



MEETING DATE: December 10, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 9. Vacancy on City Council: Review, Interview, and Potential Appointment

FROM: Ryan Bonk

RE: Vacancy on City Council: Review, Interview, and Potential Appointment

BACKGROUND:

During the 10/08/2025 Regular Meeting of the City Council, Councilmember Leah Turner announced her resignation from the City Council effective at the end of the day on 10/14/2025.

The City Council voted to fill the vacancy by appointment and directed staff to begin the application process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has received two (2) applicants by the deadline for the vacancy. The applications submitted are attached to this staff report.

Plumas County has confirmed that both applicants are within the City and are registered voters.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review the applications submitted, interview the applicants, and potentially appoint an applicant to the vacant position for the length of the term.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. K.ATTAMA CITY COUNCIL VACANCY APPLICATION
- B. MILLER F-026 A APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY
- C. MILLER CITY COUNCIL (2) (2)

	Document Name	<i>Application for City Council Vacancy</i>	
	Document Number	F-026	Revision Letter A
	Document Location	SharePoint	Revision Date 10/14/2025
	Document Type	Form	Council Adoption Date NA
			Resolution No. NA

APPLICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Persons interested in being appointed to fill the vacancy on the City Council are encouraged to submit an application to the City. Completed applications and a cover letter, resume, and/or any additional information an applicant would like the City Council to consider must be submitted to the City Manager **no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 3, 2025**, via email at citymanager@cityofportola.com or in person at City Hall, 35 Third Avenue, Portola, CA 96122.

All applications will be reviewed and interviews will be held at the City Council meeting at **6:00 p.m. on November 12, 2025**. All applicants are encouraged to attend the November 12, 2025, City Council meeting. The appointment to the City Council may be made at same regular meeting of the City Council and become effective immediately after the selected person has been appointed and taken the oath of office. The selected person will serve as a Council member until the general municipal election in November of 2026.

The individual selected should be able to participate in Council meetings, and Commissions and Committees as appointed. The City Council holds regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Please note, you must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Portola and at least 18 years of age to be considered for and appointed to the City Council.

Applicant Name:

Residence Address:

Mailing Address (if different):

Phone Number:

Email Address:

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Please state the reasons why you should be considered for appointment by the City Council:

Provide a Summary of Background Experience (resume may be attached):

Please list memberships in community organizations and/or professional memberships:

Present Occupation:

Employer:

Describe your tenure in the community and/or region as a whole:

Outline your vision for the City of Portola:

Describe why you are interested in the appointment:

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Any foreseen issues with time commitments related to the appointment (City Council meetings, committee assignments, etc.):

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS: Appointment to this position will require you to make information available as to any potential conflict of interest and to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City. The Form 700 is a public record and is available to the public on request. Appointment to this position will also require you to take and periodically update certain training.

I have read, understand, and will abide by the statement above. I have sufficient time to devote to this responsibility and plan to attend the required meetings if appointed to fill the vacancy and further certify that the foregoing information is true and correct.

Date:

Signature: *Kristen Attama*

SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION: Please submit the completed application to the City Manager. Completed applications and additional material may be submitted electronically to the City Manager via email at citymanager@cityofportola.com or in person drop-off at City Hall located at 35 Third Avenue, Portola, CA, 96122.

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Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 3, 2025.

Lauren Freeman Miller
125 Joy Way, Portola, CA 96122
(202) 213-0435
lauren.free.miller@gmail.com

October 3, 2025

Portola City Council

Dear City Manager and Members of the Portola City Council,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Portola City Council. As a dedicated conservation social scientist with extensive experience in rural community adaptation, risk mitigation, and environmental resilience, coupled with my affection for Plumas County, I am confident I can bring a valuable perspective and skill set to the Council. I am also a mother of two, navigating the complexities of raising a family while working full-time in a rural setting with limited daycare and preschool options. I truly believe in the importance of community and how locally we can navigate and overcome challenges together as I see evidenced daily.

My professional background includes serving as the Pacific Southwest Regional Social Scientist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where I focus on human dimensions of nature-based solutions, conflict resolution, and community resilience. Prior to this, I was a Social Science Program Manager at Yellowstone National Park, managing projects related to visitor use and safety, human-wildlife conflict, employee well being and community science. My research experience also includes risk management decision-making for wildfire for the U.S. Forest Service, specifically on community adaptation to hazards. My graduate research focused on community and stakeholder participation in public land management, and my work has consistently emphasized understanding community needs and fostering effective collaboration to address complex community, social, and environmental challenges.

Having lived and worked in rural areas for the past 15 years, and with a particular love for Plumas County, I am familiar with the unique opportunities and challenges facing our community in Portola. My social science background provides a strong foundation for understanding diverse perspectives, facilitating productive dialogue, and making informed decisions that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our residents. I am committed to leveraging my expertise to enhance community well-being.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to contribute my skills and passion to the Portola City Council and work collaboratively to serve our community.

Kind regards,

Lauren Miller

Lauren Miller