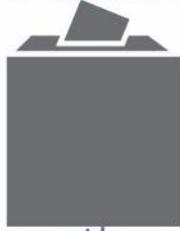


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## **Grande Prairie City Mayoral Candidates**

### **Summary of Comments**

This summary has been prepared from publicly available sources. These references are listed at the end of this document.

Every effort has been made to preserve the essence of the candidate's public comments on the issue, but in order to summarize, it has been necessary to rephrase and reword. Where the candidates' own words have been used in their entirety, they appear in quotation marks. The reader is encouraged to seek further information and more detailed information from the sources listed at the end.

Any candidate who feels that their position is not accurately reflected is encouraged to contact us at [daryl@gpvoters.ca](mailto:daryl@gpvoters.ca) so we can update it.

Name	Dick Baillie	Bill Given	Theodore Nikiforuk
Why did you decide to run for office?	Believe we need to get people more involved in our community. Last few years “all we hear about is how bad things are and I feel that if we can get people involved we can turn it around and make it great again.”	There’s still more to be done to build Grande Prairie. “Community building is never done. I plan on living in this city with my family for a long time and I continue to want to play an active role in making sure GP is a great place for the children of our community as they grow.”	Current municipal leadership has lost focus. Many issues are not being properly addressed or even considered. Feel people want to see some new faces out there.
What experience do you have in municipal government?	First time in politics, but has been active in community and attends fundraising and charity events.	Two terms as mayor, nine years as a Councillor	No city council experience but very willing to learn – it is a big learning curve.
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	A community involved in decision making, right now we lack open communication and transparency.  Improve emergency care at hospital	Long term goal of “an affordable and safe community where neighbours know one another and talk often.” “A city with a diverse economy where existing businesses are expanding and where entrepreneurs have supports to help get their ideas off the ground.” Downtown as “the exciting and vibrant urban heart of our city.” A city which is “easy and safe to get around on foot, by bike, bus or car.” Regional partnerships with integrated municipal services.	
What is working well in the city?	68 <sup>th</sup> Avenue twinning has been a great success but there are a few details yet to work out.	Managing change – we have seen change in a number of important positions, including City Manager, CFO, several directors, and others.	Anticipated completion of a true bypass. Existing one was obsolete as soon as it was opened.
Crime	Need to build morale and awareness to bring back sense of community. City needs more affordable activities for youth to help them find a better path.	Safe community needs to be council’s top priority. Need to consider whole system – building neighbourhood connections and crime prevention initiatives; continuing to add RCMP resources and advocating with province for court system resources	Develop an economic based on long term employment rather than boom/bust. This will create earning options for people who might otherwise be involved in criminal activity.
Taxes	Residents are not getting value for tax dollars. Need alternate sources of funding – businesses pay highest corporate taxes in province and many are frustrated. City should be a part of building businesses, not an obstacle.	Residents are getting value but there is always room for improvement. Average increases are below 3% in last two terms when they were 6.6% between 2003 and 2010. Plan to keep investing in what we need while delivering smaller property tax increases. Part of the solution will be non-property tax revenue.	Residents are not getting value; more effective and efficient use of tax dollars is required. At the moment it is treated “as a bottomless pit of funds.”
Other significant issues	Photo Radar – Not sure how it is promoting safety in some of the areas targeted. Some areas need to be targeted but at this point it is more about revenue than safety. Snow Removal – windrows in people’s driveways need to be addressed – should we be paying tax and clearing windrows? Train horns – have heard multiple complaints and need to review policy.	Part of Given’s vision includes a diverse economy that is more than just oil and gas -a GPRC which has degrees of its own and offers others in partnerships -Grande Prairie a provincial leader in transparency and citizen engagement -a City which is carbon neutral in its operations and increasing renewable energy use -a City which is a leading advocate in the province for our community and region	Need for change, doing things more efficiently. We need to support small business – downtown revitalization is affecting area businesses. Will fight to get projects completed while maintaining public access. Road construction is a major issue Homeless population is pigeon-holed, would like to see them not so marginalized
What’s your answer to voters who ask “Why should I vote for you?”	Plans to stay in the community and wants to build a stronger community “that will enable our children to thrive and that all the residents can be proud of.” Goal is to be accessible and maintain open communication.	“I’m working towards a compelling vision of what our community can be and I have the results to prove that I can get the job done.” “A balanced approach of providing quality facilities, programs and services, while delivering value for dollar to residents.”	Come from working-class roots. Understand taxpayer frustration on how taxpayer dollars being spent ineffectively and inefficiently. Tax dollars spent should be used to taxpayer advantage not big business advantage. The average citizen needs a louder voice on city council.

**For Further Information**

**All Candidates**

<http://www.bigcountryxx.com/syn85715539elections/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32980/city-council-candidate-questions-past-success-failure/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32979/city-council-candidate-questions-photo-radar/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/33121/city-council-candidate-questions-value-tax-dollars/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32978/city-council-candidate-questions-crime-grande-prairie/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32871/city-council-candidate-questions-citycounty-relationship/>

**Dick Baillie**

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/03/candidate-profile-dick-baillie>

<https://www.facebook.com/Dick-Baillie-for-Mayor-296247524188910/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/dick-baillie/>

**Bill Given**

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/04/candidate-profile-bill-given>

<http://www.votegiven.com/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/bill-given/>

<https://www.facebook.com/votegiven/>

**Theodore Nikiforuk**

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/theodore-nikiforuk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Nikiforuk-For-Mayor-128324087891020/>