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Q1

Candidate Name

Ron Mantyka

Q2

Email Address (for follow-up only)

mantyka4ward8@shaw.ca

Q3

Ward 8

Ward/Constituency

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Q4

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

Short run - we need to do a situational analysis to determine the shape our business community is in Post Covid. What (if any) meaningful support the city do to stabilize existing business. Medium term - minimize hurtles for business activity in Saskatoon. Encourage council to focus on the Strategic - Longer term planning, and be less responsive to citizen's -Not In My Back Yard - complaints. Enhance transparency in tendering and awarding of contracts. Long-term (18 months) - establish a new Reserve policy which can be used to launch larger capital project to take advantage of Fed/Prov funding opportunities. Projects which have good ROI's would be prioritiiy.

Q5

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

Assuming province is dictating health protocols, the city needs to start the situational analysis mentioned above. Tax holiday/relief may be an option. PROMOTE LOCAL as much as we can.

Q6

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

My platform is to stop the building of a new library. Take the \$7million per year which is in the SPL operating budget for the new library and move it to addressing the homeless, addictions, and poverty issues in City Centre. Matching this funding with funds from the Prov/Feds/other agencies should triple (>\$20 mil annually) the funds to this cause. I would encourage a call for proposals for a community impact bond. This step will ensure the project is designed to succeed with parties with a vested interest in it... minimizing the need for city oversight. Light house location to site of proposed new library (2nd & 25th). There are 7000 criminal offenses in the downtown centre annually. Policing isn't the answer. Supporting the current police budget is a good starting point. I'd like to see the police embedded in the above initiative as a major part of their training requirements.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

1. As per above. 2. Infill development 3. Waste management - with a focus on gasification/incineration since disposal of hazardous waste has the potential to create a major long-term liability for the city. Emissions - need a SK solution - future plans are for electricity to be the major source of energy... we need to start moving towards using nuclear energy. I think the city needs to start bringing this option to the forefront.

Q8

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

My platform is Better choices - refocus the use of our existing tax base. SPL example above, I will propose repurposing the Remai Modern if it isn't able to meet 50% of its operating budget in three years. Hopefully it will be possible to co-locate the new SPL in the building. I've seen a significant increase in staffing, yet there are numerous procurement contracts being awarded because of specialized expertise. We need to ensure the COS has the staff and ability to do this in house. Mistakes (i.e one mismanaged contract cost \$.75 Million) needs to have accountability. FUSION (Enterprise Resource Planner) has the potential to be a \$100 million plus boondoggle (Phoenix has cost the Feds 3billion). There needs to be clear milestones with cut our losses.

Q9

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

Get council out of operations and focus on governance, ensure senior management has the requisite expertise, and are accountable. There is many areas for improved efficiencies.

2020 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Q10

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::
Absolutely. See above.

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 - I have worked with the Feds and Prov to have major projects funded. I believe we will maximize our portion of the funding if we have the projects aligned with mutual priorities. Notably - we need to work with the Feds in planning phase of their programs.

Q12

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::
ABOVE - redirect the funds that have been going into the reserves. Levered funds with the Feds. No change in the SPL operating budget and no tax increase.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

HOMELESSNES, SAFETY... a prerequisite to revitalizing the City Centre.
