

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE – 2021

- 1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time? Briefly outline the top 2-3 issues you feel will be of significant importance in the next four years.**

I have decided to run for re-election so that I can help build a better Brenham to visit, live, and work. I want to focus on promoting downtown revitalization, affordable housing, and economic development.

- 2. What key competencies do you feel you possess to be an elected official?**

I feel like the key competencies I possess include being a good facilitator between the general public and City staff so that both sides can be heard with any particular issue. It takes good listening and communication skills to be an effective elected official.

- 3. Briefly describe your background in areas such as financial management, ability to be an effective leader and communicator, understanding of labor and human resource issues, understanding of local economic issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives.**

I worked at the Brenham Economic Development Foundation as a Project Manager for 7 years and have served on Brenham City Council for the past 2 years where I have (1) helped oversee a \$70 million budget, (2) chaired various committees and task forces to achieve economic development and workforce education goals, (3) built relationships with local manufacturers and their respective human resource departments to create workforce education programs with Blinn College; (4) performed market research and worked with local businesses to identify issues that impact their growth; and (5) helped prioritize strategic objectives in the City's comprehensive plan "Historic Past, Bold Future: Plan 2040".

- 4. What do you consider to be the top issue affecting local economic growth?**

I believe in taking a holistic approach to economic development by helping build a better Brenham to visit, live, and work. I think that if you build a community that people want to visit, then they will want to live there too. If you build a community that people want to live, then they will want to work there too. If you build a community that people want to work, then other people will want to visit there too. In order to do this, we need to promote downtown revitalization, affordable housing, and economic development.

- 5. What could you do as an elected official to help small businesses in the community?**

We should review development processes to ensure that City permitting and approval processes do not unnecessarily hinder development of business start-ups and expansions. We should also examine the potential to develop incentives for new housing development (including multi-family, rental, and for-sale housing) to help employers find an affordable place for their employees to live.

6. How important do you feel the relationship is between the City of Brenham and Washington County government? How could it be improved?

The relationship between the City of Brenham and Washington County is very important because we are better together than we are alone. It all starts with communicating effectively with the Commissioners Court and making sure that both sides are heard on any particular issue. I personally served on a Joint Economic Development Committee consisting of representatives from the Commissioners Court, City Council, Brenham Community Development Corporation, and Brenham Economic Development Foundation that helped create an inter-local agreement where the County and City will partner together to promote economic development in the community.

7. What project or issue would be of primary importance to you to work on if you are elected?

If I am re-elected to serve another term on City Council, I would work to build a better Brenham to visit, live, and work by promoting downtown revitalization, affordable housing, and economic development.

8. What would you do to help ensure that the local economy continues to grow and evolve?

As an elected official, it is important to focus on the strategic objectives of the overall community that in turn can help the local economy grow and evolve. The City's comprehensive plan "Historic Past, Bold Future: Plan 2040" has identified (1) Land Use Planning and Development, (2) Growth Capacity, (3) Economic Opportunity, (4) Transportation, and (5) Parks and Recreation as the five strategic objectives that need to be focused on. By making fiscally responsible budgets and capital investments to help achieve these strategic objectives, then we can build a thriving local economy that will continue to grow and evolve.