

# Councillor and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire: Individual Responses



**Councillor: Glen Kruck**

**Ward: 2 - Rosser**

| # | Question  | Answer | Comments   |
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| 1 | The offering of a wide range of incentives, in a timely manner, can be a critical component in the negotiation to attract new business. Are you in favor of the development of a comprehensive incentive package, including performance parameters to allow for increased flexibility to address "calls of interest" at an administrative level in a timely manner?   | ✓      | Yes provided that there are performance parameters.  |
| 2 | The City of Brandon is challenged in attracting business, in part due to the lack of unserviceable land, the access to land, undefined development plans, etc. Are you in favor of investment in servicing and / or land acquisition, as part of a business attraction investment strategy?   | ✓      | Serviceable land is essential for all development.   |
| 3 | Administration of the City of Brandon have referred to the concept of program and /or outcome-based budgeting and reporting, allowing for more transparency of the impact budget dollars are having in priority areas. As part of your mandate this term, are you in favor of making this a priority for administration to fully incorporate this approach into the budget process?                                   | ✓      | I fully support greater transparency and outcome measures.   |
| 4 | The funding of reserves is meant to ensure that as an asset is being used, funds are set aside to plan for its replacement. In recent years, increased tax revenues have not been used to proportionally build reserves. Are you in favor of reserves being proportionately funded in line with the percentage of increase in tax revenues in any given year?   | ✓      | One of the first things that I did as Regional Manager of the company that I manage is to create reserve funds for all of our capital assets.  |
| 5 | Citizens can only absorb so much when it comes to having the ability to pay tax. Do you support ensuring increases in taxes do not exceed municipal inflation, even if this requires adjusting the services currently being provided?   | ✓      | As a general rule yes but like any rule, there may be times when exceptions need to be made.   |
| 6 | In some municipalities, specific community services that are also provided by the public sector are identified and requests for public proposals are opened to determine if there are more cost-effective solutions that could be offered by the private sector. Do you support this concept of private, public partnerships to help improve the city's overall operating efficiency?                                 | ✓      | I am open to exploring such a concept in great detail in order to ensure that a short term saving does not result in a long term financial pain.   |
| 7 | The 8th Street Pedestrian Bridge has been identified as a solution for people to gain access from the "flats" into the downtown core at an approximate cost of \$8.2 million. A number of programs and partners have been identified, to assist in cost sharing this investment. If this project costs the Brandon taxpayers more than a third of the total cost (\$2.75 million), are you in favor of it proceeding? | ✓      | That bridge must be built but having said that, in all of the major projects that I have been involved with, I have always succeeded in securing Federal and Provincial funding support. When touring Europe, I took pictures of a number of pedestrian bridges. The design of the bridge is where the first cost saving measures can be achieved. I want a safe long lasting bridge but it does not need a lot of bells and whistles. |

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| 8  | The Keystone Centre has been identified as needing to explore and adopt alternative funding streams to become more self-sustaining in both its operational and capital requirements. Are you in favor of the Keystone Centre actively pursuing these alternatives?   |    | Absolutely 100%   |
| 9  | The City of Brandon gave approval to move forward with the use of Development Cost Charges to build a reserve for growth related infrastructure. Are you in favor of funding growth related infrastructure as needed, as opposed to delaying these investments until the associated reserves are adequately funded through DCC?  |    | No Comment.   |
| 10 | The City of Brandon has a significant infrastructure deficit. It is Council's role to prioritize where capital dollars are spent to ensure that critical infrastructure is taken care of ahead of the non-essential investment. Do you support prioritizing strategic infrastructure investment that would yield a return on investment or that would facilitate growth?   |    | No Comment.   |
| 11 | The City of Brandon has started to explore the concept of developing and seeking the approval of the Manitoba Government to govern its own Charter, which would provide for similar autonomy to what Winnipeg currently has related to development, planning, rate structures, etc. Are you in favor of Brandon having its own Charter?  |    | No Comment.   |
| 12 | The City of Brandon administration has said that they are "Open for Business", however there continues to ongoing complaints from developers, business owner, and citizens about the level of bureaucracy, regulation, and time associated with doing business in Brandon. Would you be in favor of identifying key processes and putting in metrics / measurement systems to gauge actual performance (i.e. approval time on a permit)? |  | Everyone would benefit from permits being able to be issued in a timely fashion.  |
| 13 | Downtown Brandon continues to be a challenge, as more buildings have vacant storefronts, and the area has gradually been allowed to degrade in appearance (garbage, weeds in the sidewalks, graffiti, overgrown lots, etc.), resulting in some businesses choosing to leave the area. Are you in favor of investment being made by the City of Brandon to address these issues?  |  | Absolutely I support such investments but those need to be wise investments which yield results. Too often the City has thrown hundreds of thousands of tax dollars into downtown Brandon with no positive results. Case in point, the City torn up perfectly good sidewalks along Rosser which would have lasted a lifetime in order to put in paving stone sidewalks some sections of which have already deteriorated and now will cost more tax dollars to fix. Whereas, the City should have left our solid concrete sidewalks alone and should have used those hundreds of thousands of tax dollars to actually attract businesses downtown. |
| 14 | Would you be in favor of the concept of charging a tax levy on downtown properties that remain vacant, as a means to encourage the active redevelopment of buildings in the area.  |  | Absolutely. 100%. It makes perfect sense and should be implemented as soon as possible.   |

**General Comments**

The lack of parking downtown is a major issue. For businesses to thrive, customers need to be able to park reasonably close. If elected, I would do my best to increase the amount of parking in downtown Brandon. With my proposed change to Brandon Transit, the bus mall would no longer be needed and could be converted into free 2 hour parking stalls. I would support requests from businesses to increase the number of angle parking stalls in the downtown area provided that the majority of the businesses in that area support such a change. I would also be open to other ideas as to how to increase downtown parking spaces.