



TOWN OF REDCLIFF

2021 Municipal Election Candidate Questions

Council Candidate: Cathy Crozier

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY RESIDENTS

I would like to see a commitment to either building an indoor pool or enclosing the outdoor pool so it can be used by the people of Redcliff all year round. Swim lessons are a high commodity in the city of Medicine Hat and it is difficult to secure a spot for your child at any time of the year. Having an indoor pool would be a great physical and social activity for all residents of any age at all times of the year. An indoor pool would draw more people to live in our town. Many other towns the same size as Redcliff have an indoor pool knocking us out as a choice for new families that would contribute to our financial picture. Would you commit to building Redcliff residents an indoor pool during your term?

While I would dearly love to have an indoor pool in Redcliff and would support one being put into the budget going forward, I cannot commit to having one built during my term for a variety of reasons. First is the cost – I do not have any idea how much it would cost to build a new indoor pool and I do not know if the enclosure of the existing pool is even economically feasible. It might cost more to enclose the existing pool, which was never designed for year-round use, than it would cost to build a new one. This would be a question that would have to be put to Town Administration to figure out costs and bring back to Council for discussion. Next would be the question of where the money would come from to build a new pool. The current pool has never been self-sustaining and costs in the neighbourhood of \$350,000 a year to run. We would have to start putting money aside in reserves to build a new pool as well as start looking for grants to put towards its construction. How long it would take to get enough money to start building a new pool without causing an increase in taxes would be the other issue. Given the decrease of the funds given to municipalities by the province to operate, we are having to budget very carefully so that we do not have to increase taxes more than necessary. While I am sure a new indoor pool will happen, it could be several years in the future. Council also must balance the needs and wants of a community. A new pool would be a want but if we need to do a major repair to the sewer system, for example, that would take

	<p>precedence. Finally, while I can state that I would support a new pool, given the time it might take to get the project ready for construction to begin, I cannot commit to have one completed in the next four years.</p>
<p>What are your plans for speed restrictions in Redcliff</p>	<p>I looked in our bylaws to find one giving Council the power to set speed limits within Town Limits and set penalties for speeders. I found a Street Bylaw and a Traffic Bylaw – neither of which mention setting speed limits. There is mention of a Sign Bylaw, but I could not find a copy of it readily available. The first thing I would request would be that administration bring forward a new bylaw combining the Traffic Bylaw, the Street Bylaw, and the Sign Bylaw. Within that bylaw we would be able to set speed zones in Town as well as set penalties.</p> <p>Next, I would request more enforcement of the speed limits in Town. I do not think it is really an issue of needing to lower speeds, when it could very well be an issue of having the speed limits that we do have set enforced. I would request more patrols from the RCMP as well as looking at our Bylaw officer being certified to use a radar and purchasing one for their use.</p>
<p>What is your position on municipal financial support for the Redcliff Golf Course?</p>	<p>While I do agree that the golf course is a great asset to the Town, I think that it should be able to support itself at the very least. I am not opposed to giving the golf course a loan to help give them a hand up when needed but I do not think we should give them regular funding. From what I have seen in recent years the golf course is now very well run and has done a complete turn around from the difficulties they were having in the past.</p>
<p>Ideas for a recycling station in Redcliff and ways to make our landfill less expensive for residents.</p>	<p>The installation of a recycling depot for Redcliff is already in the works. The winning bid for the project will soon be announced and the construction will start.</p> <p>As for the landfill – it is not owned by the Town. It is actually owned and operated by the Landfill Authority and is a partnership between the Town of Redcliff and Cypress County, with the Town being the managing partner. The Authority has been keeping fees below that of the City of Medicine Hat and will continue to do so. We do, however, have to base our fees on what our hard costs are to run the landfill. The Authority has been</p>

	<p>working hard to finally make the Landfill pay for itself and we are in a position to say that it is starting to do just that. In the past if money was needed for a project at the landfill – it had to be borrowed from the 2 partners. Now that we have been aggressive in getting contracts for waste disposal companies to bring solid waste to the landfill, there are finally revenue streams getting into place so that we can start to show a profit. The commercial solid waste haulers have been paying full price to haul waste to the landfill while the partner municipalities have been getting a heavily subsidized rate. Once the Authority reaches the point where it is generating a profit, the intent is to consider paying a dividend to the partner municipalities. This in turn will help with the landfill fees that the Town and the County currently pay.</p>
<p>Running a municipality is very much like running a business; what is your experience in dealing with business financials or non profit organizations?</p>	<p>I took basic accounting in school and have taken several accounting courses over the years. In my position as an insurance broker, I have years of experience calculating premiums for insurance policies, collecting when premiums are due and reading the transactions of positive or negative changes to policies. When I was an employee of other municipalities, I was involved in setting budgets as well as handling tendering of projects and equipment purchases. Over the years I have also belonged to various non-profit organizations and have been able to understand the financials when reviewing them.</p>
<p>What will be done at the intersection of Mitchell and Broadway?</p>	<p>Over the past few years, council has looked at several options for that intersection. We investigated the idea of installing traffic lights, but the cost of the lights and installation was higher than expected and not a cost we could support. The option of installing a 4-way stop was looked at but engineers told council that there is not enough room for proper turning lanes. Finally, the traffic circle idea was considered but again, engineers told us that there is not enough room for a traffic circle to be installed. For both of those options there is not only not enough town owned land but there is also a street light standard that would have to be relocated at a high cost.</p>

