

# COPPELL CHRONICLE

## Coppell City Council

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### **What do you do for a living, and what does your spouse do?**

I currently serve as the Digital Water Market Leader for North America for GHD, Inc., where I bring clarity of thought to the dynamic and complex world of municipal government and utilities to build, communicate, and provide strategies, tools, and solutions that help these organizations transform in the post-digital age. work with commissions, councils, city management, stakeholders, and citizens to gain consensus and resolve complex business issues in water, environment, energy, and transportation as well as to optimize capital and operational expenditures, streamline workflows

I am a Small Business Owner (founder and CEO of Augur IT Inc., a Coppell-based Information technological firm), a day care co-owner, and a co-founder of technological start-ups. My wife has a Master's degree in child care education, but she chose to be a stay-at-home parent after the birth of our first child. She used to be a high school volunteer and now fosters puppies.

and processes, enhance the customer experience, increase operational excellence, and empower employees to unleash the power of digital tools and innovation.

My wife – Dr. Deeann Bennett – is a dentist. She provided thousands of smiles in our community through her dental practice – Deeann Bennett, DDS. Now, she is the Academic and Industry Manager for Aspen Dental, Inc.

**The position you're seeking requires a lot of time and energy but provides no compensation. Why do you want it?**

I am running to influence the future-readiness of Coppel to ensure we are prepared to address the challenges and opportunities of the future. Because our future rests on the safety, sustainability, and resilience of our neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure. From my experience with commissions, boards and other organization, I thoroughly understand the dedication, flexibility, and a willingness needed to engage with constituents and collaborate with fellow council members to address the needs and priorities of the community as well as the time related to preparation, meetings, events, etc. More importantly, I am commitment to being an ambassador and representative of the City to the

In Texas, cities are structured to encourage individuals to volunteer as leaders. My family and I have thoroughly enjoyed residing in Coppel and giving back to the community, the past 14 years. I believe serving on the City Council is the next step in our journey to give back to our community and make a beneficial impact. Contributing to the enhancement of Coppel's quality of life through meaningful participation would be an incredibly fulfilling and rewarding experience, making it a great incentive.

surrounding communities and business community.

### **When and why did you move to Coppell?**

Lived in Coppell since 2016, after a consolidation of our households in the Town of Flower Mound and the City of Coppell. Moved to support my wife's business, continue our children's education in the Coppell ISD, and acquire our dream home.

In 2008, my family relocated to Coppell for its exceptional schools. Moreover, we were drawn to its remarkable diversity and how it exudes an elegant atmosphere in comparison to neighboring cities.

### **What are the biggest issues facing the city?**

Challenges include increasing populations aging, budgets shrinking, citizen expectations rising, demographics changing, declining school enrollment, and stresses (affordable housing) and shocks (extreme weather) along competition from other municipalities in North Texas. And re-thinking new ways to generate revenue streams or streamline processes to offset potential/further losses in sales taxes.

- Childrens' safety, driven by the drug epidemic and school shootings.
- \$17+ Million/Year reduction in City revenues, driven by SB 3.334.
- Coppell's restaurants and entertainment business are struggling meanwhile Coppell residents are spending our entertainment dollars in neighboring cities.
- Falling enrollment in our elementary schools, young families are unable to afford a Coppell home.

### **Why should voters choose you over your opponent?**

I possess the qualities and attributes that voters should value to ensure we move forward on a future-ready path. I have demonstrated leadership

I am running for office because I want to continue to maintain a strong and safe community. I also appreciate the attention and scrutiny to all

qualities throughout my 34-year work history which included leading teams, managing multi-million dollar projects, and serving in executive positions along with building consensus among internal and external stakeholders, developing strategic master plans and visions for cities and utilities, supporting crisis management, and bringing innovative technology to maximize taxpayers' investment. I have upheld high standards of integrity and acted in the best interests of the community rather than for personal gain. I have prior experience in public service, professional expertise, and involvement in community organizations that include planning and zoning commissions for two cities, environmental conservation commission, Keep Dallas Beautiful, Keep Arlington Beautiful, and Rebuilding Greater Dallas Together. I am passionate about making a positive difference and willing to invest the time and effort required to do so effectively as demonstrated with my involvement in committees in the Water industry. I listen to constituents, engage in meaningful dialogue, and am accountable to the people I have represented through commissions, non-profits, and other organizations. I have demonstrated inclusivity, and prioritized diversity

expenditures of our citizen's tax dollars. As a small business owner with 11 years of entrepreneurial experience, I know what it takes to create jobs, manage expenses, make payroll and grow. As a resident of Coppell for 16 years, my family and I have benefited from excellent schools, a strong, safe city with amenities that other municipalities don't have. I am committed to keeping Coppell the best place to live, work and play for all residents. My experience in service through different organizations (spanning across City, businesses, non-profits, religious institutions, public schools, neighborhood HOA, and many more) shows my dedication to this great city. Together we can keep Coppell the best place to live and continue finding ways to make it even better.

Fellow Coppell residents that know me, have described me as a listener, collaborator, problem solver, and uniter, qualities that I believe are essential for effective leadership. I have attended all the city council meetings for the past two years and am aware of the issues impacting our city. I believe I will be able to be an effective City Council person on day 1.

My top priorities are listed below however if the citizen's needs change,

and representation in decision-making as well as guiding cities and utilities to ensure equity and affordability of services to all citizens. In addition, I have advocated for the needs and interests of diverse members of communities, including those who may be marginalized or underrepresented to ensure clean, safe drinking water for all.

I will be flexible and pivot to ensure all needs of the city are met.

- Preserve the small-town close-knit community we have and preserve the things that make Coppell special (i.e. our parks, the good relationships between the city and the schools and our amazing public safety departments)
- Ensure your safety, promote inclusivity by adequately funding our Police and Fire department. Also, invest in our roads, walking and bike paths and parks.
- Help local businesses succeed thereby increasing sales tax revenues to the city