

Mayoral Candidate Questions

Jay Beckby

As an individual seeking an elected seat to represent our community, how will you help to shape a positive, growth-oriented narrative for Hastings?

As a leader in the army national guard I was trained to use combat multipliers to increase success on the battlefield. As an infantry unit we would use tools like artillery, armor, and close air support. As an elected leader I would use this same philosophy and call them economic multipliers. Reliable power provided by our own utility company, two intersecting railroad lines, easy access to highways and interstate, central U.S. location, and two colleges providing both professional and skilled trade talent are key. Utilizing the staff along with our hedc and chamber of Commerce. I would task them to seek out business and industry that fits our community looking for a place to land.

As an elected leader, how do you feel you can impact the talent availability in our community?

In order to keep workforce talent here, both professional and skilled trade we need to bring in opportunity. As a team leader of a goal oriented council I would like to use our chamber and hedc to formulate an aggressive plan to seek out industry to come to this area. With good industry comes good paying jobs we can utilize our young professionals created by our two colleges. The talent is here both trades oriented and professional. I would work with hedc and chamber to create a liason to promote opportunities to hastings college and 1 central community college graduates

With regard to a balance between lower taxes and investment in our community, how do you prioritize making realistic choices?

Our city does not spend the citizens money wisely. Wasteful spending and the city of hastings have been synonymous for decades. Teach dept heads to spend money like it was their own business. Require dept heads to prioritize their spending within their respective depts and hold them accountable for waste. Through spending cuts we can arrive at a position to lower the mill levy to reducing taxation and with money saved we can reinvest wisely



In comparing Hastings to peer communities, how do you feel we can have a more "business friendly" climate?

As mayor with council, I would look to collaborate with other cities that have been successful managing growth through a business friendly approach. Instead of sitting around trying to reinvent the wheel I was taught in business that there is nothing wrong with following a successful business model. It appears that our peer communities have figured out a better way to balance codes, regulation, and enforcement than we have here in Hastings.

Describe your thoughts about the relationship between the position of the Mayor and the City Council. Also, between the City Council and the position of City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator?

The Hastings mayor is by design a weak position. A mayor that brings together a city council of 8 individuals into a team focused on the citizen needs is key to the success of quality city leadership. City council is elected by citizens to represent their best interest and city staff is designed to propose and then carry out plans ratified by the city council. The city administrators in our form of city government answer to and carry out the council directives.