	<p>I think that best option is to hold off doing anything until a couple of different things happen first. Under the Traffic Master Plan, we will be realigning the old highway where it comes into town. Also 9th Ave is expected to be connected to the old highway and will reroute some of the traffic away from Broadway. That would reduce the amount of traffic using that intersection. The RCMP and Fire Department have told us that they do not receive any more complaints of accidents at that intersection than they would normally expect. I think the best option is to leave the intersection alone for now and come back to looking at doing any changes after the road has been realigned and 9th Avenue is fully open. I don't want to spend a large sum of money to make changes now only to find out in the near future that the expense was not necessary.</p>
<p>Do you wear socks and sandals?</p>	<p>I do not wear socks and sandals. I don't find it to be a comfortable combination.</p>
<p>Is it possible to get a sidewalk built on Mitchell street and potable water spouts along the walking paths going to the river?</p>	<p>It is possible to have a sidewalk built on Mitchell Street, but it does require a bit of planning before one can be built. Mitchell Street acts like an alley for the homes that back onto it from 7th Street, so it would make more sense to build one on the east side of the street. Once the plans are in place for what that area will look like, I can see one being built. If we just built one without a plan in place, we run the risk of having to dig it up for future development. That would be a waste of funds that could have been used elsewhere.</p> <p>For potable waterspouts along the walking paths, I cannot see that happening anytime soon. Currently public water fountains are all turned off due to the pandemic. It is unknown when and if it will be safe to turn them back on. There would be a high cost involved in running waterlines and installing spouts along miles of walking trails. Once installed there is the additional cost of maintenance and repairs. Also, some of the walking trails run in areas where slumping of the slopes and erosion are issues of concern, so it might not even be feasible to put in water lines in some areas.</p>

QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY ADMINISTRATION

<p>How would you make Redcliff an attractive option for new families?</p>	<p>I think that a lot of work has already been done to make Redcliff an attractive option but there is still more work to be done. We need to develop areas of affordable housing and starter type housing for new home buyers. Most of this I can see being put into new subdivisions on the east side of Redcliff. We also need to lobby hard for a new school in Redcliff, as Parkside is aging and normally a community the size of Redcliff would have a high school. Having to bus our children to Dunmore or into the City does not make sense to me. The work that we have done to build and improve our recreational facilities is wonderful and we need to keep moving forward with that as well.</p>
<p>What sort of future would you like Redcliff to have?</p>	<p>The future I would like to see for Redcliff would be for the community to keep growing and moving forward. To keep our community with the small town feeling but having all the services necessary for the safety, health, and happiness of our citizens.</p>
<p>What sorts of issues do you feel are important to the Town? How would you address those issues?</p>	<p>The one of the main issues for the Town going forward is economic development. We need existing businesses to keep growing and to attract new ones. Businesses bring jobs and growth to a community. We have been paying into an economic development partnership with other communities, but we don't seem to be getting any tangible return. I would address this by taking a hard look at if we should continue to belong to the partnership, as well as having town administration develop a plan on what we can do to make it easier for a business to come to Redcliff. We need to take a more active role in encouraging businesses to come here. After many years of lobbying the provincial government, Redcliff finally got a new water treatment plant. Now we need to look at our storm water and sanitary sewer systems. Work has been done to reduce inflow and cross connections. A surge tank system has been built to prevent a repeat of the sewer backups during the 2013 storm event. Despite this, we are going to reach a point that we will not be able to develop due to not having enough capacity available for the treatment of our sanitary and storm water.</p>

We need to either come to an agreement with the City to twin our line to their water treatment plant or build a plant of our own to take pressure off the line to the City. I want to look at which option is the most economical for the Town and start planning that going forward.

The other issue that we have is that our infrastructure and Town buildings continue to age and are getting more costly to repair, let alone consider replacing. While the province continues to download responsibility for services to municipalities, they also continue to decrease the funding given to municipalities to carry out the services our citizens need and expect. I want to continue to lobby the provincial government on behalf of the town to increase the funding available or at the very least, continue our current level of funding – not decrease it. It does not seem right that our tax dollars go up to the provincial and federal governments but in turn if we need funds from them, we must lobby and beg for money.