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Q1

Candidate Name

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Q2

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Q3

Ward 8

Ward/Constituency

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Q4

What do you envision the City's role to be in economic development?

I believe the city should provide the foundation for economic growth. That's why my campaign slogan is "Back to Basics". The city needs to be a partner with local business and a advocate for economic development with other levels of government. Reduce red tape roadblocks for growth. The city should facilitate business not put up roadblocks. By working together with a common theme of business prosperity, jobs and economic development, can we enhance the livability of this community. Create a business council at city hall to ensure partnerships, communication and processes that will move economic development forward. Ensure taxation is focused on providing a return on investment to the citizens of Saskatoon. Ensure that civic services are not competing with the private sector and those services are provided in an effective and efficient manner. Stop measuring activity and start measuring results.

Q5

How can the City help businesses survive through the COVID-19 pandemic?

Balance the science with the economic realities. We cannot shut down the economy again. We need to use data and analytics to ensure that a local plan is based upon facts. This is the sort of challenges that a city of Saskatoon Business Council would deal with and collectively provide a plan for the sustainability and growth of business, jobs and families.

Q6

Crime and safety are key election issues. What is your plan to address these concerns, including your position on defunding the police?

Please go to my web page regarding defunding of the police (brianshalovelo.ca) or look at it on Facebook. I have a 6 minute video that speaks to this. As a 37 year veteran of the Saskatoon Police Service in a senior leadership position, I am well aware of successes that the SPS has had in the past. A decade ago the SPS used "intelligence based policing" to drop incidents of crime from 16,922/100,000 to 9031/100,000 population. That's a drop of 46%. We reviewed hotspots of crime and disorder and created public safety plans. Leadership was responsible for reducing crime and the fear of crime. There was a sense of urgency.

In 2003 there were 172 officers per 100,000 in Saskatoon. In 2010 there were 195 officers per 100,000. 10 years later the SPS is back to some of the lowest officers per 100,000 in the country, again at 173 officers per 100,000 (according to Stats Canada). Of that the province of Saskatchewan pays for 10% of staff by paying 6 million dollars for 48 sworn officers. 10% of the 172 officers per 100,000 now show that the city is paying for 155 officers/100,000. I say no to FURTHER defunding of the SPS and REFUND the police. This refund must include a defined business plan for crime reduction and disorder (as was done in the past) We cannot be soft on crime we need to be smart on crime. We need to change the narrative to include victims of crime as a key factor in community safety. Stop measuring activity and start measuring results. The SPS did it in the past; they can do it again in the future.

Leadership is the key.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

I am in support of major capital projects with the support of other levels of government. I am sensitive to the taxpayer holding all the risk for these major projects as we have seen recently. My support would be based upon the preliminary business plan i.e. the construction, associated jobs and economic spin off from the initial build. The next part of my support would be the secondary benefits both economically, socially and culturally. The taxpayer cannot be on the hook 5-10 years down the road. Major projects are a good way to stimulate and support the local economy. There needs to be a good business case associated to reduce the long term risk to the community.

Q8

Do you share the concerns many residents and businesses have regarding increased taxes and user fees?

Yes,

Please elaborate::

The city, like businesses and families need to live within their means. Tax increases that over the long term outpace inflation rates and family/business income cannot be sustained. The taxpayers need to see a return on their investment for city services. A performance management plan that is disciplined and adhered to would be a start.

Q9

What steps would you recommend the City take to curb or mitigate rising operational costs?

Conduct an operational review/audit comparing present operational practices and costs with other cities. As part of this review include private sector best practices to ensure effectiveness and efficiencies. This would be the responsibility of the newly formed Saskatoon Business Council (public and private sector representation) that could take on this issue. Secondly review city halls red-tape practices. Ensure that we are moving at the speed of business.

Q10

If necessary, would you support any initiatives City Administration may take to freeze or even reduce staffing levels?

Yes,

Please elaborate::

I would take no plans off the table to ensure economic viability.

Q11

How do you believe that the City should spend COVID-19 relief money provided by the provincial or federal government? Do you believe that relief money should be spent in the area for which it is specified (e.g. infrastructure, etc.)?

Yes

The city accepts the money based upon the agreement from other levels of government. If the agreement specifies the money goes to specific expenditures I believe it is incumbent upon the city to act in good faith and spend that money in the places that are agreed upon.

Q12

Do you believe the decision regarding the Main Library funding/debt should be revisited?

Yes,

Please elaborate::

This is the number one issue that I have heard at the door step while campaigning. The priorities of city council are not the priorities of residents on this issue. "IF" this process can be turned around I would vote in favour of that. From what I have read this is not possible. The larger question is really are the other large projects ; 27 million for bike lanes, hundreds of millions of dollars for a Bus Rapid Transit system, the Library, Low Emission plan (Billions of dollars) really consistent with the wishes of Saskatoon residents? In Ward 8 they are not. This is a tax and spend merry go-round that needs to stop. I believe in Libraries and literacy. Could we not build a downtown library the size of our suburban libraries to serve the needs of those residents? Could we not enhance the suburban libraries to serve the needs of those local communities? Is this a library or something else?

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

My platform is "Back to Basics". That includes Utilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Fire and Police. Lets do what civic functions are suppose to do. Lets lead in areas of civic responsibility and work with our other levels of government in areas of their responsibility. Lets stay in our lane and ensure civic services are delivered effectively and efficiently. Lets ensure the city provides a good return on investments for all users of our community.

My number one priority is a back to basics strategy that will grow this city for all residents.
