

Brian Wyer – City Council Candidate

Business Climate / Regulations Issues

- 1. Rate the regulatory climate for business in the City of Pensacola. Is it Good/Fair/Bad? Explain your answer.**

The City of Pensacola regulatory climate for business is going well at the current time. I feel that the Mayor and City Council has done a GOOD job facing challenges (COVID, Hurricane Sally, Equality Unrest and the Bridge closure) through regulations that we have faced over the last several years.

- 2. Please provide any examples of how regulations have affected the life of city residents in a positive or negative way.**

Regulations have affected Pensacola in a positive way by addressing issues that exist in our community. The entire premise of regulations is that they create a common way of handling problems that have happened and repeated in the future. Without regulations, the appearance of handling situations uniquely may be perceived as favoritism. Regulations at times should be reviewed to determine if they are outdated. When a need exists to update regulations, a detailed review of the origin of the change should be performed, vetted, and approved by the needed groups.

- 3. Name the top 3 specific city ordinances/regulations you would like to see eliminated. Explain why they should be eliminated.**

I do not have any ordinances/regulations at this time that I would like to see eliminated. These rules were put in place to deal with specific issues and should be closed reviewed prior to eliminating them.

- 4. Downtown Pensacola has grown and flourished over the past decade. What areas of the city would you like to see development focus next?**

I think that we should do a deep dive into gathering data for all areas of the city to determine where the greatest need exist. Each district is unique and as a council, we should consider ranking the needs that could make the biggest impact for an improvement. Resolving infrastructure issues like water contamination/flooding in the Tanyard and Carpenter's Creek refurbishment would be extremely high on my list of development needs.

Operations / Infrastructure Issues

- 5. Do you see any overlap or duplication of services between the county and the city? If so, what services, and how could these services be consolidated?**

Many of the services that the city and county perform are duplicated because of the nature of the agreements currently in place. With this duplication there are benefits that are obtained by both entities that must be weighed against the cost and convenience. Many interlocking agreements exist between the entities that ensure both parties have input into items impacting our community.

6. Homelessness and panhandling continue to be a significant problem in the city of Pensacola. What are your solutions to this pressing problem that impacts the business community?

As a member of the Homeless Coalition task force, we have worked diligently to develop/present solutions to address this problem. I have attended presentations from outside speakers and committees where several suggestions were discussed to resolve these issues. My personal thoughts would be to continue collaborating with other council members and homeless focused groups. We should build solutions around supporting our local non-profits already working in these areas. For panhandling, I would recommend reviewing all the existing ordinances/laws in place to determine if they are being implemented. We should also speak directly with the homeless individuals involved for input into items that would prevent these issues from happening.

7. Do you believe the city allocates sufficient resources for infrastructure projects? How would you prioritize these projects and fund them?

I believe that with the current setup in place that the city is doing its best job possible to manage infrastructure projects. I feel that we would need to make an intentional effort to gather as much data as possible around infrastructure goals and dedicate even more resources to it. Infrastructure that impacts safety of our citizens would get my highest priority as a council person. The funds for these projects would be to create a list of essential projects .vs non-essential projects and re-allocate more funds for safety issues.

8. What do you consider to be the number one infrastructure concern for the City of Pensacola going forward, and how do you propose to address that concern?

The number one issue would be preserving our roadways from flooding and conserving our natural resources. The biggest concern would be Carpenter's Creek and the Tanyard area. Ensuring that the banks of the creek are safe, that trash is not being placed in the creek and that no further damage is caused to the infrastructure. The Tanyard flooding and human waste in stormwater treatment is vital for the safety of our citizens.

9. What would you change about the relationship between the Mayor's Office and City Council (i.e. should the Mayor attend all city council meetings, etc.)?

The current setup is working well but could be improved by the two areas working even more closely together. I would recommend more transparency of the individual meetings that do take

place between senior leaders of departments and city council. I feel that the mayor (or a designated senior leader) should attend all city council meeting if possible.

10. What would your Five Year Plan for the City of Pensacola look like?

A few milestones of a Five-Year plan outside of the continuous, daily on-going operations would be the following:

Year 1 – Orientation and team building with new Mayor and City Council members. Develop a mutual understanding and agreement of issues concerning the budget, committed existing projects, and planned future projects.

Year 2 – Continue ensuring that all needed vacancies are filled and succession planning in place for departments. Addressing many of essential needed projects that have the city run efficiently.

Year 3 – Orientation and team building with new potential Mayor and City Council members.

Year 4 – Continue to collaborate with County officials to address interlocking issues that impact our community.

Year 5 - Orientation and team building with new potential Mayor and City Council members

Economic Development Issues

11. What role should city government take in attracting new businesses to the area?

I believe that the city along with the County should continue to dedicate resources to our local economic organizations like chambers, FloridaWest, PEDC, and Visit Pensacola. I also feel that we should put an even strong emphasis on working with our local businesses that are already part of the community. These local businesses are already having a daily impact in our area and should be supported in all ways possible to become even more successful.

12. Which industries should the City of Pensacola should concentrate its business development/growth efforts? Be specific.

The city should concentrate its growth on areas of Tourism, Hospitality, cybersecurity, construction, and military related support.

13. What should the city do with excess properties that it owns? Which properties should take priority? Do you believe certain city parks could be considered excess property?

The city should use these properties to collaborate with developers to obtain more affordable/attainable housing for our residents. Where needed should help to convert these lands to public/conversation areas. No - - I do not believe that certain parks could be considered excess unless a replacement park would be available in a nearby location.

14. Tourism is an integral part of Pensacola's economy. What are the top 3 ways that the city can add value for the Pensacola business community with respect to increasing tourism and nurturing a positive tourist experience while here in Pensacola?

The top three ways to add value are

- To work with the needed entities to encourage public access to our Navy Base resources.
- To work with Visit Pensacola to support their tourism efforts
- To work with our Downtown Improvement Board, Police Department, and various other departments to ensure that our infrastructure provides a safe, beautiful environment for our tourist.

15. What is your vision for Pensacola's waterfront from Three Mile Bridge to Joe Patti's? Feel free to incorporate the Port of Pensacola, Community Maritime Park, the Hashtag Project, and Bruce Beach.

My vision would be to support the efforts designed by our consultants and agreed upon by the City Council. As a council, we should strongly consider the input provided from the departments that manage those areas. We should vet the information from public input and answers to questions provided from the City Council. We should have an accessible waterfront that nature focused with development that support our hashtag recommendations.