

2020

IMAGINE DAYTON

Candidate Questionnaire

Return no later than Friday, October, 16, 2020, 12:00 pm.

NAME: Bradford Dyjak

CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF: Town Council

ABOUT YOU:

(200 words or less)

Tell citizens what you believe are the most important details about yourself.

My wife Andrea and I are fortunate to call Dayton home having both been raised in Maryland. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, walks around town, history, baseball (Orioles), and football (Ravens). With over ten years of expertise in local government leadership, I also have a passion for Dayton's future and a track-record of serving small towns and rural communities in my professional capacity.

I have extensive experience in public-sector community development leadership, project management, grants, developing public sector budgets, as well as drafting policies, currently employed as the Director of Planning for Rockingham County. Additionally, I am committed to volunteer and civic service and am active with the Greater Ashby Business Council, United Way ALICE Coalition, Healthy Communities Council, and have previously served on the board of directors in economic and community development organizations. Through each of these positions, I have sought to forge consensus and represent the interests of a variety of citizens with respect and civility.

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING ELECTION?

(200 words or less)

I'm humbled to have served my neighbors on the Town Council since May and have quickly become familiarized with Town operations to be an advocate for residents and business owners as a member of Council. During that time, the Council has worked to adopt a reasonable budget without raising utility rates or taxes, set aside capital funds for **expansion of the Water Treatment Plant**, and for the construction of the **Mill Street Drainage Project**. **We've also** adopted a short-term rental ordinance, and brought VDOT to the table **to prioritize street repaving projects**. Additionally, the **Police Department** continues advancing community policing principles and is **seeking accreditation**. We must continue this progress.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has challenged each of us as we seek leadership throughout this period of uncertainty. My public service has been firmly rooted in the belief that **local government is that closest to residents**, most directly impacting their daily quality of life. I seek to be part of steering the Town through this next chapter by aiding in the recovery for small businesses, while ensuring the Town is in a fiscally sustainable position to **continue providing affordable, quality public services**.

HOW WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

(100 words or less)

We are fortunate to live in a desirable community, rich in history and amenities. If given the opportunity to serve on Council, I will continue to promote efficient and cost-effective delivery of Town services.

- 1) Ensure Town **funding sources are stable** and diversified.
- 2) Seek innovative funding solutions to **maintain and improve Town infrastructure**.
- 3) **Support public safety**.
- 4) **Advocate for business community** and empower the Economic Development Committee for the pandemic recovery.
- 5) **Promote existing community events** and identify potential partnering organizations and/or sponsors for both existing and future new events, where appropriate.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR DAYTON?

(100 words or less)

The Dayton I envision will continue to be a safe, historic town with a vibrant mix of residents and businesses keeping a sense of community at its core. While we navigate through the pandemic, residents will desire leadership from the Town as we all seek a reconnection to community events, traditions and daily routines. It is incumbent upon a council member to advocate for issues affecting residents and business owners and to advocate for Dayton to the community at-large. Similarly, the Council should collaborate with various groups through respect, civility and mutual interest to preserve and enhance Dayton.

BEST THING:

(100 words or less)

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

Dayton is fortunate to have attractive parks and solid public infrastructure, with recent investments in these projects paying dividends. Enhancements at Cooks Creek, Dove, and Sunset parks over the past few years have added to our quality of life, while the sidewalk repairs and trail extensions have better connected the town. Additionally, infrastructure improvements such as the Cooks Creek Bridge replacement on College Street and the repairs and replacement of aging water and sewer line repairs have been essential. With several necessary capital projects planned, park and stormwater, and utility improvements will continue to be important over the next five years.

WORST THING:

(100 words or less)

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

Significant strides have been made in maintaining the Town's aging infrastructure, but a growing list of needed upgrades and repairs requires attention. The forthcoming Water Treatment Plant expansion will add much-needed capacity and efficiency to the system, but additional water sources and a secondary treatment plant are still needed in the future. Recent water line and sewer line repairs have also proved costly and underscore the urgency for continued replacement. Additionally, localized stormwater flooding in the historic district and near Cooks Creek are being addressed incrementally, but will also need to be incorporated into long-term plans.

MOST IMPORTANT THING:

(100 words or less)

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

Continued investment in critical capital projects is necessary to maintain existing public services and to build upon progress already made. Incremental improvements to public facilities should be programmed such as the water and sewer lines, water treatment plant, drainage projects, and sidewalk maintenance. In addition to several projects being funded through the annual budget, Town staff and the Council are developing an initial 5-year Capital Improvements Program Plan to spread out the costs of major projects, while also seeking public input on these priorities.

CHANGE:

(100 words or less)

What would you change about Dayton, if you could?

While Dayton has numerous sidewalks and trails, they are not uniform and not accessible for all residents. Enhanced connections between shopping areas and neighborhoods should continue to be pursued through public-private partnerships, grant funding and collaboration with VDOT. Additional recreational amenities would also be a tourism asset through the possible extension of trails to various areas throughout town. While a number of projects have been completed, there's more to do, so I will continue working with staff and Council to develop a Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan and a Capital Improvements Program Plan.

For more information on goals for the Town, please visit: facebook.com/BradfordDyjak2020

Please sign and date your submission and return by October 16, 12:00 pm to:

EMAIL: clyon@silverlakemill.com

U.S. MAIL: Cheryl Lyon, 2328 Silver Lake Road, Dayton, VA 22821

SIGNATURE  Date October 8, 2020