

2021 Political Candidates' Forum - Submitted Questions

Answers supplied by Tony Miglecz, Council Candidate

Mayor & Council Questions:

Q1. Do you think our downtown core and tourism corridor are healthy and successful? If yes, why? If no, what would you do to change that?

I believe that the downtown core is indeed Healthy and Successful. It takes time to build a Brand and Drumheller looks better and feels more friendly and inviting than several years ago. Continuing to improve the High visibility tourist corridor by observing the success of improved business returns and the publics input would be some of the ways to continuously monitor the successes.

Q2. If Council received a \$1 million grant to use for town infrastructure any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

A million dollars to us as people sounds like a lot of money and like the song says " I'd be rich " but as a town; 1million is not a lot of money. I believe that to make real impact that could benefit many people in the valley and have a third party involved to validate the success or failure, I'd partner with the Rotarians in their bus service. There are many people in the valley who have issues travelling throughout the valley so .. I'd like to establish a regular bus route that would travel the length of the valley at a reasonable cost say three times a day stopping at some of the touristy kind of attractions of the outlying areas as well as transporting into Drumheller businesses so people are able to do their shopping or visiting without needing to rely on others to transport them around. I believe that the seniors and some of the kids could most benefit from this program and if ridership proves out this could establish need and proof of concept for a Drumheller Valley bus system.

Q3. Looking back on Drumheller's response to COVID during the beginning of the pandemic, do you feel that Council spent taxpayer dollars wisely? In other words, do you think it was wise to have spent so much on items like road closure signs, overtime and meals for staff, and spraying sidewalks and fence posts with soap?

The world did not know how to respond to Covid. I believe once they said PANDEMIC, most people and countries had visions of the Black Plague and expected mass deaths and all the gruesome things we've been inundated

with from the movies. Didn't happen. So count ourselves Lucky . Move forward. Covid added a Lot of cost to all items in our daily lives. All the extra personnel checking our temps and masks and hand sanitizers and face shields and and and .. Easy to see after the fact but fear of the unknown drove us to overreact . Better to be extra prepared than have a serious catastrophe. Money well spent. Lesson learned.

Q4. A few years ago there was talk of a youth center in town, and a gala was held to raise funds for it. Are you in favour of bringing a youth centre back to the table, and what is your overall vision for the youth of Drumheller?

Kids are the future of our planet. Giving them strong leadership, a sense of belonging and healthy outlets for their youthful energies will lead to developing healthy responses and feeling of inclusion in the community rather than what many of them have now which is lone time joined in the virtual world . I do recognize that there is a comradery to the gaming world but actual contact with other kids helps to develop social skills and team concepts, skills that they will be able to use in their daily lives in the working world and our community.

Q5. 3 years ago Town Council issued a survey about implementing a curb-side recycling program. Public response was in support of the idea (even with a user fee) yet Council did not implement the program. What are your thoughts on a curb-side recycling program?

Recycling is a topic that is near and dear to me. I have an extremely hard time disposing of the things we do here in the valley. If elected I'd be looking for businesses that would both gather the recycling and also businesses that would turn out a useable product from the recycled materials that we regularly just dump in general trash. Our recycling materials and efforts should be kept right here in the valley.

Q6. What are your thoughts on the COVID-19 Restriction Exemption Program being implemented at the arena, pool, and Badlands Community Facility? Some communities have opted out; is the Restrictions Exemption Program something you support or oppose for town-owned recreation facilities?

I believe that the restrictions exemption program is adequate at this time.

Q7. How will you gain the public's trust in the Town moving forward with flood mitigation?

: The Flood Mitigation issue is huge on everyone's mind and I'm sure that we all want to see our community protected. I believe that once we have reviewed the existing data that has been collected and examining the options available, we will be able to meet with the various engineering firms and keep them in place until we have a decently valid go forward plan. Sometimes the Get Started is the hardest part of a major project. Once there is a valid cohesive go forward plan and all equipment, materials and valid estimates are in place, I believe the plan should be revealed to the public and ensure they get to be a part of the process. Once the plan is agreed upon and moving forward, I believe that there should be a page established on the flood mitigation, listing weekly progress, costs to date and next weeks planned activities. This would help to keep the taxpayers apprised of the progress of this extremely important project.

Q8. Air B & B's have become very popular and there is a huge risk regarding the long term impact on the local rental market, available affordable housing, and community safety. What's your plan to manage and oversee development of Air B & B's or other short term rentals?

