

Respondent

< 7 Anonymous >

1361:12  
Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

\*

Brian Webster, Medicine Hat

2. What active role have you played to improve our community prior to running for council/mayor?

\*

My career was with the Fire Service in which I served in all branches. Each branch contained facets to improve public safety. Additionally I have served as an in-school-mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, served on the Social Development Advisory Board, volunteered with the Medicine Hat Police Service and pursued post-secondary education in leadership and public safety administration.

3. What initiatives would you propose to improve tourism, investment attraction and development to our municipality and region and support business recovery during/after the pandemic? \*

As an individual Councilor and with the current structure of the City, I would encourage the departments that have the expertise to continue to bring their proposals forward. Currently, all Operations of the CMH are under the direction of the City Manager. I will be an ambassador of the city. We must focus on what occurs after COVID as everyone has suffered through this pandemic.

4. In Medicine Hat, businesses pay a higher proportion of property taxes compared to the residential sector. Medicine Hat's tax gap of 2.35% is one of the highest in Alberta. What is your position on the current approach to taxation and your thoughts on potential strategies to narrow this gap?

\*

Property Tax is the main source of revenue for the city. Businesses have always paid a higher tax rate than residential, it is time to review the process and determine how balancing can be completed.

5. If elected, what specific steps would you take to encourage & promote entrepreneurship within the region?

\*

I would be part of a team, that would function together to propose ideas after public consultation. Encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship is a team approach not an individual concept. The are agencies that receive grants from the CMH and this is their are of expertise.

6. What is your stance on COVID-19 related laws that mandate requirements, including masks and vaccine passports?

\*

Health care issues are a Provincially regulated area of responsibility. The City's role is restricted in what can be done. I would take the opportunity as a leader to recognize the teachable moments and assist people with understanding the roles of the Municipal Government.

7. What is your plan for publicly-funded services (examples would include Medicine Hat Public Library, power plant, facilities) if elected?

\*

Literacy is very important and as for the Public Library ensure funding is maintained and explore additional partnerships with the city that could exist. Continue to improve and upgrade the power plant, while working with renewal energy sources and exploring what potential new programs can be brought forward. Explore the cost effectiveness of alternate energy sources, geo thermal and nuclear to name a few.

8. How important is it for our region to have a local Community College? What specific steps could the municipality do to work better with Medicine Hat College to provide ongoing opportunities for future learners?

\*

It is extremely important for our community to have a quality post-secondary institution. Explore and expand the current partnerships existing with the MHC.

9. How will you attract newcomers to the district and address the needs for a skilled workforce? \*

Presenting a stable economy, not closing facilities and focusing on people and business is the best way to attract newcomers to the city. For businesses to start up or relocate and bring a skilled workforce into the City or hire skilled workers from within, the city needs to offer reasonable taxes and utilities to the business/industry.

10. What is your stance on the importance of mental health & wellness support in our region? What ideas, implementations, and initiatives would you put forward to improve the overall mental health & wellbeing of our community?

\*

Mental health and wellness is extremely important in the community. Unfortunately the hands of municipal government are tied for the most part as outlined in the MGA. The Council can lobby for assistance. Education is key in achieving support. Thinking back to my days in the Fire Prevention Branch of the Fire Service we approached challenges through the 3 E's: Education, Engineering and finally Enforcement. Education is the key.

11. How will you further diversity and inclusion initiatives in our region, as it relates to each of the pillars in the Chamber's Vote Prosperity Platform: <https://www.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/>)

\*

What I would propose to my peers on council, if elected, would be to present the best image of the city with regards to the pillars. This has to be done as a short, medium and long term plan with SMART goals. I would also try to see how the pillars align with the CMH strategic goals and determine what synergies can be utilized.

12. On a municipal level, how do you intend to address climate change and pollution?

\*

From a municipal perspective continue upgrading facilities to reduce the carbon footprint. More specifically, SMART goals must be established in order to determine if the strategic objectives are being achieved. Continue to invest in technologies that reduce pollution.

13. What strategies will you use to communicate and engage with the community and remain accountable to the citizens?

\*

I am fortunate being retired I can dedicate time to ensuring I am open and accessible to the people of Medicine Hat. My contact information will be available to the people of Medicine Hat. Attend open houses of projects to have discussions with people and hear their concerns. I will strongly encourage my peers to do the same. It is my expectation of the people of Medicine Hat to respectfully question my position. I will be accountable for my actions and decisions for the full term, not the upcoming 6 months to an election.

14. Are there any other issues you wish to address or highlight that were not mentioned in the questions above?

\*

Downtown development must have a coordinated plan developed with all stakeholders providing input.