

# John Olinger

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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A proven professional with experience in assisting municipal leadership to develop a vision, marshal personnel, communicate effectively, manage finances, and oversee multi-million dollar projects to carry out the city's vision.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

APRIL 2023-PRESENT

*City of Appleton, MN*

- Consultant to City Council
- Manage Library construction project
- Administer day to day operations of a full service city

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

MARCH 2006-DECEMBER 2022

*City of Lindstrom, MN*

- Assist the City Council to develop and oversee the annual (\$3.4 million in 2022) General Fund Budget and four Enterprise Funds generating over \$4 million per year
- Manage the Department Heads and consulting staff conducting performance evaluations and representing the City in union negotiations
- Work with the Advisory Commissions: EDA, Planning, Police, Cable, and Parks to develop Capital Improvement Plans, review project and zoning applications and assist with the annual Karl Oskar Days Event and Harmony in the Park Music Series
- Write grants and development partnerships to leverage outside money for city projects
- Oversee major city projects; Highway 8 reconstruct to One-Way Pairs, \$6M new Fire Hall construction, three complete road and infrastructure reconstructions (\$1.3M-\$1.6M each), purchase of 120 acre Allemansratt Wilderness Park, completion of Swedish Immigrant Trail E/W through city and Olinda Trail trail N/S along Olinda Trail

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPER, FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

2002-2006

*Zhong Dian City, Yunnan Province, China*

- Worked with English Teachers to improve their English
- Taught English to Chinese high school students
- Participated in projects with village leaders in remote villages of southern China assisting them to identify their problems and define solutions

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** 2000-2002  
*City of Richfield, Richfield, Minnesota*

- Conducted research for community and economic development
- Participated in airport home insulation/window replacement and home removal

**DIRECTOR OF PROJECT GRACE, EVANGELICAL FREE MISSIONS** 1998-2000  
*Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China*

- Responsible to create an organization to manage a transnational nonprofit organization
- Oversee the day to day operations of the newly created organization
- Travel to remote villages checking on the various projects
- Learn and use Chinese language in work, life and travel

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR** 1993-1998  
**ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR** 1992-1993  
**ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR** 1990-1992  
*City of Mahtomedi, MN*

- Assist the City Council to develop annual goals and budget to achieve desires
- Monitor development of new housing developments, manage new park construction and oversee development of new industrial park along I-694 corridor
- Manage staff and carry out day-to-day duties

**CITY INTERNSHIPS** 1989-1990  
*Cities of Corcoran, Minnetonka and Eagan, MN*

## EDUCATION

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**MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, (MPA)** 1987-1989  
*University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, COMMUNICATIONS, (BA)** 1981-1985  
*University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI*

## MILITARY

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**US AIR FORCE, Sergeant, E-3** 1976-1981  
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota (2 years), **Elmendorf AFB Anchorage, Alaska (3 years)**

- Flight Line Staff-Fuel, maintain and oversee B-52 Bombers
- Crew Chief-Responsible for the overall management of Airplane KC-135

## TEAM RECOGNITIONS

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- **America's Best Community**, Chisago Lakes Area, Top 8 in the Nation  
2017
- **MN Erosion Control Association**, Innovation Award 2017
- **MASWCD/MPCA**, Community Conservationist 2014
- **League of Minnesota Cities**, Innovation Award 1994

## ABOUT ME

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I have entered another phase of my career as an interim city administrator. My vision is to assist cities in transition to bridge the gap between permanent leadership. I have the breadth of experience to step in as a peacemaker, listener, consultant and manager. I've lived and worked in remote areas experiencing and enjoying all types of weather and living situations. I enjoy an adventurous challenge.

I have been married for thirty five years, have five children, three of which are married, and one granddaughter. I backpack having completed the 310- mile Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota along Lake Superior and am 110 miles into the Ice Age Trail through Wisconsin. I run an average of 500 miles a year and swim when I can. I am a reader enjoying mysteries, personal improvement, and leadership books.

I am committed to creating communities where people can thrive.

