

Candidate Questionnaire - Jim Steinke

1. What inspired you to put your name forward for consideration in this election?

I put my name forward because I feel with the amount of experience I have in civic politics, I will be a real asset to the town council.

2. What qualifications and/or experiences will assist you in being an effective councillor?

I have 12 years of experience on the school board and 22 years of experience on town council. In this time, I have served on many subcommittees such as Economic Development Alliance (EDA), the library board, negotiations, administration, Cypress View Foundation, and municipal planning commission. I have taken several courses on negotiating and other various operations of town council.

3. Please list your top 5 strategic priorities that you will commit to during your four year term.

- 1. Fiscal responsibility – I aim to keep property taxes as low as possible.**
- 2. Continue my work with the EDA to promote and encourage business growth and development in the local area.**
- 3. Open and effective communication with all Redcliff citizens and fellow council members.**
- 4. Work on maintaining and improving the town's infrastructure.**
- 5. Increasing & improving town parks and walking trails.**

4. What opportunities for growth do you see in the future for Redcliff? What strategies will you seek to implement in order to achieve this?

With the economy starting to recover, there is an opportunity for various manufacturing and retail businesses. Working closely with the EDA will help to achieve this.

5. In the past Intermunicipal Collaboration has been entered into on a voluntary basis. The Municipal Government Act review will make the adoption of an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework a requirement. What aspects of the current Tri-Area Intermunicipal Development Plan would you like to see expanded, eliminated or amended?

With the new plan coming to effect, I am looking forward to negotiating and working with the neighbouring municipalities to achieve common goals for the benefit of the area.

6. In many municipalities across Alberta the non-residential tax rate can be significantly higher than the residential tax rate. In your opinion what is a reasonable residential to non-residential ratio? What factors should be considered when calculating the non-residential tax rates?

I feel when calculating non-residential tax rates the factors that should be considered are:

- 1. The current market value of the business**
- 2. How lucrative the business is**
- 3. The number of employees**

7. How do you feel that the Town can provide a more efficient business-to-government process to streamline government services for business?

I would like to work towards making permits easier to obtain. I would like to develop communication with local businesses to find out what their needs and priorities are.

8. As costs for services increase and costs to businesses increase at all levels of Government, how will you evaluate the increases in fees and charges to ensure fees structures are reasonable and that any increases are implemented over a reasonable period of time?

Currently, the fees and charges for the Town of Redcliff are low when compared to the surrounding municipalities. The current town council has worked hard to make this a priority and will continue to make it a priority.

9. Currently Redcliff is known as the Greenhouse Capital of the Prairies. There has been question about re-branding and changing the slogan of the Town of Redcliff. If you support re-branding what would your proposed direction or concept be?

I feel that the current branding is working and therefore I don't see a real need for a change at this time. I would rather see tax dollars spent on other projects.

10. What are your plans and/or strategies for achieving financial sustainability while balancing service delivery, capital requirements, cost containment and fair taxation levels?

I support being fiscally responsible and only spending tax dollars when/as required. Sometimes unpopular/difficult decisions have to be made to maintain a proper balance.