



Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



Eric McMurray Councillor Ward 2

The Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce is the recognized voice of business in the Municipality of Port Hope. We support all businesses, not just our close to 200 members, and play a key role in advocating on their behalf regarding decisions made by levels of government that may impact them.

These questions are being asked as background research to form individual question(s) for our meet the candidate events and to keep the business community informed of your outlooks with regard to the future of the Municipality of Port Hope. Please be advised that your responses will be shared in full or in part with the community through our membership, community publications and Social Media networks.

1. What is your plan for the municipality over the next four years?

I would like to work with business owners and committees, in the direction of growth and prosperity. Looking into areas of concern had not just by committees and business owners, but the citizens as well. Taking into consideration the best interests of all.

2. What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the business sector in the Municipality and how do you plan to address it?

I believe a large problem in the business sector is consumer traffic. I see some businesses coming into a vacant space as fast as others are closing their doors. There needs to be more support for local startups. Another issue is the demand for labour. Some businesses are having to close their doors simply because they can't find employees. There needs to be more incentive for our youth to get jobs. To name only a few concerns.

3. Explain your understanding of economic development and describe the significance to our community.

Economic development is the way a community increases its access to services, housing, developing infrastructure; resulting in better quality of life amongst many other things. I believe Port Hope currently is on the path towards the top. There will be obstacles along the way on any road. However, I plan to take the wheel for our community by strategizing with committees and other councillors to put in place the best plans and policies for business owners/workers, as well as citizens.

4. The downtown core is an integral part of the business community, however there are businesses throughout the municipality including, but not limited to, home based and agri-businesses. What do you believe the municipality can do to support the businesses throughout the entire community and not just in the downtown core?

Some of the businesses referred to in this question don't have the access that downtown located businesses have. It would be a good idea in my opinion to have a unified group focused on these businesses. Possibly industry specific committees. A lot of businesses that are up and coming conduct a majority of their business online. There are many areas that could use attention for the benefit of the community as a whole. Raising awareness to the issues and actively formulating strategies to combat it are crucial. I hope to work alongside our committees and business owners toward progress. In unison. Together forward.

5. The municipality has been restructuring and reconsidering their approach to economic development, building and planning. What do you think the best thing the municipality can do in the short, mid and long term to better support growth and development in a fair, timely and financially sound way?

In the short term I would look at concerns with businesses that are struggling or at risk. Addressing their concerns primarily. Secondly I would look into sustaining those entities. Ensuring they keep their doors open. Finally, looking into up and coming startups. Seeing what areas could use attention in the interest of new businesses. As well as checking in with the businesses that are already well established and what could be done in their interest. I believe it's important to address the concerns of all business owners. Fairly and in timely fashion.

6. Agriculture and rural businesses are a key piece of the economic viability of this community. What do you think the Municipality should be doing to better support this sector?

Farming and rural business is indeed a vital and culturally distinctive part of Port Hope. I would implore our locals to come forward. Some of the members of this group do not feel the support of the municipality. This is something I aim to change. I have strong roots amongst this community and would see/hear their concerns. I come from a family of beef cattle farmers. It's an industry/sector very near and dear to my heart. At the end of each and every day, I will be doing my best to make sure to maintain Port Hope's and its citizen's best interests.