

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

The citizens spoke on this issue and I will not be bringing this issue back up. If someone on the council chooses to do so I will send to a referendum.

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?

We need to unify how we treat the business community large or small, all business' need to be treated equal. Tif's are now a part of doing business and we will need to continue with them to help the city grow. Trane plant 6, Mobil Oil site, Barren Island won't get done without them.

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?

We need to bring the Police Department back to full force, work with the Judge's and start letting the drug dealers know that we will start putting them away for longer periods of time if they choose to deal drugs in our city. Public Safety needs to be our number 1 goal.

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?

I agree that we have one of the finest Departments in the state. You get what you pay for. We need to be fully staffed and start looking for other revenue sources. I have spoken with members of the Fire Dept and they feel that there are ways to generate revenue without looking at being in the Ambulance business, this needs to be researched.

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?

Yes we do have a very serious problem with our housing values. First and foremost we need to clean up the drug issues within the city and have citizens start taking pride in their homes again. We can also help citizens remodel their homes by offering incentives to do so.

If we stop giving everything to the business owner and give some back to the citizens we will all gain by it.

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?

Yes I will do all that I can to control increase to the budget. We need to increase collaboration between Departments and local governments.

There are also efficiencies that need to be identified within city hall.

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?

I don't believe that you can ever give department heads the responsibility to increase fee's. These need to be monitored by the Mayor and the council. There are fee's that were excessive and these need to be revisited but there are some fee's that I feel were justified i.e. lading fee's and fire pit fee's.

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?

I think that this is an excellent idea as long as we are using it to research crime and not to keep an eye on the public. This can be a great tool when used properly. The great thing is that the public is paying for this and not the general public.

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?

The Mayor needs to be a leader and work with council and department heads, we are here to do the best job we can for the citizens.

When the Mayor and the council stop micro managing we can start getting down to the more important business at hand. If you choose

to have chickens on the north side or pigeons on the south side that is your right, but the council does not need to be dealing with approval of these items on a yearly basis. Lets allow committees to deal with these issues.

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

**Chris Olson**

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I like to read John Grisham and Stephen King. The last movie I saw was Lincoln