

1. What is your overall vision for the City of Peterborough?

I want to see a Peterborough where our roads are passable. Where property taxes are among the lowest in Ontario rather than the highest. Where seniors and families can go downtown again without being intimidated. Where we have space for and an atmosphere that welcomes new business and industry. Where hardworking folks are given the voice they deserve at City Hall...

2. What is your plan to build a strong local workforce?

City Hall needs to be business' best friend and ally. We need to foster an environment that gives business every advantage to succeed. See my further responses below.

3. Housing has become less affordable and accessible, especially for first-time home buyers. What is your plan to address housing needs in our community?

We need to build more and build now. Home builders need to believe that City Hall welcomes their investment in the community, rather than feeling stymied and bogged down. We have too much demand and not enough supply. We need to get it done, regardless of a handful clinging to a NIMBY attitude.

4. A lack of serviced employment lands is an ongoing issue. The emphasis for a long time was on negotiating agreements with bordering townships, but the draft Official Plan calls for those lands to be found within current city boundaries. What is your plan to increase access to serviced employment lands?

I think the draft Official Plan is insufficient for our needs in this regard. We need to get a deal done with neighbouring municipalities. We need a regional approach to economic development, rather than the municipalities within the County working in silos.

5. The draft Official Plan calls for greater consultation and increased dialogue with neighbouring First Nations communities. What involvement and relationships do you plan to pursue with First Nations communities to move our region forward on our path to reconciliation?

I don't believe this to be the role of a ward councillor. I would look forward to a cordial working relationship with elected counterparts in neighbouring First Nations communities, but reconciliation is something I would feel underqualified in addressing. The mayor can pursue this, as he will other intergovernmental relationships.

6. Our community is dealing with an addictions crisis that is now more visible than ever. What is your plan to address this crisis?

I am concerned with the lack of emphasis on recovery as part of the community's response. The focus needs to be on finding an exit strategy for those suffering with addiction, so they can become productive members of society. We cannot criminalize addiction, but neither should we sustain it. I would not support funding any program that did not have a counselling/therapy/rehabilitation component at its core.

7. The efficient movement of people and goods is important to business competitiveness. What is your plan to address our transportation challenges?

The Transportation Master Plan adopted by this council needs to be shredded, and the process begun anew. If the Parkway is not to proceed, what is the alternative beyond more bike lanes and transit subsidies? We need to get arterial traffic off residential streets with a realistic plan, not a plan built on wishful thinking and the hope that people will cycle to pick up groceries in January.

8. Crime is an increasing concern within the local business community, from vandalism to shoplifting to after-hours break-ins. What will you do as a member of council to ensure businesses feel protected and supported?

We need more uniformed officers working to enforce the law. While we cannot criminalize homelessness and addiction, criminal behaviour still exists and cannot be allowed to go unchecked. Your circumstances in life, however difficult, do not make you a victim and do not make you immune from the law. Having said that, we cannot expect more officers alone to solve the issue. As long as the feds and province allow catch and release justice to be the norm, our officers will continue to spend 90% of their time dealing with 10% of the population. Municipal policing costs will continue to climb, thanks to the inadequate response of the justice system itself.

9. How should the city engage local business to help meet climate change goals and move toward net-zero emissions?

I have been canvassing since mid-June. In that time, only four people have expressed to me that climate change is an election issue for them. Climate change is real. Man contributes to it. But if all of Peterborough were wiped off the globe, it would have zero impact on global emissions. It would be unjust to burden taxpayers in Peterborough with punitive measures in the name of climate change. More energy efficient city vehicles and facilities are appropriate, providing it doesn't add to folks' tax burden.

10. What three things would you like to see council implement that will make local businesses more competitive?

- a) Elimination of the social procurement policy. Procurement should be based on quality of goods and service and pricing.
- b) Eliminate waste in an effort to flatten the curve on tax increases
- c) Appropriate attention to our roads