CITY OF CHARLES TOWN

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
AGENDA • JULY 7, 2025

Workshop **COUNCIL CHAMBERS** **6:00 PM**
101 E Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. WORK SESSION

: **2025-705:** Candidate Interviews for Ward Vacancies
AldenRoth-CityCouncil-Ward3_Application-Letter.pdf
AldenRoth-CityCouncil-Ward3_Application-Resume.pdf

3. ADJOURNMENT

City Council Workshop
101 East Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 07/07/25
Department: City Council Workshop
Category: Appointment
Initiator:

AGENDA ITEM (ID #)

2025-705: Candidate Interviews for Ward Vacancies

Ward 3
Mr. Alden Roth

ATTACHMENTS:

- AldenRoth-CityCouncil-Ward3_Application-Letter.pdf
- AldenRoth-CityCouncil-Ward3_Application-Resume.pdf

Alden Roth
211 N Mildred St. Charles Town, WV 25414
304-871-3050
aldenroth@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Meeks, Mayor George, and City Councilmembers,

My name is Alden Roth, and I'm applying for the City Council vacancy in Ward 3. I am a freelance documentary filmmaker, co-own two small businesses, and am an avid endurance runner and cyclist. I grew up and lived in Charles Town until I was 18, when I left for university. I lived in Pennsylvania for 10 years and moved back home in early 2023. In the last 2 years, I've enjoyed spending time with family and friends, making new connections, and growing with the community here. In July 2024, I joined Charles Town's Board of Parks and Recreation as a board member and became the Vice President of the Board in January 2025. In March of this year, I purchased a house on North Mildred Street, where I live with my partner, Olivia Loy, and our dog, Luna.

In 2020 and 2021, following COVID lockdowns and distancing, I found myself desperately missing home. I longed for better access to nature and spending time with family, but more than anything, I realized that I no longer had a community to lean on or a sense of belonging that had been present in Charles Town during my childhood. I'd seen from afar the good work that the city and council had done to make Charles Town a more liveable, vibrant place, which strengthened the welcoming community, and I wanted to come back and be a part of it. When a major life change lined up with the opportunity to move back home through the Ascend WV grant, I jumped at the chance.

I want to be a member of the City Council so that I can be more involved in the continual improvement and growth of the City. Beyond being on the Board of Parks and Recreation, I've also been involved in broader community initiatives, such as fighting alongside farmers and other community members against Mountain Pure or the consolidation of power at the JCDA, but I think a more significant impact is possible as a councilmember. I find myself frustrated with the bipartisan culture wars of national politics, and rather than fueling that fire online, I want to spend my time actually making a difference where I live. If I am appointed to the Ward 3 City Council seat, my goals while in office would include:

- Focusing on business development in the city, especially on the East 100 block of Washington St., ideally working with the County for a transparent and cooperative revitalization of that block.
- Remediating stormwater issues throughout the city, particularly in neighborhoods of historically underrepresented minorities who have especially bad flooding after heavy rains.
- Improving and expanding community development initiatives and community events.
- Continuing to work with Parks and Rec to improve our parks and expand recreation opportunities, ideally working with other municipalities and the county to expand biking infrastructure throughout the county and grow the bicycle tourism industry.

While I don't have much direct experience with city government, aside from my time on Parks and Rec, I do have work experience that translates well to being a city councilmember. Professionally, I co-own two businesses: Rocketfuel Studios, a video production company where I'm the cinematographer and head of post production, and Filmed by Bike, a film festival of which I'm the Executive Director.

Between these two jobs, I've managed a team of seven full-time employees, production teams of more than 20 contractors, and produced an annual, 3-day film festival. I've been responsible for hiring and firing employees, managing several projects and deadlines at once, and managing operating budgets of over $500,000. At Filmed by Bike, I chair our monthly owners' meetings, which include a 10-person board and follow the Democratic Rules of Order, similar to Robert's Rules of Order. I'm comfortable leading meetings and working collaboratively with large groups to find the best solution to a problem.

Additionally, I believe that the knowledge and soft skills I gained from my documentary film work will translate into bringing fresh ideas to the table while being empathetic to citizens, even if they have different backgrounds or views than mine. I know how to listen to and understand people, find what excites them, and rally them around a common goal, even if their motivations vary wildly. I believe we need to work collaboratively with the community and other municipal and county governments to ensure that Charles Town and the county can thrive.

Thank you for considering me for the Ward 3 City Council position. I'm excited to play a larger role in the community and help foster the continued growth of the city.

Sincerely,



Alden Roth
211 N Mildred St. Charles Town, WV 25414
304-871-3050
aldenroth@gmail.com

Alden Roth

Filmmaker | Photographer | Business Owner
Charles Town, WV 25414 | **304-871-3050** | aldenroth@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA
BA in Cinema Production
August 2012 – August 2015

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
Mountaineer Micro Academy, Remote Workers Certification
March 2025

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCES

Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
Microsoft Word + Excel
Google Suite

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Board of Parks and Recreation
Charles Town, WV
Vice President, January 2025 - Present
Board Member, July 2024 - January 2025

WORK EXPERIENCE

Village to Village Press, Harrisonburg, VA
Photographer + Communications Manager
May 2026 - Present
-Works hands-on with local communities to develop and photograph gravel cycling routes, promote local businesses, and foster cycling tourism in Barbour County, WV, for the Mountaineer Gravel route network.
-Manages social media and email accounts for Mountaineer Gravel and Endless Gravel PA.
-Manages rider communications for the Endless Mountains and Mountaineer Monster bikepacking races.

Filmed By Bike, Portland, OR
Owner, Executive Director
July 2024 - Present
-Leads a team of seven to produce an annual film festival and global film tour.
-Responsible for company steering, accounting, sponsorship management, legal and government administration, and day-to-day operations.

Rocketfuel Studios, Pittsburgh, PA
Owner, Cinematographer + Editor
December 2019 – Present
Creates docu-style cooking and travel TV show series, documentary short films, commercials, and social media assets for clients, including Hearst TV, GAMMA Sports, Made In Cookware, Samuel Adams, and Untappd.

Harley + Roth, Pittsburgh, PA
Filmmaker
May 2017 – August 2022
Produced, filmed, and edited adventure wedding films

Fitt, Pittsburgh, PA
Filmmaker
January 2018 – January 2019
Produced, filmed, and edited multi-platform social media content for 27 “Fitt Cities”.

Freelance Cinematographer and Editor, Pittsburgh, PA
May 2016 – December 2019
Regularly contracted with Animal Studios, LOOK Creative Guild, Work Hard Digital, and other production companies for various filmmaking services, primarily cinematography and editing.

Maverick Visuals/Uppercut Studios, Pittsburgh, PA
Editor
May 2015 – May 2016
Editing, color correction, and VR/360° video for a variety of clients and industries.