

2020

IMAGINE DAYTON

Candidate Questionnaire

NAME: Cary Jackson

CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF: Mayor

ABOUT YOU:

In 2005, my wife, Stacie, and I chose Dayton to raise our family because of its beauty coupled with a safe and friendly community.

As a parent, husband, and business owner, I strongly value community commitment through volunteerism. Volunteering is a dynamic way to give back to my community. My community service began over 30 years ago as a Harrisonburg Jaycee where I served as President and Community Service VP. State level service included Regional Director and Finance VP. Civically, Stacie and I were "Bigs" with Big Brothers Big Sisters. I coached youth baseball, soccer, and football, even before having children of my own. I served four of my six years on the Ashby Pool Board as president. I attend Dayton UMC where I previously taught Sunday school.

As a business owner, through my work in several local Chambers of Commerce and partnership with my franchise corporate office, I understand the value of collaboration and teamwork. These professional and community service experiences have provided me many opportunities to engage proactively with diverse groups of people to develop and implement innovative solutions in a variety of settings.

Learn more about me and my candidacy at caryjacksonformayor.com

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING ELECTION?

I believe the decisions of Dayton Town Council have a profound impact on the lives of citizens. Citizens elect governing representatives to *govern* the town, not *run* the town. Town government should not be involved in daily operations. The role of Council is to convey its desires and have them implemented by Town staff. Council priorities should center on public safety, infrastructure, delivering necessary services to citizens, and promoting an environment which attracts and retains businesses. These priorities are important now and into the future. Dayton Council members should lead with humility, confidence, drive and determination, whose actions make a positive contribution for our community. As a member of the Town Council, the Mayor's vote is no more important than any other Council Member's.

I offer my candidacy for Mayor because I believe I have a lifetime of experience which I will put to work for Dayton. I am willing to stand up for what is true and right and willing to vote for what I believe, even if it's different than my fellow Council members.

HOW WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE? (100 words or less)

I never desired to be involved in politics, but have always desired to make the community I live in a better place. With Council positions ever changing, so does Council priorities. It's important to have plans for current and future projects. With staff and the Infrastructure Committee we will develop a *Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Plan, Paving and Road Resurfacing Plan, and Sidewalk Master Plan*. With staff and the Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee, we will develop a *Town Beautification Plan*. These plans will provide current and future Councils a blueprint, with projected cost, to ensure funds are allocated accordingly.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR DAYTON?

My vision for Dayton is a safe, friendly, clean, and prosperous community. A community with a vibrant small-town, rural atmosphere that welcomes visitors. Dayton is small-town America. We want to embrace our historic character, celebrate our today, and actively plan for an even brighter future. This includes a local, proactive government, committed to promoting growth while maintaining our identity.

BEST THING: What is the best thing that has happened to Dayton in the last five years?

Policies and procedures are a critical part of any organization. Together, they provide a roadmap for day-to-day activities. All policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated. These updates ensure compliance with laws and regulations, give guidance for decision-making, and streamline internal processes. The updated hiring policies will ensure Dayton only hires the most qualified applicants for the position. The financial policies ensure the Town's finances are managed in a way that ensures an annual balanced budget, continuity of quality services, and establishes reserves necessary to meet known and unknown future obligations.

WORST THING: What is the worst thing that has happened to Dayton in the last five years?

Dayton has had instability in the positions of treasurer and Town Manager, having had three managers and two interim managers since 2015 while having five treasurers since 2016. Ms. Lawrence comes to Dayton with over 25 years of experience and started in 2019 as Dayton's Town Manager. Susan Smith has been employed by the Town for nineteen years and has served as the deputy treasurer for thirteen of those years. She has been in the treasurer position since October of 2019. Town government needs to support Ms. Lawrence and her team, empowering them to continue moving Dayton forward.

MOST IMPORTANT THING: What is the single most important thing for Dayton to accomplish in the next five years?

We must take a proactive approach to addressing our aging infrastructure. The Town will spend over \$3,000,000 to replace the water treatment plant with work to begin in 2021. The Town spent over \$100,000 in emergency repairs to two of our three well pumps in 2019. These costs could have been spread out with a preventative maintenance schedule and would have been much less stressful on Town staff. A *Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Plan* will be created to proactively replace water and wastewater lines while also providing a contingency for emergency repairs.

CHANGE: What would you change about Dayton, if you could?

Economic growth is important for all municipalities to remain financially solvent. It is important for all economic growth to fit in with the look and feel of Dayton. New businesses are one way to do this while also providing a better quality of life for our citizens. Dayton's largest resource, though, is water. Once the water plant upgrade is complete, we will be able to pursue new businesses who use significant amounts of water thus balancing Dayton's quality of life with a more diversified revenue base.

SIGNATURE _____



Date 9/29/20