



Wayne Rothe

1. What are your ideas around expanded local library services?

The library has a desperate need for space – especially at peak times and during special events. Library staff are outstanding and programs are excellent but we simply don't have enough room.

The library must be expanded or moved to a larger location. A library in the Westwind lands in northeast Spruce Grove is not acceptable; the library needs to be central. I favour at least doubling the size of the library. I fear that the library will be left behind in our pursuit of a shiny new toy (the sport and event centre).

Library and culture are essential to economic development. One of the reasons my wife and I came here is because of excellent soft services. We sometimes forget their importance. If you don't provide these services then it will be harder to attract business and residents. Culture and library do suffer because of our emphasis on sports.

Here is an idea from left field – or maybe the upper deck to continue the baseball analogy. Could we build up – perhaps adding a second floor at the existing location? Fort McMurray has a gorgeous library over two floors in their rec centre. I don't know if we adding a second floor would work structurally but let's consider all options.

2. What do you know about how council works?

As an incumbent I'm answering this anyway because many residents and some candidates don't fully understand the process. We do governance, not management! We set policy at a high level and we have one employee – the city manager. We cannot direct staff except by policy. For example, we set snow-clearing and -removal standards by policy and then our staff will meet those standards.

I've seen council members elected who retired after one term because the job isn't what they thought. One told me that she didn't know that councillors would have to do so many mundane things, such as countless hours on bylaws and development matters. I'm surprised that we don't put our reporters to sleep.

City councillors have no authority to act except as a group of seven. Sometimes people think that we can get their pothole fixed. We can advise staff and they'll remedy an issue if it's appropriate to do so, but directing staff to do anything is inappropriate.

We're a small city but ours is not a small job. We put in lot of time (20-plus hours a week or more) and the grind can be difficult. Elected officials with young children and jobs may find it hard to manage the schedule. There are some weeks that I don't have supper with my wife until Friday. It's best to come into the job with eyes wide open.