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Q1

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Ward/Constituency

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Q4

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

The City's can help support economic development in several ways. Working with stakeholders closely to ensure policy and projects don't adversely affect business, and by developing good relationships with the groups that represent business in Saskatoon. Keeping the business tax rate low, and have fair assessments helps businesses to better compete, create jobs, and attracts investments. Saskatoon can be adaptive in their approach to small business to ensure companies can stay open in the changing environment. The City can also help by contracting services to local businesses and developers and ensure that buying local and supporting local business is a priority.

Q5

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

The city can support small business by providing up to date resources for employers on what the best practices are for keeping employees and the patrons of the business safe. There are provincial and federal supports that can help small business survive during the economic hardship, and the city should ensure they are providing the resources and information they need to get the help they need continue to do business. Many businesses have had to change the way they do business, and adapt to the changing restrictions. A collaborative approach to ensuring the Saskatoon economy remains strong should be a priority.

Q6

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

Violent crime has increased by 10% in 2019, and while it has an impact all across the city, it definitely affects downtown business. I feel that we need different strategies in order to support the police, paramedics, and firefighters. I don't feel they are equipped to deal with mental health and addiction issues appropriately. Defunding the police is not a wise move, but I do think adding resources to help deal with some of the problems would be a move in the right direction. Re-training and re-tooling the police would be one suggestion so that they are better equipped to deal with some of the challenges Saskatoon is facing. We need to tackle homelessness, and provide services that help some of these people get back on their feet. Services like the Lighthouse could be moved closer to where other organizations like the Friendship inn, the Safe Injection Site, and other Outreach programs, making them more accessible to the people who need them. This would help reduce some of the apprehension people have with shopping in the downtown core, and put the people who need help in closer proximity to these services. Some of these strategies will be a long term approach at reducing crime. I suspect it's not a simple solution, and one that will likely involve a multi-pronged approach with business, community, and core services. It is time to take a closer look at how some of these problems can best be handled, while ensuring the people who live, work and play in Saskatoon are safe.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

There is a need to invest and build for job creation, however that needs to be mitigated with what is reasonable, and what is affordable for the people who live and work in Saskatoon. Projects that create jobs now and will generate revenue in the long term may be a consideration for long term growth plan. However, that has to be balanced with what people can afford. There are many businesses that are struggling with limited resources, and smaller profits. Couple that with the reduced hours, layoffs, and ever changing restrictions due to Covid. The objective is to help the people of Saskatoon with a more affordable place to live work and play.

Q8

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

Over the years I have watched our city grow and change. I've participated in local events, voted in elections participated in community associations, committees and boards. I have also watched different leaders run and manage our city. I am keenly interested in many of the issues that are brought up at city council, and have watched and followed what our current council is doing. I am passionate about our city...it's a beautiful place to live and raise a family. Having lived in the city and raised my children here I understand many of the struggles people and businesses face. It's becoming more and more costly to live in Saskatoon, with utility rates increasing annually, utility fees being continually added, pay as you go services being implemented for recycling, and in the near future for garbage. Over the last four years, property taxes have increased greater than inflation, and also greater than wage and salaries. I feel that now is the time to get involved and get back to the business of running an efficient city, and a more affordable Saskatoon.

Q9

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

The city needs to look for efficiencies to keep costs under control. In some cases, it makes sense to contract some of these services to private business to keep costs low. The city can also focus efforts on increasing revenues where they can to help mitigate costs. One example is transit, and how we can find ways to increase ridership to mitigate the costs of subsidizing the service. One suggestion I have it to look for areas where we can have a Park and Ride, allowing people to park their cars close to a direct bus route to where they need to go....downtown, university or school. It will increase ridership, and increase the amount of revenue generated for this service.

Q10

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

Yes

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.)?

The money should be spent to provide support and resources to help support businesses in their re-open efforts. It could be used to help with infrastructure within the business, and mitigating the extra costs in doing business. The funding is to continue to help employers ensure their employees and patrons are safe. One thought I had was that when there is a Covid diagnosis at a place of business, some of these operations could potentially have to close because of staffing issues. There needs to be a measure of security in place to ensure that businesses can still stay open, safely. The Covid relief money was intended to support business, and keep the economy going.

Q12

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

I support libraries, the programs and services they provide. They are important to the community, and to the people that live in each area. The current project for the new central library is an expensive endeavor, that many people feel we can't afford. I feel that it would have been wiser to improve the libraries we already have in each community, using the money they have earmarked for the new build. The tax burden of the library is relatively low, but couple that with the \$150 million BRT, the \$19 billion LEM community plan, pay as you throw garbage, and the increase in utilities for recycling and organics. People who are on fixed incomes, like seniors, can't afford the extra to fund a project that they can't even access. And, many people have had their jobs affected by Covid, which will continue for the unforeseeable future. We need to recover from the current situation before we add to the tax burden, or we will have more problems with housing, homelessness, and crime. I don't know that there is much that can be done about the library funding, since council has already passed it. I do believe the decision regarding the Library Funding should be re-visited.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Fiscal Responsibility. Being fiscally responsible is about more than voting for lower taxes. It's about understanding how things will work for the people who live here, investigating and consulting with other cities to see where changes need to be made, and efficiencies can be found.
