

Zach Jeffries (Ward 10)

1. Saskatoon residents have been clear that we need to do a better job at providing the basic services that citizens expect including road maintenance, snow and ice management, street sweeping, and leisure services. Over the last few years, the improvement in these services has been paid for by new initiatives such as the road levy and by internal savings through continuous improvement initiatives. In order to continue improving our services, we need to continuously be working to review our priorities, ensuring that Council is allocating resources where they need to go. I also propose that we not fund certain big projects that may not be a priority for Saskatoon residents such as the relocation of the City Yards. These dollars can then be allocated to citizen priorities or be returned to residents at budget time.

2. Saskatoon does a good job at providing services to residents and does so with a mix of public in house services and private services. We need to be smart in our approach to service delivery, ensuring that we are providing a high quality of service with good value to residents of our city. We found with the opening of the new police station that public services for cleaning work was not only of better value, but was also a better fit for the security needs of that facility. In some cases it has made sense to use third parties for work, such as supplementing the role of Public Works during the street sweeping blitz where it otherwise wouldn't make sense for the City of Saskatoon to purchase equipment that would be infrequently used.

3. The City of Saskatoon needs to continue its work to ensure that employee input is sought and considered when making decisions. A good recent example of seeking input has been the continuous improvement process within City Hall to streamline services and deliver high levels of citizen satisfaction in areas like snow clearing, street sweeping, and fire services. Employees from the front lines all the way up through management have been consulted during these processes which have resulted in safer work places, monetary savings, and improved service delivery. Employee engagement and consultation have been proven to be vital at the City of Saskatoon. We also need to continue to respect the collective bargaining rights that are in place and protected under legislation.

4. The City of Saskatoon has in place a nationally recognized housing program where we have been involved in grants to ensure the construction of purpose built rental units as well as attainable and affordable units for first time home buyers. The City is also engaged with community organizations that help provide support for homeless individuals in Saskatoon. Importantly, the City has also been engaged in the "Housing First" strategy in addressing homelessness in our community with very positive results already achieved. It is also important that we continue to refine our community engagement in Saskatoon so that all parts of our city and all people feel included when feedback on planning and projects is sought. Big strides have been made over the last decade to ensure that all voices are heard, but more can be done.

5. The City of Saskatoon has a role to play in economic development. In partnership with SREDA, we have a system of tax incentives to attract new business and encourage business expansion in our city. In addition to these incentives, we need to ensure that we provide quality infrastructure that encourages and allows for more business activity in our city. As an organization with a billion dollar annual budget, the impact of the City of Saskatoon's role in our community cannot be underestimated. We have to continue working to ensure that when we are awarding contracts that we are doing so on a principle of best value, which doesn't always mean lowest price. Having local employers and workers benefit from City of Saskatoon work is a positive for our community.

6. In my time on Council I have brought forward a number of ideas that would not only have a positive long term economic impact, but that would also lighten our impact when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. One has been pushing for better quality buildings in Saskatoon and ensuring that consumers are educated about and want better when it comes to the energy performance of new homes in our community. I have also been an advocate for taking advantage of the significant solar resources that we have in Saskatoon. Since the City owns a power utility, we are uniquely placed to work with residents to produce clean electricity locally and provide a positive financial return to the City at the same time. Better buildings and clean energy will be a significant part of moving Saskatoon towards a lower carbon footprint.

7. The City has made meaningful progress to promote reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians in the past year through implementing many of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are relevant to local governments. Council unanimously agreed to move forward with implementing relevant recommendations which include everything from promoting cultural education and awareness within the City of Saskatoon and running an Aboriginal leadership program to funding the World Indigenous Business Forum and working to ensure that our place names in Saskatoon are more representative of our community. More work is still needed, but meaningful action is being taken by the City.

8. In the last four years, I have been proud to be a vocal and hardworking advocate for getting a new north bridge built to serve the residents I represent in Ward 10. The construction of this important project is going to have a meaningful impact on residents' lives and upon opening and I've been happy to be committed to such a meaningful project. Some recent decisions around the Municipal Review Commission report where I voted in favour of donation limits and removing corporate donations from our municipal political process have also demonstrated my commitment to good governance and serving the public despite the impact that such decisions might disproportionately have on incumbent candidates.