

Brad Whalen responses

Candidate for Lethbridge City Council

1. Municipal Services should never be privatized. Tax dollars are collected from residents for the purpose of offering these services. When you bring in a P3 private model on specified services your then expecting tax payers to pay more to cover these 3rd party unregulated costs which in my opinion is u justified. Working to end contracts of previously privatized services is a bit more complex. I would be in favour of allowing those contracts to expire if the financial burden was too high to outright bring these services back in-house.
2. I am a bit at a disadvantage in this area. And my reason for that is I have had an excess amount of feedback from the community in regards to city employees not performing their job to the expectations of the community. Photos have been provided of city staff sleeping in work trucks, employees taking upwards of 1 hour breaks periodically throughout the day. Clean up crews spending more time on their cell phones when not directly being supervised. I believe in order to have the items you ask in question 2 an complete audit and investigation has to be conducted in regards to the claims that have come forward over the past number of years to ensure if we're providing the city staff with the support they need it's not in favour of paid map time or city financed social media breaks.
3. I do not believe the province has any place or authority to interfere with municipal offices. The province already does to little in the way of supporting municipalities financially which is an issue that certainly needs to be address to boost provincial contributions to municipalities. Especially ours which is underfunded and plagued with crime and drugs.
4. This city has been recklace with money. Lethbridge sits on a wealth of nearly 1.7 billion dollars in assets. And I. Those portfolios sit 100's of properties that are not utilized by city services. They are empty or rental properties operating at a loss. The city needs to begin disposing of properties that are operating year over year at a loss to tax payers. The City of Lethbridge should (MUST) stop being a landlord. The cost of maintaining some of these buildings put them in a situation In which they will always loose money.
5. The mask mandates and vaccine passports are not going to get us through this pandemic. Masks if used effectively will work but that means using them properly. On a regular basis we watch people touch, move, adjust their masks. People are mostly using cloth masks where studies show the only effective masks are N95. Every time a person touches and adjusts their disposable or cloth mask it eliminates the little protection it did offer. And turning to a society that asks for vaccine passports and limits peoples ability to utilize services creates a police state. I wear a mask everyday out of respect for people I come into contact with. I don't like it or believe it is effective but I do it out of respect. I have been vaccinated atlthough I waited till phizer got official Health Canada Approval under the food and drug act. I am neutral on whether the municipal government

should put in place these restrictions when it falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

6. The Lethbridge Transit system is broken. It is common knowledge that this city will never embrace its effectiveness. This city will always choose self driving over public driving. I also recognize that this service is essential. As it's a losing bet the city needs to revamp this system to downgrade bus sizes. Offer more of an uber model system with mini vans or smaller busses on routes that have no ridership. Because this essential service will always be funded by the city we need to make it as accessible as possible. For this reason I would introduce a motion to subsidize transit services. Every student from age 10- completion of post secondary should be provided a zero dollar bus pass, every resident over 55 who does not have access to personal transit should be provided a zero dollar bus pass and any person who is on Aish should be provided a zero dollar bus pass. People on government assistance who are actively looking for work or any person who earns less than \$18/hr should also be provided a bus pass providing that they do not own their own vehicle.