

Planning Commission Application

02/11/2026 12:01 PM (MST)



Full Name Lori Hight

Are you an Erie resident? Yes

Are you under the age of eighteen? No

Are you currently serving on the commission you are applying for? No

Home Address

Email

Primary Phone Number

Employer City of Thornton

Job Title/Occupation Retired

Have you ever been employed by the Town of Erie? No

Do you work for or own a company that does business with the Town of Erie? No

What is your highest level of education completed? Masters Degree or Higher

Why are you interested in serving on the Planning Commission and what specific talents or expertise do you bring if appointed?
I retired in August 2024 after nearly 30 years as a city planner for the City of Thornton. I am AICP certified and hold degrees in both urban and regional planning and architecture. With strong knowledge of planning principles and Robert's Rules of Order, I remain committed to community service and contributing to my Town.

Have you served on another board/commission in an advisory capacity? If so, please describe the board and what made serving in that capacity a good experience? What were the major concerns or issues?
I served on the Water Board for a small community in Adams County near Brighton, consisting of just over 100 households. Because few residents were willing to serve, I stepped up when asked. During my eight-year tenure, the Board faced significant challenges, including frequent breaks in the aging 40-year-old water system and compliance with an EPA mandate to retire our wastewater plant and connect to a new facility in Brighton. To address these issues, assessments were required, which unfortunately angered many residents.

Please describe a situation where you were working with a small group and disagreed with the direction of the project, what did you do? What was the result?
I worked with a developer and staff in Thornton on a project designated as mixed use in the Comprehensive Plan due to its proximity to an RTD Commuter Rail station. The developer initially resisted creating an integrated plan, instead proposing separated uses that undermined walkability and conflicted with the Plan's vision. I recognized a familiar tactic, shifting staff attention to minor details while larger systemic issues remained unresolved. When no one else raised concerns, I chose to speak up, even though it was outside my direct purview. As a result, the

project ultimately advanced as an integrated, walkable development with multiple uses, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

If you were appointed, what goals would you like to see accomplished on this board or commission?

I understand that, aside from Site Plan approvals, the Planning Commission serves as a recommending body rather than a decision-making authority. I believe the Town's Comprehensive Plan is a vital guiding document and should be closely followed when making recommendations to Council. My priority is fostering a community that is accessible to all, with particular emphasis on mobility options beyond automobiles. I strongly support mixed-use development, which helps bring essential services and amenities closer to where people live. Above all, I believe our planning efforts should be proactive, anticipating future needs rather than reacting to challenges after they arise.

What do you think are the most important planning and land use issues facing Erie? What insights could you bring to the Commission's deliberations and recommendations?

Erie is experiencing rapid growth, which brings both opportunities and challenges, particularly in preserving our community's quality of life. I commend the progress Erie has made in expanding affordable housing options for lower-income residents, a critical step in ensuring that our Town remains inclusive rather than exclusive to only the most fortunate. Looking ahead, I believe it is essential to encourage additional rental and multi-unit housing to meet diverse needs and support a balanced community.

Throughout my career as a city planner, I have seen too many Planned Development (PD) zone projects that failed to truly deliver the greater public benefits required by code, benefits that could have been achieved as or more effectively under other zoning districts without the concessions that come with PD zoning. With that experience, I would approach recommendations for PD zoning applications with a discerning eye, ensuring they meet both the intent and the letter of the code. I also worked extensively with oil and gas production sites during my tenure with the City of Thornton. While these facilities can present significant challenges for surrounding neighborhoods, federal regulations require local governments to accommodate them. In reviewing applications for new well sites, I would apply a detail-oriented approach to ensure full compliance with all applicable Code requirements and to safeguard public health, safety, and community compatibility. Finally, I value Erie's commitment to architectural integrity and thoughtful urban design, particularly in Old Town. Requiring buildings to respect the historic context, orient primary facades toward the street, and break up large frontages creates a more engaging, pedestrian-friendly environment. These design standards not only honor Erie's character but also encourage people to walk, connect, and experience the Town at a human scale.

Please read and agree with the following statement

I certify that the facts and statements contained in this Board and Commission Application are true and correct.

I further understand that false statements shall be sufficient cause for rejection of this application.

I further certify that I have not been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Colorado or in another jurisdiction.

I understand that falsification, omission or misrepresentation will result in a rejection of this application. Any falsification, omission or representation is evidence of perjury in the second degree.

If I become a Board or Commission member with the Town, this form is valid for the period of my term with the Town and the crime records may be updated periodically at the discretion of the Town.

I understand that this application is considered a public record and subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

I Agree Yes

If appointed to the Planning Commission, I agree to follow the Yes

Erie Municipal Code, the Comprehensive Plan, and other applicable laws.

All board and commission members must follow the rules and regulations in the Erie Municipal Code as well as the Town's policies related to harassment, anti-violence, and technology use.

Yes

Acknowledgement Signature



Lori Hight
