

COUNCILLOR BLOG



Hello to my fellow White City residents and to those reading from the surrounding area. As the newly elected Mayor of White City, I am happy and enthusiastic to provide a new method of communication with residents and neighbours. Welcome to our Councillor Blog, where I and other members of council will be providing a monthly update on topics discussed during meetings and upcoming or recent decisions that impact our community.

The goal of this blog is to provide an open and transparent view on items considered by council and provide insight on how council is working to best represent your interests. The intent here is to provide a broader perspective on important issues and topics and provide a channel for residents to give feedback on what they want to hear more about in future communications.

In October 2020 I submitted my nomination papers for Mayor of our beautiful town. Following my decision to run, my wife Donna and I spent a lot of time and a lot of steps (in fact it was about 223,000 steps) canvassing White City and hearing

from members of our community. It was eye opening, and we truly learned about what is important to the people that live here.

There is a long list of topics Donna and I heard from residents, specifically:

- water and sewer rates;
- the need for change in council;
- a desire for a high school;
- pedestrian safety;
- annexation and the related financial implications for residents;
- bylaw concerns related to parking, zoning and noise;
- pathway lighting;
- concerns with developers;
- snowmobiles, ATVs and dirtbikes; and
- environmental concerns and what the town will be doing to play its part.

"We truly learned about what is important to the people that live here."

When I was elected on November 9th, I was happy that I could share these concerns with my fellow councillors and the members of administration, and that we could work to find solutions where possible and provide open communication to our residents. Learning the ins and outs of the town has felt like a full-time job over the past few months and I had to stop and think - wait aren't I supposed to be retired?

For myself, and my fellow councillors, we have put in a lot of time learning about our roles, learning to be a team and learning about all the projects and activities going on in our town. From the crash course in municipal budgeting to the Town Centre Neighbourhood project, we've spent countless hours learning on the fly and making sure we have the right information to make the best decisions for you. As fellow residents of White City, just like you

we want to see the best for our community in terms of amenities, services, development, finances and to represent your interests.



As with any bustling town there are several things coming forward this spring: a) more information and an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the Multi-Use Recreation Centre; b) work with the RM of Edenwold on the joint WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority; and c) the 2021 assessment revaluations, revisiting and learning more about the recently completed utility rate review and providing an update on the town's application for boundary alteration (also known as annexation).

Next month residents will be receiving assessment notices as part of the 2021 assessment revaluation year. Our Councillor Blog in April will focus on assessments - how they are determined and how they impact your taxes.

In March council will be reviewing the 2020 Utility Rate Review and meet with SaskWater to discuss the town's water treatment process. Our Councillor Blog in May will focus on the town's water treatment system, the water utility and how our rates are determined.

If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call 306-781-2355 - we look forward to hearing from you!