

Scott Hayes responses

Candidate for Edmonton City Council Ward sipiwiniwak

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?

Public Sector employees are critical to the delivery of services to residents of the City of Edmonton. I will not support initiatives that jeopardize the stability or equality of public employee's jobs.

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?

Public sector employee should not have to worry about continuous cuts and wage freezes. They deserve job security, a fair wage, and a safe and healthy work environment.

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?

Absolutely, city staff work hard and deserve to know that their pension dollars are safe and as union employees their right to strike.

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?

The City Council needs to work with both Provincial and Federal governments to push for grants and program funding that has been provided to municipalities in the past. We also need to look at projects that have been committed and perhaps not started to determine if they can be put on hold for this fiscal year. We could look at short-term tax increases to pull us out of these stressful economic times as well as focus on higher taxes for the wealthy. We need to look for big wins not chip away at full-time public sector jobs.

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 in serving the public city staff are obligated to protect themselves and their clients from potential health risks. I also believe that businesses need to have a bigger voice in how COVID restrictions are rolled out.

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

I believe we need to be fair to those who are struggling financially and need transportation to work, appointments etc. I also support the reviews of service fees and fares to ensure they are fair and equitable and that the most vulnerable Edmontonians aren't left behind.