

## **Graham Barclay responses**

### **Candidate for Red Deer City Council**

1. Will you oppose privatization of municipal services and infrastructure, including Public-Private Partnerships aka P3s? Will you support bringing previously privatized services in-house?

I will look at P3's on a case by case basis. They do not always work so I am open to all scenarios. If a previously privatized service is not working, then yes it should be brought back in house. I will take all factors into consideration, such as budget, effectiveness, and what is best for Red Deer. Having good, loyal, and intelligent staff is always important. In my experience I have seen some out-sourced contracted service work well. Not always, but sometimes. I have no intentions of encouraging City Managers to reduce our workforce.

2. Will you support your employees and your community by ensuring the municipality employs staff with living wages, full-time hours where desired, job security, and collective bargaining rights?

Yes, but this seems to be an operational question. I understand Council can get involved with the union contracts but in addition to that, the budget is presented to Council and the department Managers set wages and benefits on the most part. Job security and consistency with our staff is always important.

3. Will you oppose attempts from the provincial government to legislate against municipal staff including cuts to the Local Authorities Pension Plan, or restrictions on their right to strike?

I expect to learn more about this, however my position at this time would be yes.

4. How do you propose your municipality deal with funding shortfalls, cuts, and downloading of responsibilities from federal and provincial governments? Do you favour spending cuts over tax increases?

I do expect a revenues shortfall this winter and possibly in 2023 as well. I expect any extra “new” items will need to be delayed. We will need to be careful with our spending and will potentially need to find ways to reduce our expenses. I do not know how this will happen at this time. I do trend towards cuts on operating items and spending on capital when possible. However, I predict this will be difficult in 2022 and a possible tax increase might be necessary, unfortunately.

5. Do you support measures such as mask mandates, vaccine “passports”, and vaccine mandates for staff to limit and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your municipality?

I believe that masks to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and the Delta variant. I do not like “passports” but with the extreme active case rates in Red Deer and the Central Zone it might be a short term solution to prevent the health care system from completely collapsing. I do not like vaccine mandates and have not made a decision on this subject at this time. It is an operational decision for the City Manager and HR currently, and not Council.

6. Do you support measures to reduce municipal reliance on services fees and fares, such as eliminating transit fares?

Yes, fees are high and I would like to reduce them. I do not support eliminating transit fares, but if we can lower them, that I would be in favor of.