

Harrisonburg City Council (2012-2016)  
Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission  
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services Advisory Board  
City of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation  
City of Harrisonburg, Finance Committee  
VML Finance Policy Committee  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Harrisonburg-Rockingham (Chair)  
Massanutten Regional Library Board  
Harrisonburg Citizen Academy  
Harrisonburg Police Academy

**-Please return completed application to the City Manager's Office-**

*Applicants are encouraged to attach a resume or other supporting information that may be helpful to Council in considering their application.*

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