



Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



Adam Pearson

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?

We are so very blessed in this community. My plan for the next 4 years, is to have a much more accessible council for people to voice their concerns.

To make life easier for the residents and business owners.

To have a vibrant municipality that is welcoming to everyone residing in, and visiting our beautiful town.

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

Well, I think the most obvious huge issue for the downtown business sector is the Downtown revitalization construction.

I have been actively speaking with merchants almost daily about this situation.

I have come up with a few ideas that could help these businesses that have spent decades supporting our town.

Idea 1. Work on the construction dates. For many (not all) businesses in Port Hope, August September and October are the busiest months (not including Christmas). Having the construction times starting in April and finishing for August will be a massive benefit.

Idea 2. A tax exemption for the building owners in the affected areas, for the duration of the construction provided they give that as a rent relief to their commercial Tenant.

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

Economic development is a very complex thing. Development in growth, buildings, events, programs, policies.

Economic development is extremely significant to our community. New businesses, events, tourism. These things create jobs. They add happiness and joy.

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?

One of the most important things for supporting businesses from the municipality, it to keep things accessible. Keep things clean. Have the roads in good repair. Allow the businesses to participate in events with minimal red tape. Say "yes". Business owners need support by allowing them to do the businesses they are in. Allowing them to build the buildings that are needed for expansion of their business.

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?

Well, the obvious is. Hire more people. The planning department is very under staffed for the amount of work that is needed.

Offer up a plan. Work on a structured plan for building, where is it very clear what the requirements are beforehand. Too often to people tell me that the "back and forth" is what has caused them to walk away from a project.

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?

Similar to my other responses, allowing our rural and agri businesses to build and expand and acquire permits with minimal "red tape" is essential to supporting these businesses.

When our markets are trying to expand, our farmers need a new barn or storage building. Spending 6 months, 8 months, 2 years, to get a permit for things is not acceptable when trying to run your business.