



[Mike Reuter](#)

Mayoral Candidates Q&A on “Citizens for Kalama” Facebook Group

Mike’s direct answers to citizens’ questions, Oct. 2017

[October 15 at 5:31pm](#)

Q: Do you feel that all adjoining property owners should be notified if the city rezones a property, and if you found out owners were NOT notified, what action would you take?

A: This is one reason why my platform is based off communication. Most of these problems, that we experienced in our city, are because of the lack of communication. Yes I agree that all adjoining property owners be notified of changes in zoning. I will do my best of taking more than one avenue of getting a hold of these people.

[October 15 at 5:14pm](#)

Q: What is your plan to prevent downtown flooding again. And what is your plan of action if it does?

A: Public Works have already started the process and have done work towards preventing another flood from happening due to the drainage issues downtown. I will work with them in supporting short term fixes including looking into what it would take to have one or two more pumps available for emergency use a few months a year. And I will make it an immediate priority to seek out the long-term fixes, unfortunately this will take money to fix and there are many agencies to go through to accomplish that.

As for a plan of action, I have already stated the essential need to an efficient way of communication. This is just one example of that need. It is best that property and business owners are notified immediately of emergencies happening in downtown. As for a flood, we could have easy access to sandbags to protect their building from taking on water.

[October 15 at 4:31pm](#)

Q: Do you think the city should force downtown property owners to adhere to strict codes that would force them to either renovate or sell to improve the appearance of the downtown area?

A: There are ordinances in place to allow the safety and functionality of buildings to flourish in a commercial environment. I am in favor of property owners adhering to current ordinances in place, and I am in favor of open communication to approach the process of change through the right channels.

[October 15 at 4:07pm](#)

Q: Do I support proposition 1?

A: This is a loaded question. I would give you the same answer if it passes or fails. Our police department needs a new home, the sooner the better. If it does or does not pass I intend on making sure that this option was the best one to make before we start on it. A month or two to check might make all the difference that Kalama residents be more acceptable of its location in the park.

I think we need to hold off building it until we get an estimate on the upstairs of the City Hall, especially since it was proposed to be used in the future for when the city hall demands warrant it. I will approach city council to get approval for spending money needed to make this happen and it would not be a waste of taxpayer dollars to get it assessed. The next thing I would ask the council is to check out the couple of new locations that were not available at the time the original assessment was done.

I think that if we found a location, even though it might be temporary it could save our city from spending too much money on one thing when we also need money for another necessary need that Kalama desperately needs storm water infrastructure, and before we have another flood that could cause major hardships and/or bankrupt our local businesses.

This is also one of the worst times to build. The Daily Newspaper article put out a week ago stated that contractors are in high demand and are charging extremely high prices due to supply and demand. It is also bad timing to look for properties because of the hot real estate market that is going on right now. I think that the economy cannot keep this pace for too much longer and I also think that if we wait, it will only be a matter of time before the city can get a great deal on contractors and land to have a lot more choices in which to make a decision.

In the end however, after due diligence and consideration we will need to move forward and get our police a home, so it would be then time to proceed with the Maruhn Park location. But I would like more than just one choice, which is all we have now. Need a plan B, C, D to choose from also.

If it does fail, I would show the city's residents that we did everything that we could to make every possible effort every option was checked and would try to pass it again. Our police officers can't conduct business in their current location and we are only putting off something that has to be done, now.

[October 11 at 5:38pm](#)

Q: On the planning commission, how did you vote for the police station location plans?

A: I abstained from my vote due to the lack of information provided by the city for rezoning from a park to a commercial property.

[October 10 at 9:54pm](#)

Q: Mike how would you improve the communication between the citizens of Kalama and organizations within the city?

A: I will use the water bill mailings to provide a monthly newsletter to keep the citizens updated on what is happening and progress of the current projects. Also, that newsletter will be posted online for easy access and available at the city departments. I have already shown I'm acquiring Facebook skills, and it will be continued with regular updates. I will also use email and twitter if possible.

[October 10 at 9:30pm](#)

Q: Mike are you a liberal or conservative?

A: With this being a non-partisan race I will always put the city before my own opinion. However, I am a conservative at my core. I do however always vote with whom I think is the best representative for the position, so I will vote for a democrat if they make a better fit.

[October 10 at 9:08pm](#)

Growing pains,

One of my first campaign promises is to fix the communication problems between the city and its people. In the last couple of years there were too many people who felt like they were not informed on various issues and when they were informed it was too late to do anything about it.

FB was one of my first avenues for me to work on and see how it could be used to get the word out. The problem was that I was new to it and learned publicly that there are complications with this new adventure that I was taking on.

FB is like texting, you have no idea on each person's intentions when people are asking questions or making suggestions so it was easy to make assumptions based on what I thought their motivations were.

It is also impossible to make everyone happy with my answers, and no matter how hard I tried, it was not going to make everyone happy.

I would rather focus on the issues instead of the details of other campaigns and getting sidetracked from the more important issues at hand.

Thank you for reading and look forward to some good dialogue.