1) Does the city of La Crosse need a city administrator, and would you support another effort to create that position?

As Mayor, I represent all the citizens of La Crosse. If they want an administrator, I would support the position. If they do not want an administrator, I would support that as well.

2) The city has received frequent criticism for being overly generous with financial incentives for developers. What sort of incentives should be available from the city, if any? How does the city best create a hospitable business environment?

TIF financing is a valuable tool to create jobs and spur development, as long as there are standards that are uniformly applied for all applicants. I will work closely with local business leaders/owners to identify what is working and what can be improved. I will research other cities of similar size to La Crosse that have successfully improved their business environment, and determine whether La Crosse can implement any of their changes. I will encourage the council to hire a Grant Writer.

3) There are growing concerns La Crosse is experiencing a surge in crime, particularly drug-related crimes. How do you plan to deal with the increasing level of criminal activity?

I will:

1. Find ways to bring the Police Department up to full staffing.

2. Work with the Police to increase participation in Neighborhood Watch/Crime stoppers.

3. Conduct Neighborhood Sweeps-walk through each neighborhood with law enforcement personnel, Identifying possible Security Issues (for example, lighting, addresses on properties, etc).

4. Speak with Local Judges & DAs about stiffer sentencing/crime reduction.

5. Work to improve lighting throughout the city (in a way that does not bother neighbors).

4) La Crosse's fire department is one of the most expensive in the state per capita to operate. Are you happy with the status quo in the department? What, if any, changes you would like to see in staffing, overtime use, equipment purchases or other expenses for the department?

Bringing the Fire Department to full staff will reduce overtime costs. I would examine equipment replacement schedules and where we could increase efficiency in the department.

5) A recent study of La Crosse neighborhoods details the challenges of some of the city's distressed areas. Do you see problems in La Crosse neighborhoods, and if so, how do you propose to remedy those problems?

It is the city's responsibility to prevent neighborhood decay and ensure that property values

remain high. The city should have an incentive program for homeowners and landlords to fix and improve their properties. Security and safety in a city are tied to the quality of the housing and other amenities.

6) After years of steady increases, city taxpayers have recently experienced a string of little or no increase in the city's tax levy rate. Will you try to continue that trend, and how will you do it?

I am a Fiscal Conservative and I also pay taxes. It is in the city's best interest to keep taxes as low as possible. Hiring a grant writer and collecting monies owed to the city (unpaid parking tickets, back taxes, etc.) will help keep taxes in check.

7) In the past year, city department heads have been given the authority to create new fees as they see fit. Should fees supplant and/or add to property taxes collected by the city? Are the fees that have been added in recent years excessive?

There should be an extensive review process before any fees are introduced to the council. Some fees are fair and legitimate, however all fees should be examined for fairness and necessity before they are imposed.

8) Recently, the La Crosse City Vision Foundation, with the blessings of the La Crosse police department, has announced a plan to raise nearly a half million dollars to install surveillance cameras in the downtown for use by police. Do you support the plan? Why or why not?

Without having access to the operating and maintenance costs, I cannot make an informed opinion. Technology changes rapidly and maintenance & replacement costs must be factored in any decision.

9) Some have complained that the city council often seems to work against the current mayor rather than cooperating with him. How will you get the council to follow your agenda, if they're all opposed to it?

I have worked with the City Council and department heads on several projects already. I don't anticipate having problems working with the council or the department heads.

10) What is the last book you read? What is the last movie you saw?

The last book that I read was LINK by Walt Becker.
The last movie I saw was Expendables 2.