Air B&B's give visitors an opportunity to experience our community from a resident's perspective. Hopefully everyone embraces the visitors and attempts to show them the positives of the valley. They could be the scouting for a business to relocate into the area. Many of the properties that have been developed to Air B&Bs were old inefficient properties. Little insulation in winter and old tired inefficient furnaces and water systems so what appeared to be affordable housing got very expensive in winter. The affordable advantage becomes lost. These properties get updated and typically, ultimately be sold and become permanent residences once again.

Q9. As Council you will be required to make decisions on complex topics, with lots of info and viewpoints. Someone will always be disappointed. What are the key factors you consider when making decisions that will guide the Town's future?

Key factors in decision making should of course weigh in the community good, the environmental factors and economic ramifications.

Q10. What do you see as the role of tourism in the future success of Drumheller and why?

Tourism is both a direct economic driver and a long-term driver in that it can help to attract business to the area.

Q11. Our Chamber network's research shows that members of the public have high levels of confidence in the business community to help move our province forward – what is your plan to engage business leaders in growing prosperity in our community?

Business both small and large are Alberta's economic engine. Promoting the Drumheller Valleys many advantages and willing workforce at various tradeshow and targeted promotions will help to attract new opportunities.

Q12. Do you have any plans for seniors? From the Sunshine Lodge residents.

Seniors should also have opportunities in the valley and positive programs of mentorship and inclusion should continue to be developed and implemented.

Q13. What is your vision for the Rotary Spray park and surrounding area, including the Aquaplex?

The Rotary spray park is a high visibility high usage area and any and all opportunities to expand upon and promote this area should be continuously developed.

Q14. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities in your first few months on council?

The first 3 months of office will be busy just learning the existing structure and building awareness of the new roles we have taken on. The Flood Mitigation issue will be number 1 for me and developing a plan to get that stalled money drain going is the primary reason I am running. This issue has a lot of other development stalled out and once a solid Go Forward plan is put forth it will be easier to attract business and instill confidence in the people.

Q15. If the Province doesn't mandate, are you in favour of mandating vaccines for Municipal Employees? Yes or no.

No

Q16. Do you have any plans to expand the existing dog park? The current size is not much larger than a residential back yard.

I am a dog lover and I do know that it is important to give dogs ample opportunity to burn off their energies and to socialize. I would definitely like to see an area large enough achieve those necessities for them. That said though; the people that utilize the area should respect everyone who uses it by picking up after their dogs and if their dog has social issues, they should take steps to ensure safety of people and other dogs.

Q17. Citizens often expect municipal politicians to address issues under the jurisdiction of the others such as the provincial or federal government. How will you focus on municipal issues and determine when to advocate to other levels of government?

I believe that when issues concerning larger jurisdictions arise, the cause and effect, as well as the advantages for the greater good should be weighed, sorted and presented to the appropriate level. Then present a plan that will be advantageous to all and hopefully negotiate a solution.

Q18. What type of homework have you done to prepare for being a member of Town Council?

I have followed politics and have had good relationships with many local as well as provincial politicians. I have been reading the municipal bylaws and guidelines to understand my rights and responsibilities.

Q19. If elected, what do you think your first 90 days looks like?

I believe that the first 90 days will be a huge learning curve and I look forward to the challenge.

Q20. How have you already been volunteering or serving in the town, and have you had any experience sitting on other boards?

I have in the past sat on my previous communities Community Association board. I've made myself available for the casino as a volunteer here in East Coulee. I have attended The Flood mitigation meetings and Travel

Drumheller, East Coulee Community Association and The School Museum AGMs as a way of familiarizing myself with what's going on in the Valley.

Q21. Given that our summers are getting hotter and drier, and we live in a semi-arid landscape, what town activities/initiatives will you implement to combat anthropogenic climate change?

Climate change has been going on since long before any discernable records were kept. I've seen dinosaur footprints in rock in northern BC and we know that they weren't wearing mukluks. As a society we now understand that the more human activity there is the more heat we produce, accelerating climate change. There is an opportunity by implementing a recycling program to lessen our environmental impact. Value added products made from the recycled materials generated right here in the valley should also be looked at and both their manufacture and use should be encouraged. This is one way to help lessen our environmental impact which along with examining and encouraging responsible use of resources that will make a difference to our collective environment.