

2021 Political Candidates' Forum - Submitted Questions

Answers supplied by Grant Bergos, 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?

For the most part I would say yes as I have witnessed several new stores downtown and witnessed many tourists downtown this past summer. Every time I drove by the spray park and water fountain the place was packed full of tourists. The Saturday farmers market was always busy and I attended many events at the Plaza that were well attended. To continue to improve I would continue to build on an environment conducive to new businesses and work with Chamber and the store owners to make improvements collectively. Replace the old dying trees and continue to add color to the downtown.

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?

As I have not been on council over the past 4 years and thus not that familiar with the needs of the town, I would simply schedule a meeting with all department heads and explain that we have a million dollars available to infrastructure and then have a brainstorming session on needs and wants. Prioritize the needs and determine best value for the dollar.

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? I think it could have been handled a bit better. Seemed like it was overkill all the extra steps they took. Simply follow AHS recommendations and stick with social distancing, masking, and hygiene.

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 favor of bringing a youth center back to the table, and what is your overall vision for the youth of Drumheller? I believe it is prudent to provide something more for the youth to be engaged in. Keeping them active and engaged would go along way to avoiding the pitfalls in society. So yes, I would be interested in exploring this option. Not all kids can afford the sports and recreation we have presently.

Q5. 3 years ago, Town Council issued a survey about implementing a curbside 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 curbside recycling program? In favor of recycling but I think it might cost quite a bit of tax dollars to implement so it may be outside our reach.

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?

Support restriction Exemptions

Q7. How will you gain the public's trust in the Town moving forward with flood mitigation? **Active and accurate and timely communication. Community engagement every step of the way.**

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? **Support Air B and B just need some regulations in place to address concerns**

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? **Open honest collaboration. Once voted on everyone supports the decision before moving on.**

Q10. What do you see as the role of tourism in the future success of Drumheller and why? **Agriculture, Oil and Gas and Tourism are all key. Tourism will continue to be a huge part of our community's sustainability.**
Continue with Travel Drumheller initiatives. Meet with Business owners to seek advice. Continue to encourage new business to attract tourism to downtown. Make sure that facilities and downtown core are well maintained and super clean.

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? **Conduct plenty of meetings with all stakeholders and work on a priority list of improvements based on there feedback.**

Q12. Do you have any plans for seniors? From the Sunshine Lodge residents. Ensure that the new SL4 complex gets completed on time and on budget. **Conduct meetings with residents of the Senior Housing Complexes and seek advice on how to make improvements.**

Q13. What is your vision for the Rotary Spray Park and surrounding area, including the Aquaplex? Ensure Aquaplex is open longer hours throughout the day and keep it well maintained. **Spray Park is a very busy place, and the grounds need more maintenance including dead grass and dead trees. That area needs a full-time worker to maintain and clean.**

Q14. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities in your first few months on council? **Get up to speed on flood mitigation Project and ensure oversight and communication to taxpayers. Build a 2022 budget that places value on tax dollars. And finally understand the internal processes of an active council.**

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. **Yes, either expand existing or create additional one**

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? **Get a solid knowledge of the roles of Federal, provincial and local governments and how they integrate. Who is responsible for what and work collaboratively on issues at hand to foster and healthy work life play balance?**

Q18. What type of homework have you done to prepare for being a member of Town Council? **Watched prior council meetings, walked door to door to understand issues and concerns. Attended town halls on flood mitigation project at BCF**

Q19. If elected, what do you think your first 90 days looks like? **Getting up to speed on how council operates. Getting up to speed with business on hand. Review all options on the flodd mitigation Project.**

Q20. How have you already been volunteering or serving in the town, and have you had any experience sitting on other boards? **Many years ago, sat on recycling board. Sat on Christ Redeemer Parent teacher council. Member of the Homestead Museum Society.**

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?

More electric car charging stations to encourage electric vehicle usage. Get up to speed on where the solar panel projects are at and get them built and producing energy for community as soon as possible. Continue to develop walk paths and biking paths. Ensure proper parking for bikes in downtown. Better signage to ensure respect of our natural tourist attractions like the hills and the hoodoos so we have them for the long term and they do not get deteriorated.