

Brent Trenholm responses

Candidate for Calgary City Council Ward 3

1. I have a few opinions on privatization by the city. The first being why does the city want to privatize to start with, and is the city looking at putting the easiest jobs out for tender?
 - a. Lets look at the garbage service 7 year trial. For starters 7 years is not a trial period and secondly, they gave away the good routes that are easy to do. If the city wanted to compare costs, they should have tendered out the difficult communities who throw everything in what ever bin they want and see how they do.
 - b. I am not totally familiar with all the behind-the-scenes work of what and why they are subcontracting out jobs, so I would need to better understand what is on the table before making comment.
 - c. I can tell you this, as a millwright who worked in a large pulp and paper mill, we fixed everything, and we did it faster, cheaper and better than any contractor could.
2. Responsible collective bargaining is always a process. If an agreement is signed than it is a done deal. If someone wants to open up the contract there better be a good reason. When I compare the public and private sector today, the private sector has been destroyed by poor government policy. The reason I am saying this is without a strong private sector government will go broke, "as there is no money tree" and many services and benefits we all enjoy with be gone if government does not get its act together. I feel it is important to respect and understand that industry and small business pay the lions share of everything we have. I have sat on both sides of this equation and respect the challenges each sector is faced with.
3. First there are three levels of government, and many politicians want to tell every other level of government how to do their job, along with households and people how to think. These same politicians do not do their own job very well because they lack the skill sets to do the job in the first place, hence they waste millions of dollars. I feel people have the right to strike, the same as a business and people have the right to earn a living. Many years ago, when unions fought hard and sacrificed for the betterment of every working person a set of standards were created that acknowledged hard working people are valuable assets and need to be respected and compensated accordingly. As a manager I have hired many people and always paid a fair wage for an honest day's work and respected everyone for what they brought to the table. The frustration comes when some people feel entitled and push their ideology on others, and unskilled public service labor earns more than a person who has a trade or degree in the private sector. If this trend continues economies and will collapse. As parents and leaders, we see the entitlement going on. Some look the other way and others like me take notice and put it in their memory bank. When the private sector collapses this puts everyone in a pickle because there is only one tax payer and only so much money to go around. Before it runs out society needs to do something and sometimes those decisions are not popular. Because of where we are at economically now, I feel a different tactic needs to be taken during negotiations.
4. I will start off with what I just said, there is only one taxpayer, and he/she is broke. As much as I dislike this saying if there is no money what do you do? If you take on the economic upswing you may have to give on the economic down swing or people lose jobs and economies collapse.
 - a. I believe the city does not have a revenue problem they have a spending problem and the only way to fix this is look for ways to save money. This can only be done by doing more with less and finding efficiencies in every corner of the workplace. Saying this the bulk of the problem is not with the front-line workers. It is within the organizational structure and management itself. Calgary is in a tough spot. People and businesses are

losing everything and those that are still afloat are having to make tough decisions if they are going to be able to keep employing people or to put food on the table in their own house. I have knocked on about 19,000 doors so far this year and talked with thousands of people of which many were city workers. The stories I have been told and my experiences working in a large union show a culture problem that starts at the top. I am personally going to take a cut in pay of some sort to show some leadership and will be looking at staff doing the same thing. I know this will not be a popular move. The other thing I want to do is perform a cost and operational audit on every department. This brings me to what I did as a manager. I am an efficiency expert. Some people do not like what this represents, however from a city perspective something needs to give and from my experience 90% of a problem in a company or administration has to do with a poor process and management/leadership.

5. I do not support vaccine passports and mandatory vaccines and no person should lose their job because they are not vaccinated. If government gets away with this a two or three tier system will be created. If people think their neighbors are mad now, just wait, as it will get worse if government continually pushes this narrative.
6. Cities are charities in some way or another. They are not there to make money; they are there to provide a service to every community. I believe nominal fees and fares are good practice. When everyone gets everything without having to work for it you create a lazy entitled society. The real question how much is too much? To answer this I do not believe the fees can go higher for a while.