

Bill Parker responses
Candidate for Cold Lake City Council

1. As a member of Council should I be elected, I would evaluate each and every initiative presented to weight each request for the benefit of the community. This must be done in a manner to determine which is the best method to move forward with, keeping in mind how it would effect the staff within the city. Simply doing the same thing the same way is really not an option without weighting all the effects and staff is an important part.
2. Staffing within the City is very important and all workers must be paid a competitive wage to support their ability to reside in the City. Being a business owner for many years, I value to work of the staff within the city and the work they perform. I also accept the fact that each employee have goals and aspirations for growth and advancement and believe that internal growth in important. I would support the City administration in providing the initiatives to advance from within.
3. City administration would be the people to monitor all changes and legislative requirements and bring them forward to council for approval or for informative reasons. Should there be some changes that the fellow council members felt were not worthy to follow up with, they would be discussed for a decision to be made. I do feel that staff are important to the proper operation of the City of Cold Lake.
4. Any funding cuts or shortfalls must be discussed in council meeting and any opportunity to prevent cuts within operational needs must be the last option. Raising of taxes or changing some of the administrative or capital expenditures should be checked first. Cuts to operational staffing should only be considered when all others avenues have been reviewed.
5. Covid-19 has had its challenges for everyone to deal with. It has been and will be always an option to have anyone wear a mask should that person feel it is necessary. In some cases its almost mandatory given the work required and Covid-19 is no different. A vaccine mandate could be reviewed by council and should the majority require a vaccine mandate be put in place, it is solely for the benefit of the staff and those directly around the individual person. I personally believe safety for the staff member and those around them is first and foremost important.
6. Service fees are just another source of income recovery the a City can implement to attempting to recover operational costs. As such in the City of Cold Lake, currently there is no transit fees for the City buses. Only for the Handicap buses is there a fee. I do support this action for the City transit buses for no fees and would like to investigate the charging to a nominal fee for the handicap bus as I feel that this is a charge to those who can least afford the costs.