

Councillor and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire: Individual Responses



Councillor: Jan Chaboyer

Ward: 10 - Green Acres

#	Question	Answer	Comments
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?	✓	Only if it results in good jobs for our community, and in the end the economic benefits, are offset by good wages for employees that will spend their earnings in Brandon, and corporate taxes are collected from the new enterprise.
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?	✓	No Comment.
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?	✓	Requires further discussion for a new city council to understand this concept.
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?	✗	I agree that reserves need to be replenished to ensure funds are available for asset replacement, but I feel that council needs discretion to move out projects at a later time if other priorities need to happen first.
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?	✓	Yes or No is not a definitive answer for me. Ideally in the past we have kept taxes below inflation, and hopefully we can continue to do that, but as our city grows I am not interested in reducing services to our citizens. It is all about fair balance...taxes affordable, with good services.
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?	✓	It could possibly work for some services, but it would require carefully scrutiny and analysis if the benefits outweigh the costs for these partnerships. I could see it being effective for recreational services where they operate on models to maintain customers with good marketing, and are competitive in the market place. It might be cost effective, but I am interested in providing the best services to our citizens, that is safe, flexible and maintained at the highest standards available.
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?	✗	Probably not more than that amount. We have to always be aware of the taxpayers ability to pay, and it must benefit the largest amount of the citizens to take on debts at this level. The city has always done a good job of ensuring our debentures are at a good borrowing level and we are not overspending to service large debts.

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?		With high scrutiny of their business plans to ensure it will sustain their operation, in the long term. The Keystone Centre is critically important for this community.
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)?		No Comment.
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?		We continue to invest in downtown, and we do get regular reports on the effectiveness of where are tax dollars are going for this investment. The challenges do continue downtown, but there has been some exciting small business setting up shop there, so we need to support them by safety, cleanliness, etc. for their patrons, so others will open business downtown. Citizens need to do their part by purchasing their goods and services to keep it healthy, growing, and vibrant.
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.		Maybe, further discussion required to see if this is the best answer for this problem.
General Comments			
No Comment.			