



2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM

WARD COUNCILLOR RESPONSES

JOANNE JOHNSTON – WARD 3

Question: *In addition to the watermain reconstruction downtown and Downtown Reimagined, what other infrastructure projects need to be addressed over the next four years?*

Answer: I am going to step out of the box..and say, we need an indoor pool for our residence.I used our Lions pool this summer..but for a few months..Pools are very useful..in so many ways..Remember, long ago we had a committee..for this build.



Question: *The toxic environment and lack of decorum at council meetings over the last four years is well-documented, and reflects the disturbingly disrespectful discord in politics at all levels right now. How would you, as a member of the next council, contribute to a more respectful and collaborative environment within council chambers and dealing with staff, to focus on making Grimsby a better place for residents, the business community, and visitors?*



Answer: I didn't always agree with my colleagues when I was on council..and that's okay. But I always acted civilly and treated those I disagreed with, with respect.I have the experience of 12 years..with proper staff..this will come.



Question: *What will you do to encourage the growth of the industrial and commercial tax base and control the rise in residential taxes?*

Answer: We do not have much industrial land left here in Grimsby.We cannot let pieces of land that needs to be developed used as parking lots.Time frames must be put into place..as to re-builds..for the tax base.



Question: *How do you plan to address the important issues and social justice initiatives of our time? The housing crisis, gender equity, Indigenous Reconciliation, 2SLGBTQ+ rights and safety, to name just a few.*

Answer: We grow with the times. We have to be open minded as we are a multicultural Canada. What has happened in the past..we must learn from our mistakes..and move forward..



Question: *Intensification is inevitable. Increased density is needed, especially along Main Street, to support the hospital and the GO train. How will you balance the need for intensification with preserving Grimsby's strong heritage?*

Answer: Growth and heritage do not need to conflict with each other. Growth needs to be appropriate with the neighbourhood, and not sacrifice our heritage buildings. Heritage buildings add value to a community and should be protected.



Question: *Economic Development is an investment, not an expense. Grimsby is finally catching up with our neighbours by hiring an Economic Development Officer. Do you support the Economic Development Strategy and its implementation? Will you invest in Grimsby's future to attract and retain jobs?*

Answer: This is one of the hires every municipality needs..to grow in the right direction. I support in Grimsby's future attracting and retaining jobs..that will help Grimsby's future..and a healthy tax base.

