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I am currently in my first two year term as a Common Council Member for the City of Oshkosh, having been elected in 2018. I serve on the City's Long Range Finance Committee as Vice Chair and Landmarks Commission, and have previously served as chair of the Rental Housing Advisory Board. I am a member of the Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis, a service organization that I connected with through their global purpose - changing the world, one child and one community at a time. I also volunteer quite a bit of time as a youth sports coach.

#2

Budget. The most important issue facing the City of Oshkosh is our financials, our budget. Anything we want to do in terms of improvements to our infrastructure, parks and quality of life assets, public safety and transit all come back to our budget and how we pay for them. The continued reduction in state aid only increases the amount we need to bring in via taxes and fees in order to just maintain our current level of service.

While serving on our Long Range Finance Committee I have positively contributed to our debt reduction goals and will continue to do so.

Infrastructure. We have many needs in this community: infrastructure improvements including roads and utilities, facility needs for the Parks Department, City Hall, the Police and Fire Departments and the Museum, easily totaling a hundred million dollars.

We have to find a way to support our needs and growth, while balancing the need to lower our debt, and not exceed limits placed on us by the State. It is a balancing act, one that I enjoy and am effectively helping lead us through.

As a council member every single tax payer dollar we are entrusted with is important, and I will continue to ask the important questions to ensure we are getting as much bang for our buck as possible. The next council has to lay the foundation for how we start to improve more roads and city facilities.

Housing. The City of Oshkosh does not have enough housing available. Over the last year or so we have seen an increased attention by developers to build higher density housing in the downtown central city area, but we continue to need more single family homes. While the Common Council and the City are not in the real estate business, and for good reason, we need to encourage single family construction. I have advocated for City Staff to consider alternative option, to be flexible and adaptable to different ideas to allow residential developers to keep Oshkosh moving forward, and I will continue to do so.

#3

Sawdust District. I will continue to support the redevelopment efforts to transition the last of our downtown industrial space to a vibrant commercial mixed use space that attracts new business and new people wanting to live downtown and makes better use such a great space downtown along the water.

Industrial Parks. The Southwest and Aviation Industrial Parks are the most important spaces in terms of business attraction. With the addition of the transload facility and completion of the infrastructure, the Southwest Industrial Park is poised to take off in 2020-2021. We have the ability to attract new businesses to Oshkosh, further diversifying our commercial, manufacturing and industrial industries-a great thing for Oshkosh! After many years it appears the Aviation Industrial Park is set to receive the long awaited taxi-way from Winnebago County. Once completed it will be great to see the fruits of those investments and efforts come to life. We will need to continue to market and support development efforts in these spaces.

Downtown and central city development/redevelopment. From the former Morgan Doors site east to Pioneer Island, and across the river to the remaining land at Jackson and Marion Road, those sites are key to our downtown redevelopment. Commercial and Residential mixed use developments will bring small businesses and new residents to the downtown area. I am excited to see all the interest Oshkosh has received not only from local developers but out of city developers too.

While Oshkosh has been working on some of these spaces for many years, it is now time to push them over the goal line and see development pay off for the city.

4.

I support a change to our special assessments policy to ensure those that are most vulnerable, home owners and small business owners, no longer take on the lion share of the burden. Having spearheaded this issue during my first term on council, I will continue to advocate for a better, more equitable policy. Having met with business owners on numerous occasions over the last two years, I have had the opportunity to listen to their individual concerns and not surprising to me, they align with the concerns of homeowners too. I understand big businesses such as large manufacturers can easily handle a large assessment bill from the city, and I respect their ability to do so. But just because they can, doesn't mean they should have too. And the same goes for the small business owners from Oregon St to Oshkosh Ave. Most small businesses do not have the ability pay for large assessments for improvements to the roads in front of their properties. Roads that we all use and benefit from. I appreciate the Chamber's role advocating for its membership, and I look forward to working together to find something that we can agree will help Oshkosh continue to be a great place to live, work and invest.

5.

I appreciate the committees work on developing the Sawdust District Master Plan. It provides a great conceptual framework for those looking to redevelop parcels along Main St. Personally, my first priority for that district is the space north of 9th and east of Main. I supported the purchases of the last remaining pieces of land in that area, as I believe we need a strong anchor development to take place there first. If that happens it could really push the rest of the redevelopment efforts along much faster.

6.

The Storm Water Utility rates have gone up pretty steadily over the last almost 20 years, but that coincides with significant work on our storm sewer system to alleviate as much flooding of homes and businesses as possible when we have heavy weather events. I think we can agree the community, the entire community, has benefited from the projects those fees paid for. But I don't disagree with the sentiment of the question. How much higher does it need to go? How many more retention ponds do we really need to dig? We need to do a better job of communicating why we are doing these projects and how they will positively impact the whole community, and we will.