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**Q1**

Candidate Name

MARK MILLS

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**Q2**

Email Address (for follow-up only)

MARKMILLSYXE2020@AOL.COM

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**Q3**

ward 3

Ward/Constituency

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**Q4**

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

The City should be a strategic partner to bring growth and employment stability through private investment. Make the large companies want to set up in Saskatoon for the skilled labour force available, fair taxes and incentives.

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**Q5**

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

The city must dig deep and come to the aid of local businesses with zero licence fees in 2021 and a policy to buy locally with tenders restricted to businesses established in Saskatoon or a 100 km. radius. Allow every city business to write off 10 % of their property tax in 2020 and 2021 to help pay for extra costs due to Covid 19. Have Commercial Lenders loan businesses interest free loans for five years up to \$50,000.00 at which time the loan will be repaid at 1% interest per year if minimum \$10,000.00 per year is paid. All large city contracts must employ 90% of their work force from Saskatoon citizens and local businesses and local (Saskatchewan) produced supplies. Cheaper overseas supplies not accepted.

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**Q6**

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

No defunding. We must re-establish old fashion policing with Boots on the ground and a large visual presence in residential neighbourhoods. Police must patrol residential subdivisions with a goal of a police vehicle on every street in the city daily. Park Patrols on foot a couple of times a night (citizens on patrol could help with this) When break ins occurred Police officers must attend to the scene and if determined beneficial, an identification crew sent out. Not just take the call issue an occurrence number for the victims insurance claim. Citizens on patrol must be increased and those willing to volunteer for the program trained and outfitted by the Police. Communications equipment and other items (no guns or hand cuffs.) Observe and report and when they do report have prompt back up. We must have a strong police force that work efferently with what they have. Grass roots approach will turn things around. We know there are gangs out there so find there leaders and make them understand it is better to work with us then against us. Body cams on every uniformed officer, must be on entire shift and downloaded at station at the end of each shift.

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**Q7**

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

Place these on hold while we heal from the results of the pandemic, unless deemed a back to work project where anyone working on the project my live in Saskatoon or 100 km. radius

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**Q8**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

Since when did a water bill become a source for unfair money grabs? Tough questions must be asked and a report on a quarterly basis. Temporary flood protection charge? How much is in this fund and how many times in the last four years have funds been used, from this fee and for what? Storm Water Management Charge? How much is in this fund and how many times in the last four years have funds been used from this fee and for what? Recycling Charge ? We went from throw all recyclables in the bin (clean) and we will sort them and sell them for remanufacturing. Now you cannot put many items in as they do not have a source to reuse them. Some of these funds should be used to help develop ways to recycle these items. Bringing another industry to our province. This rate needs to be examined to see the break down. Those above along with the other three charges for water and sewer use and infrastructure are three more items removed from the tax roll and moved onto the utility bill.

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**Q9**

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

Over watch must improve I have experienced many times in my business dealing of just how much the city overpays for items. Tender is a joke, just another thing city managers work around. Extra items not in the counteract are allowed to be billed parts and labour usually without a quote or estimate. Know as the gravy of having some contracts. I personally was told everyone bids low because you make your money on the extras.

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**Q10**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

A freeze if required , however a case would have to be made for the reduction in staff levels. No we do not lay them off and higher them back as sub contractors and the same rate if not higher. Far too often is someone laid off, then comes back on a contract basis. Every employee should be required to supply Over Watch with an accounting of what they did everyday on the job. Submitted monthly to be reviewed. Over Watch should be someone who reports to the City Manager and City Council only. Bringing there findings and short comings to light.

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**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 if it is done in a back to work incentive program allowing only Saskatoon residents and 100 km. around city residence to work on these projects.

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**Q12**

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

**Yes,**

Please elaborate::

Yes 100% this price tag is far too high , the building plans must be looked at to find savings.

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**Q13**

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Budget Control On High Cost Projects

There must be tight control on approved budgets for projects from start to finish. Going over budget is not fair to taxpayers.

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