

# Councillor and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire: Individual Responses



**Councillor: Jeff Fawcett**

**Ward: 1 - Assiniboine Ward**

#	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?	X	In theory this appears a good idea, however it needs to be addressed in a more fluid manner on one off bases. While it has worked on occasion (Maple Leaf), it has also been less successful on others (Canad Inn).
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?	✓	The City has a plan going forward that will be addressing our industrial park region and servicing of areas in a planned manner. Our most direct concern here is unserviced industrial lands outside the perimeter of the City. We need to continue to work with the RM's for our cumulative best interest.
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?	✓	No Comment.
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?	✓	Reserves are an integral part of our budget. They are scrutinized throughout every budget period.
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?	✓	However this would have had larger tax increases over the past few years. With a large portion of the city budget being salaries, union negotiations would have to done with this in mind.
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?	✓	No Comment.
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?	✓	I am in favour of continued discussion on this.

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?	✓	The current Keystone management team is currently working on a variety of initiatives.
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?	✓	It creates option for this to occur if it helps drive development.
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?	✓	Not really a yes/no question? Development cost charges will exist to help facilitate growth. City wide tax goes to existing infrastructure deficits.
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?	✓	The province already gives Brandon planning significant freedom. However, there would be certain issues that would need considerable thought (ie. assessment; borrowing/lending - Winnipeg loaned Centre venture \$10 million which it wouldn't be able to under the Municipal Act - would the Chamber be comfortable with a Council with this level of autonomy?).
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)?	✓	This is something that is being improved upon. Customer service is something that needs to continually be strived for through all City services.
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?	✓	I am in favour of continuing our current practices. On a purely taxation level a strong downtown is best "yield per acre" we can achieve.
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.	✓	We have implemented the derelict building by-law that does help with this.

**General Comments**

Thanks for taking the time to create this survey.