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Response to your survey

Paula Havixbeck <paulahavixbeck@shaw.ca>
To: ccraig@taxpayer.com

Fri, Sep 26, 2014 at 8:07 PM

It's a pdf and I couldn't type in it so here are my answers:

Paula Havixbeck

1. Yes but this doesn't go deep enough. If an elected official is in business with a member of the public service, this needs to be disclosed; if an elected official has a business and has business dealings with an individual/contractor/sub-contractor/or anyone else tied to a decision to be made by that elected official, the elected official is only bound by the honour system. There is no watchdog and this must be addressed.
2. No – As your Mayor, I will drastically be reducing the numbers of FOI requests required because we will be sharing more information. Regina, for example has maybe a dozen every year. If we are all following the same legislation on this matter, why does the City of Winnipeg have thousands of requests per year? This must stop. Therefore, you will need no FOI Council Committee to do this because there will be so few. Right now we have the secret society. This will stop. We will need an advisory group to steer this to success within the first two years of office.
3. Yes and I have moved a motion which this Executive Policy Committee did not support to have departments bring forward budgets that are not increased more than the rate of inflation. If a department head wants something higher than the rate of inflation, they need to provide a business case and present it to Council. This works in many properly functioning municipalities.
4. Your non-essential is not necessarily another's non-essential so you will need to define this. However, I will say that this next term will be about getting back to basics and avoiding the shiny objects of megaprojects. We will need to look at ways to be more efficient and manage what we have better. I did this as a City Councillor and turned back money every year and I intend to run the city the way I ran my ward. Existing projects such as the Convention Centre concern me as we have no formal reporting mechanism yet are subsidizing this. We will be looking at this and the hotel accommodations tax for one. We will be seeking best value as a city on all projects.
5. This is a negotiated item but yes and I will be having an announcement about it during my campaign and one by one we will address the unfunded liability as each collective agreement comes up for negotiation and look to be hiring new employees under a defined benefits plan.
6. Two separate items: Managed competition does not work because in my time on Council, I've seen this fail dismally because unions cannot legally bid on these eg golf courses. I will be looking for ways to run the organization better and that will start with leadership. There is no reason these entities are not profitable and where they are not, let's look for creative solutions. On gainsharing, not sure but likely no and here's why: People tell me they enter the public service because they genuinely want to provide something that isn't being provided by the private sector. It is a career choice. Part of my platform is an organizational renewal plan—an opportunity to untap the potential in the organization. It will be mandatory for all employees throughout the organization to participate in a one-day workshop on customer service annually, we will organize the public service around citizens' needs and performance appraisals will be conducted once again and will be tied to employee pay increments—everyone at every level of the organization. The result will be a citizen focused organization doing the right things right so we won't need gainsharing.

I hope this helps. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to complete your survey.

Kind regards,

Paula Havixbeck