



Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



Norm Orviss Councillor Ward 1

The Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce is the recognized voice of business in the Municipality of Port Hope. We support all businesses, not just our close to 200 members, and play a key role in advocating on their behalf regarding decisions made by levels of government that may impact them.

These questions are being asked as background research to form individual question(s) for our meet the candidate events and to keep the business community informed of your outlooks with regard to the future of the Municipality of Port Hope. Please be advised that your responses will be shared in full or in part with the community through our membership, community publications and Social Media networks.

1. What is your plan for the Municipality over the next 4 years?

Over the next four years I will be part of a Council that finds a way to attract new business to the Town, while keeping all existing businesses in place. The Council will need to develop a business friendly plan that includes and targets businesses that are tourism based, services based and of course that help our Agri business grow. I will be part of planning for an expansion of Tourism in the area. I believe we need to look toward continuing the revitalizing of the downtown area and other areas of the Town. We will need all Governments on board to accomplish this task. I would be part of creating an inclusive environment with Facility and Services for all – which means creating a flexible service model so that all groups in Town can be accommodated and feel that they are part of the community.

2. What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the business sector in the Municipality and how do you plan to address it?

The biggest issue facing this sector is the hang over from the Pandemic. People were in their homes, on their computers and shopping for delivery to their door. Local business with the support of the Town could use a similar business model. There needs to be more of a push for “Shop Local” & “Shop Online”, maybe even delivery to your door. Find a way to drive people to their business and look at ways to be as easy to use as an online business.

3. Explain your understanding of economic development and describe the significance to our community.

My understanding is that for economic development to take place you must have all the building blocks in place. It must fall within the municipal guidelines and plans, but also needs to be accommodated by the services available. This includes but not limited to Water/Sewers/Hydro/Roads and Affordable Housing. With all of this in place the Town will need to attract the businesses to the area that fit the community. This will mean a significant windfall to our tax base, employment, and housing. This should be a number one priority for any Council.

4. The downtown core is an integral part of the business community, however there are businesses throughout the municipality including, but not limited to, home based and agri-businesses. What do you believe the municipality can do to support the businesses throughout the entire community and not just in the downtown core?

My opinion is that the CIP (Community Improvement Plan) should be available to all businesses not just the ones in the core zone as long as they meet the same criteria as the downtown business. There also needs to be more promotion of the various businesses and more planning around events that are more inclusive of all areas of the Town.

5. **The municipality has been restructuring and reconsidering their approach to economic development, building and planning. What do you think the best thing the municipality can do in the short, mid and long term to better support growth and development in a fair, timely and financially sound way ?**

The next council needs to plan for the businesses that we don't have. Why do people leave to shop elsewhere? Develop a plan around the needs of the community.

Short Term- Survey the community/Tabulate the Results/Research the types of business to search for across the Province.

Mid and Long Term – Find the businesses that fill the needs outlined by the survey. Council needs to ensure they are the right kinds of business to develop and grow the community over time. Make sure Town resources are available to assist with transitioning these new businesses into the area and make sure that Permits/Plans are handled with minimum delay. This would be looking beyond just Film and Building as the strategy.

6. **Agriculture and rural businesses are a key piece of the economic viability of this community. What do you think the Municipality should be doing to better support this sector?**

Develop a plan around tourism to support our Agriculture sector. Take an example from the Town of Clarington, they have a mailing program that highlights local farms and businesses. They run special days and contests to drive tourists to the Towns and surrounding areas. If I am on Council these will be areas, we will look to so we can strengthen this part of the community.