

Forum Questions:

1. What role, if any, do you feel the city council has in supporting business enterprise in Carlton?

I feel the City Council is a huge support to the downtown. We are handling all the infrastructure issues that have been in the works for a long time such as water, sewer, and downtown parking. We have been working on water and sewer issues in Carlton since I started on the council in 2006. At that time, the issue was fire flow that kept businesses out of town. It has been a process to get this far, and we are still making our water and sewer better with the nine million dollars that we received from the state. I realize that space is now becoming more of a problem for new businesses. This is something that has been talked about amongst the council, and we are looking for ways to address it.

2. Our city has a diverse mix of businesses. Often, in an effort to survive, these industries clash with one another. As a council member how would you ensure the voices of all businesses are recognized and heard equally?

When businesses come to the city council meetings with issues, we try to evaluate them all and give everyone equal time to be heard on the agenda. That is why we are elected to serve the community as a whole. Though we must take an objective viewpoint, it is our opportunity to hear and gather information. We will have a special council meeting if something needs to be urgently addressed. Also, I would hope that our downtown businesses would work to support one another.

3. Our business community is facing difficulties with growth due to the following factors: limited commercial space, zoning restrictions, outdated infrastructure, and limited parking. How do you feel Carlton could address these issues?

I would have to say that the planning commission has a lot to do with this question except for what I have addressed in question number one with our water and sewer. I personally would like for us to look into why our downtown has growth issues and do some real research. I do hear that we have high SDCs in Carlton, and we need to see why. With the new city manager, I hope that one of their goals will be to find grants for the city to utilize for growth and keep our tax dollars down. It is important that there is clear communication and common goal setting between the planning commission, the city manager and the city council.

4. Recently, the city council voted to approve a re-route of highway 47 in Carlton. As a council member, how would you support the businesses (either along the newly formed highway or along Main St) who may be negatively impacted by the construction?

Construction in any city is tough on businesses. It does need to be coordinated in such a way that it has minimal impact on all the businesses and residents. Construction may have to stop during prime time and be scheduled at irregular hours. This can all be controlled to help keep customers and sales for businesses. This is something the city manager has to address before construction starts and let everyone know the schedule.

5. As a city council candidate, what would you like the businesses of Carlton to know about you?

My wife and I have lived in Carlton since 1996, and we love this town. We have raised our kids here and plan to grow old together here! Besides being involved with the city council, I have

supported a lot of non-profits in Carlton. Back in the day, I coached soccer, baseball and football for YC youth. I am a sign electrician. I do a lot of traveling in my work and see many different ways people handle things in their cities. I feel these experiences are a strength that I bring to the city. I am proud to live in Carlton, and my goal is to help it thrive.