

If I were Mayor...

While being Mayor is vastly different from being President or even Governor, there are a lot of similarities; one being that you work for the people.

After getting to know the local council people, I would go out and meet as many people in our town. Hearing from the citizens in town in an informal way, would be beneficial because they could talk openly and honestly about what they see and want in their town. Meeting with business owners, I'd like to hear about their companies and how the city can work with them to benefit their business and the city. I would hope to do something with the town two to four times a year.

Two areas I know I would address would be safety and community. Making sure our town worked efficiently, and had that old small town feel to it, while still being updated and technology forward.

A safety issue that I would bring up for the council to decide on would be intersection crosswalks. While this is sometimes easier in smaller areas, having all crosswalks available at the same time while every light signal was on red, would make crossing easier and speedier. People could cross diagonally if needed. This would benefit cars time at lights as well. Another safety issue would be for the planning committee dealing with the green areas - trees. Green space is important to our world, however some of these areas are dangerous due to poor visibility for those that have smaller cars or if they are shorter pedestrians. Making sure all trees are at a proper height and far enough away from corners, making sure branches do not cover signs or hang too far over the roadways (for tall trucks, and weather related issues). I would also like to address street signage, and while this itself would be a cost to the city; it would impact traffic especially those from out of the area, positively. Having street signs on the corners only works well for ease of the workers; I'd like street signs to be up higher with main road signs on the wire with the lights so people can see them easily. Have we all been on a road with a taller truck next to or in front of us, looking for a specific street and can't see the sign until we're right up on it? Yes, GPS tells us 100 feet ahead turn left... but I'd like to see the street sign as much ahead of time as possible. Bigger and higher street signs for the win!!

I would like to keep "Movies in the Park" during the summer for our towns people to come and enjoy some family time, and meet others. I would hope that from meeting with the local businesses around town, some of them would volunteer to donate time, money, or items for the movie night. Having food trucks with free or strongly discounted prices, other businesses with candy and popcorn or games would build a fun night and more community awareness. This could also flow nicely into seasonal events that would be for the community, by the community.

With that I'd also like to see throughout the year are some Family Game Nights, on a rotation for the families that can't just so weekend nights; a week night every few weeks. Bonding

with family, friends, and community is something that seems to be slowly fading away. We can't allow time and financial burdens to destroy the connections we all need.

Another high priority aspect of being Mayor would be the environment and look of our town; an incentive program to help keep the town clean. Something that would encourage people to pick up trash, remove graffiti, and assist neighbors with yard care if they are unable.

I would be a Mayor that would see to it that our town was a place where people would be happy to raise a family, willing to help a neighbor, and know that they are heard and seen by those that make the important decisions for our town. I would be a Mayor that hold office in a town that draws people in by the beauty and cleanliness of our city landscapes and structures, and makes them want to stay for the amazing businesses and community.

Being Mayor would be a challenging yet fulfilling job, one that I would take seriously yet with hope, happiness, joy, and a bit of fun. No matter where I go in life, our town will always be my home.