



## 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ALL-CANDIDATES FORUM

# WARD COUNCILLOR RESPONSES

## BARAA FATTAL – WARD 4

**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:** Although there is a great deal of work to be done within the next 4 years to support our residents and businesses, I believe the prime focus should be geared toward decreasing traffic, easing travel, and increasing traffic to our businesses while decreasing traffic in residential and school zones. I do believe that infrastructure programs need to be assessed in a more thorough manner with proper analysis of collected data for pilots.



**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:** With years of experience building and training teams, I can confidently say that the root cause of the toxicity in the council is caused by two factors. The first factor is the clear division in the council (G4 vs G5). The second factor is the clear “listening to respond” attitude among council members. If I am elected I will implement a new system of discussion that will ensure that everyone feels heard while ensuring that the context is understood.



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

**Answer:** I will work on multiple initiatives that will bring in revenue to our town to ensure that we can keep the residential tax hikes at a minimum (below inflation) while allowing for an increased and more efficiently allocated budget. These initiatives will vary widely but the prime focus will be on working with residents and businesses to help bring more external financial traffic to Grimsby while ensuring that our town's beauty is maintained.



**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:** As someone who came to Canada as a refugee, a husband and a father of two beautiful daughters, I have always worked to ensure that EVERYONE is given a fair opportunity regardless of race, religion, creed, or gender. Finally, regarding the affordability crisis, I believe the best solution to this issue is to ensure the financial literacy of our residents with extra attention to our children. Much of the housing crisis is due to "other" levels of government and no level of development can fix this.



**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:** Although intensification is inevitable, this does not mean we should give in to rapidly increasing our town's density. Development needs to be controlled so that we can save Grimsby's heritage. From attending city councils I have seen projects move forward with little to no concern for the effects of the project on local communities. If elected, I will ensure that sufficient barriers are in place for development to ensure we maintain our town's environment, heritage and growth.



**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:** Regarding Grimsby "finally" catching up with our neighbours, I don't believe we should look out that far outward. Grimsby differs greatly from Winona, Stoney Creek, and Lincoln. We are running a different race and we need to ensure we do what is right for our residents regardless of what our neighbours are doing. On the topic of investing in Grimsby's future, I agree 100%! I love that the EDS considers support for entrepreneurship and I look forward to supporting the plan and helping where I can.

