

2021 Political Candidates' Forum - Submitted Questions

Answers supplied by Curt Ewing, Council Candidate

Mayor's Questions:

Q1. Businesses report growing concerns with costs of electricity and natural gas, and municipal franchise fees on utility services have been identified as a cost barrier levied on businesses by municipalities – how would you approach this issue?

Q2. Without using the words transparency, honest communication or speaking on behalf of the community, what is your primary responsibility as a member of Town Council?

Q3. The frequency that Town Council goes 'in-camera' during meetings seems to have increased in recent years. Some might say this contributes to mistrust of Council. Do you believe that council goes in-camera during meetings too frequently?

Q4. What is more important for our Town right now: building new homes and commercial space or rehabbing/expanding/better utilizing our existing homes and storefronts?

Q5. What qualifies you to be mayor? Please reference education, experience, business acumen, inter-personal skills, or any other aspect you believe has prepared you to be mayor.

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?

It is nice to see that we have a lot of businesses in the core but, we still have empty buildings that need to be filled.

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?

I have talked with several residents, they all have concerns with the roads. As well would like to see more dinosaur statues around town not looking cartoonish.

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?

Absolutely not.

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?

*I answered this in the forum, I still believe it was a great service for our youth. I watched my younger brother and several other teens use this center daily.
We don't have enough low cost activities for our youth. We need more guidance for our at risk residents not just the youth.*

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?

We are one of few communities that are not recycling, should be revisited.

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 am not 100% sure how I feel as even the vaccinated are still able to carry and spread this virus. Every effort we take or not take has its complications.

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

HONESTY, TRANSPARICY, OPEN COMMUNICATION. LET OUR RESINDENTS KNOW HOW WE PLAN ON MOVING FORWARD. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

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?

This is something the council would have to look at on a one on one bases. They cannot interfere with the residential housing, parking and livelihood.

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?

As long as I feel that I made the best decision I could for our community.

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

We have to plan, develop, invest in activities, infrastructure and common interests between residents and tourists.

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?

I would like to see what other communities are offering businesses like the greenhouses in Acme, the chipboard plant in Trochu, to be intised into their areas.

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

I would like to sit down with them and see what they would be the most interested in.

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

*I would like see preventative maintenance
More entertainment possiblities in the park,
More off street parking so residents may park in front of their homes in summer months.*

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

*Revisit the flood mitigation plans.
Look at bringing more business into valley.
More housing for low income/disabled and senior residents*

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

*No its not my body to force my will on to others. Vaccines are an individuals choice.
Law suits are being presented daily. Until a clear decision is made on vaccine protocols.*

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

Not being familiar with the current dog park, it's something to look into.

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?

This would be an issue to be discussed with other Council members at a shceduled meeting.

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

*I have talked with past town representatives' read or started reading different town policies.
Talk with numerous residents on what they would like to see and feel our community needs.*

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

I feel that there will be alot to learn,

Be very busy getting into the role of councilor with the different boards each individual will be part of.

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

I volunteered most my weekends as a track official at Racecity Speedway in Calgary

In the past I volunteered with the Christmas dinner at Yavis's, until covid.

I was primary care giver to my parents until early spring of this year.

I volunteered for the stampede and ag of Drumheller in late 80's before going into a truck.

I was on the townhouse board that I lived in, while in Langley B.C.

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?

That's where cutting down of 500 year old trees would have helped, recycling programs'

Water use programs, and possible a transit system/ ride share. Carbon capture facilities

Replanting of decimated trees.