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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 30, 2020 5:31:58 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 31, 2020 3:39:04 PM
Time Spent: 22:07:06
IP Address: 142.165.45.141

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Q1

Candidate Name

Rob Norris

Q2

Email Address (for follow-up only)

info@robnorris.ca

Q3

Mayor

Ward/Constituency

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Q4

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

I've said from day one of my campaign that the tone at the top matters, and of course that starts with the mayor. My economic vision for Saskatoon positions our city as Saskatchewan's engine for economic success, and Canada's beacon of entrepreneurial opportunity and more jobs. As a result Saskatoon will be more affordable, prosperous, and safer. as mayor I will: Serve as the city's Chief Growth Officer, to attract new investment, encourages new businesses, and grow existing businesses further; Focus on private sector job growth, guided by a new economic growth plan for Saskatoon; Support capping property tax increases at only 1 percent, to make operations more affordable for businesses; Reduce annual business fees for small and medium-sized Saskatoon businesses, and reduce licensing fees for food trucks; and to spur on investments in construction and manufacturing, establish the best commercial and residential building permitting I will also host a Mayor's Jobs Summit within the opening weeks of my mayoral administration to guide the way for investment attraction, new market opportunities, and economic growth for Saskatoon.

Q5

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

When the pandemic hit, the City of Moose Jaw made the right decision by reopening its budget and freezing property taxes. In Saskatoon, Charlie Clark didn't even consider doing something like that. In my platform I have announced capping property tax increases at just 1%, down from almost 4% next year. I have also proposed lowering annual license renewal fees for businesses and food trucks. City hall also needs to make processes easier for businesses, that's why I think we need to establish the best commercial and residential building permitting processes in Canada.

Q6

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

I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the women and men of the Saskatoon Police Service, and couldn't be more opposed to the idea of defunding the police. As Mayor, I will support increased supports for the Saskatoon Police, will vote to hire more officers, and will advocate the provincial and federal government for more mental health resources to accompany the police. This includes expanded hours for Police and Crisis Teams (PACT), where crisis workers are paired with police officers to respond to calls where mental health may be a factor. The Lighthouse, at least in its current operating form, needs to come to an end; the status quo there is no longer acceptable. I would support a decentralized programming model at The Lighthouse, ensuring that Saskatoon's downtown is safer and thriving, and our most vulnerable continue to be looked after.

Q7

What are your priorities for major capital projects in Saskatoon?

There are a number of projects in Saskatoon I think everyone would want, but I sincerely question if we need or can afford them right now. It would be nice to build a new downtown arena, but it cannot be a priority anymore due to COVID and the city's fiscal situation. There could have been a more affordable option for a downtown arena, but unfortunately Charlie Clark and city council foreclosed on that opportunity by not considering a joint-use facility for the new downtown library. Instead, Clark voted for a standalone, gold-plated \$134 million library project without any consideration of a joint-use facility that included a downtown arena.

Q8

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

It's something I've heard every day since I launched my campaign on June 25th. Families, businesses and seniors are struggling; I've even heard some people tell me they've lost their house because they can no longer afford the taxes and fees in Saskatoon. That breaks my heart to hear that. We need to cap annual property tax increases, we need to reduce annual business fees, we need to shelve Charlie Clark's gold-plated \$134 million downtown library, and we need to make life more affordable for sports, arts, recreation and cultural facilities and organizations in Saskatoon.

Q9

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

First we need to begin with the continuation of the hiring freeze at city hall, not including police, fire, or protective services. Almost 60% of the city's operational costs go towards salaries and compensation, so we need to take a serious look at how to create a stable, but fiscally responsible, staff operating budget at city hall. Working with city administration and city council members, we need to take a serious look at how we can further curb operational costs and make life more affordable for citizens in Saskatoon.

Q10

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

As part of my plan to cap annual property tax increases at just 1 percent, I have proposed the continuation of city hall's hiring freeze, excluding police, fire, and protective services. We need more jobs in Saskatoon, but the focus should be on private sector growth.

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.)?

As part of the federal government's Safe Restart Plan, my understanding is that Saskatoon received about \$14 million in general allocation from that fund. While there was an additional transit allocation, the \$14 million allocation was meant to deal with municipality operating costs. I believe that the City of Saskatoon should use that funding to make life more affordable for working families, business owners, seniors and students, by ensuring increased costs (or loss of revenue) caused by COVID-19 are not passed on to them.

Q12

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

Yes,

Please elaborate::

I was the first mayoral candidate to blow the whistle on the astronomical costs of Charlie Clark's new gold-plated \$134 million downtown library. As mayor, I will support a motion that rescinds the \$67.5 million in debt financing that Charlie Clark voted for in 2019. Halifax, Guelph, and Kitchener have all recently built beautiful new libraries for between \$50-70 million. Libraries are certainly important for cities, but the cost of this one - especially in the COVID times we are in - is just crazy.

Q13

What is your #1 priority on your election platform?

Affordability. Even before COVID, working families, business owners, seniors and students were being pinched and of course pandemic has made that even worse. We cannot continue down the path of continuing property tax increases, increasing debt levels, and not listening to affordability concerns. We need a more affordable Saskatoon.
