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Q1

Candidate Name

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Q2

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Q3

Ward 6

Ward/Constituency

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Q4

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

I see COS as a partner in economic development in our city. Whether it is tax abatement, grants or other tools, the City has an important role to play especially as it pertains to the Growth Plan, and building density in the core.

Q5

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

Council granted money to Saskatoon Tourism to support businesses through COVID. It also reduced regulations and eliminated fees to allow for more parking patios. This supports businesses; allows social distancing for patrons and improves vibrancy in our business districts. In collaboration with the Saskatoon business groups, I would continue to seek ways to support the business community.

Q6

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

There is growing consensus that we need to find new ways to approach safety and well-being in our city. Saskatoon Police are among the first to recognize they attend far too many calls for which they are not the appropriate lead agency.

The Province, the City and the Saskatoon Tribal Council embarked on a historic partnership in September to start to seek a new way forward to address safety and well-being among vulnerable people in our community. That is an important first step. There will certainly be other considerations in the wider community, as well. I believe we need to send appropriate resources to calls for help, and much of the time the best resource is a social worker – not a police officer.

PACT is a program that attempts to address this, where a police officer and social worker go out as a team. Expansion of this program could be one possibility. Utilizing more Community Support Officers is another. There may also be an opportunity for social services to become more integrated with policing services. I would like to see a comprehensive review that includes best practices from other jurisdictions.

I don't know what this would mean for our overall police budget, but it is important to me that we assess the way forward through a lens of appropriate resources, to maximize outcomes for people and efficiency in delivery of services.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

I will continue to support projects that encourage more residential density in our downtown and attract more visitors and businesses, in order to increase the tax base and lower the tax burden on residents. Fulfilling the City Centre plan also has the opportunity to lower emissions and add vibrancy to the heart of our city.

Q8

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

My comments in the previous question speak to this. It is imperative that we fulfill the City Centre Plan, driving density and economic development to the core. I believe it is also imperative that we use technology to drive down costs at City Hall. It's why I supported the capital expenditure for Fusion. As we move to launch this program, including streamlined payroll and procurement, the money saved through efficiencies will far outweigh the cost of the program. Building environmental considerations into the business plan is also important. As more financial institutions and actuaries in all realms start to assess risk through the lens of climate change, it will be crucial that our city factors this into its business plan. With a AAA credit rating and a sound financial plan to drive down costs through things such as LED lighting, PACE financing and Electric Vehicles, Saskatoon is well-positioned to become a more sustainable city - both economically and environmentally.

Q9

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

My answers to the previous question speak to some of this. Technology is a big factor to improve efficiencies and drive down expenses at City Hall. Fusion is anticipated to save tens of millions of dollars, and includes on-going savings.

I believe that "penny pinching" at City Hall sometimes costs us more money. We need to look after basic infrastructure; modernize transportation systems and invest in projects that boost our economy and lower GHG emissions to avoid paying more in the long run.

By incorporating the Triple Bottom Line in decision making, we can become a more efficient and sustainable city.

Q10

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

"If necessary" is subjective. However, I have supported this in the past. When the province withdrew Grants in Lieu in 2017, all civic staff and Council took a freeze on salary. Reducing staff would need careful consideration, as FTE's are linked to services. If any service levels were to be affected, I would expect there to be robust engagement in the community before such a decision was taken.

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.)?

I was proud to champion sidewalks with the province's economic relief fund for capital projects. This vital infrastructure needs to be in good condition and infill sidewalks are urgently needed - especially as we take on increased density in historic neighbourhoods, in and near business districts.

I am not aware of any limitations around the federal allocation. I would be interested in projects that support our economy and improve quality of life for our residents.

Q12

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

No,

Please elaborate::

First, I do not believe it is possible and the monetary risk to the City through litigation should be a strong consideration. As stated in previous questions, I will continue to support capital projects that drive growth into our downtown. The Downtown Business Improvement District supported the new central library for this reason. For all of the important reasons of equity, there are other reasons to support this project: - National and International experts, plus many examples across North America, are demonstrating that modern libraries drive economic growth - increasing the tax base, and lowering the tax burden. - Local and national stakeholders have identified the following as necessary amenities to drive residential growth and economic development into the downtown: - Green Space - A playground - Indigenous Place-making (social cohesion) - Winter Animation The library plan includes all of these. About the cost: - The library already has 25% of the capital project in the bank - Comparisons to other libraries are not apples to apples (land costs, satellite administration offices etc- plus all of the additional amenities this project will bring to our downtown) - Cost per average taxpayer to be fully funded for capital and operations by 2026? Between \$2 and \$5 per year. If we are serious about driving economic growth to the core, adding density, supporting businesses and lowering overall costs for our residents, the central library's business case is solid.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Building on the Basics

The historic neighbourhoods in Ward 6 are heavily impacted by the growth plan. We need to ensure that basic infrastructure, parks and traffic safety are keeping pace with that growth.
