

Candidate: Jeromy Farkas

1) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to scan and post council expense receipts online? (Just as the province does for MLA expenses)

Comment: I will scan and post the actual receipts, rather than just the totals, from day one. Staff expenses should also be included in disclosure.

2) Will you protect taxpayers from additional financial risk and excessive costs by introducing a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to place new city employees, and council members, in a less costly pension plan? (Defined contribution)

Comment: The Canadian Federation of Independent Business estimated that Calgary municipal employees earn a 18.7 per cent premium in combined pay and benefits compared to equivalent private sector work. I will pursue reductions in real terms to both benefits and salaries at the levels necessary to close this gap, and allow for overall compensation that tracks with the economy.

3) Will you vote to reduce city employee salaries by 5% (or reduce total salary expenditures by 5%) – just as many employees in Calgary’s business sector received during the recession?

Comment: The CFIB estimated that Calgary municipal employees earn a 18.7 per cent premium in combined pay and benefits compared to equivalent private sector work. I will pursue reductions in real terms to both benefits and salaries at the levels necessary to close this gap, and allow for overall compensation that tracks with the economy.

4) Will you introduce a motion (or support one tabled by a colleague) to cap property tax increases at inflation? (Statistics Canada’s CPI for Calgary)

Comment: This type of motion would be non-binding. I will move to abolish the use of the phony “Municipal Price Index” and introduce true Zero-Based budgets.

5) Will you support a motion to halt spending on public art until the city’s unemployment rate is below the national average?

Comment: I am calling for an immediate halt to public art spending until the current policy is repaired. The amounts should be capped at more reasonable levels, the public should be given majority voting power on the oversight board, and money spent on a capital expenditure should not have to be used in its totality on that site.

6) Do you believe a referendum should be held prior to council approving any bids to host the 2026 Winter Olympics?

Comment: Any City-initiated plebiscite would be non-binding. I oppose any further exploration of the Winter Olympics for 2026 whatsoever.

7) Do you support reviewing city services and exploring activities that could be contracted out to save taxpayers money?

Comment: Government has grown too much and too fast. Every municipal business unit should be open for privatization, with unions openly competing with private firms to keep service delivery in-house.

8) Do you support spending public funds on a new arena for the Flames?

Comment: The current models proposed by both parties put too much emphasis on taxpayers' money. We could use Tax Free Municipal Bonds to finance part of the costs, investment by the Flames, a user-fee on tickets, and lease of land from the City.

9) Have you accepted or will you accept financial or in-kind donations from the Calgary Flames, any of the team's owners or their companies?

Comment: Not to my knowledge. Further, I do not accept donations from unions, and all donors will be released online prior to election day at www.jeromy.ca.

With gratitude,

Jeromy Farkas

Ward 11 City Council Candidate