

CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY POSITION DESCRIPTION

Class Title: Senior Planner
Department: Community & Public Works
Division: Current Planning
Date: March 1, 2023

Job Code Number: 330
Grade Number: 16
FLSA Status: Exempt
Location: City Hall

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Senior Planner position performs variety of routine and complex administrative, technical and professional work in the city's planning programs. This professional planning position is responsible for a variety of current and long-range planning functions related to the implementation of municipal plans and policies.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED:

Works under the general supervision of the Planning Manager.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Serves as a lead worker to Associate Planners and & Planners.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Exercises lead responsibilities including but not limited to, training, directing, and assisting the work of other employees.

Develops and provides leadership and direction in the development of short and long range plans and projects; gathers, interprets, and prepares data for studies, reports and recommendations; coordinates department activities with other departments and agencies as needed.

Develops and reviews amendments to the comprehensive plan and development regulations. Takes part in reviewing development permits, land subdivisions, and other land use permit applications; participates in public hearings in the course of administering City regulations related to these activities.

Provides professional planning and development advice to supervisors and other officials; makes private and public presentations to supervisors, boards, commissions, civic groups and the general public. Communicates official plans, programs, policies and procedures to staff and the general public.

Gathers, interprets, and prepares data for studies, reports and recommendations; coordinates department activities with other departments and agencies as needed.

Provides technical and professional advice; makes presentations to supervisors, boards, commissions, civic groups and the general public. Provides information on land use applications, ordinances, codes, plans and related planning programs, services or regulations to architects, engineers, developers, contractors, owners, community groups and interested persons.

Examines applications for compliance with established plans and ordinances, and applicable local, state or Federal regulation; solicits input from appropriate staff, schedules hearings and actions, monitors through the approval process, enforces compliance with regulations; prepares reports and related data as required.

Provides staff support to the Planning Commission as needed and assigned. Prepares planning reports and supporting data, including recommendations or various land use proposals.

Evaluates environmental information and recommends mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts of development.

Assists city staff in the enforcement of local ordinances and in interpreting city codes and master plans.

Prepares graphics and maps for a variety of reports, plans, grant applications, publications or meetings.

Serves when assigned as a member of a planning task force composed of City, County or State groups.

Prepares and writes grant application components relating to geographics, maps, plats, site plans, etc.

Responds to local citizens inquiring about local planning and zoning regulations and ordinances.

Monitors planning activities of neighboring jurisdictions; coordinates work with other affected agencies; assists in the development of regional plans, as assigned.

Assists in the development and implementation of long-range growth management, land use, economic development, utility, housing, transportation, facilities, solid waste or other plans and codes to meet the City's needs and any inter-governmental agreements or requirements.

Assists with the administration of planning consultant contracts, as assigned.

Assists with the development of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

PERIPHERAL DUTIES

Serves as a member of various staff committees as assigned.

Attends professional development workshops and conferences to keep abreast of trends and developments in the field of municipal planning.

Assists other planning staff as needed.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

(A) Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in land-use planning, urban planning, landscape architecture or a closely related field (Master's degree preferred); and

(B) Seven (7) years experience in urban planning or related field; or

(C) An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered

Necessary Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Other Traits:

(A) Thorough knowledge of zoning laws and comprehensive plans including their formation, process of adoption, and enforcement; extensive knowledge of planning programs and processes; working knowledge of Personal Computers;

(B) Skill in the area of drafting and designing; skill in the operation of the listed tools and equipment.

(C) Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with architects, contractors, developers, owners, supervisors, employees, and the public; ability to establish effective working relationships.

(D) A key value of the City is customer service. This position requires considerable knowledge, ability and skill in the principles and practices of excellent customer service as practiced in both the private and public sectors. It requires the ability to effectively meet and deal with the public; the ability to handle stressful situations; the ability to greet and respond to customers in a friendly, pleasant and professional manner using appropriate inflection, grammar and syntax; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, supervisors, and the general public; the ability to maintain a professional, courteous, and pleasant demeanor in difficult and stressful situations; and the ability to diplomatically deal with difficult people. A willingness to expend extra effort to help the public find answers or information relative to their inquiry or complaint is expected.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Valid State Driver's License, or ability to obtain one. AICP certification preferred but not required.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

Personal computer, including word processing; motor vehicle; calculator; phone; copy and fax machine; various graphic design tools.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Work is performed mostly in office settings. Some outdoor work is required in the inspection of various land use developments and construction sites. Hand-eye coordination is necessary to operate computers and various pieces of office equipment.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand or sit; walk; use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls; and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; talk or hear.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee occasionally works in outside weather conditions. The employee is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions, or airborne particles.

The noise level in the work environment is usually quiet in the office, and moderate in the field.

SELECTION GUIDELINES

Formal application, rating of education and experience; oral interview and reference check; job related tests may be required.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

Approval: 
Human Resources Director

Approval: 
City Manager

Effective Date: March 6, 2023

Revision History: Established - April 29, 2003

Updated: January 7, 2009

Updated – March 1, 2023