

TO: Kathy Hoskinson

FROM: William (Bill) Cook

January 3, 2020

Below are my answers to Mr. Hickin's questions.

1) Is there a cause, event or subject that made you apply for this opening?

During the recent election I followed the contentious dialogue concerning the contested council seat. I also noted that there were not an abundance of people offering to serve, which started me thinking that I should get involved by applying for one of the openings on city council.

2) Please tell me about your complete history of volunteering in your community. What is your philosophy on volunteerism?

- I joined the Junior Knickerbocker Hook and Ladder Company in Closter, NJ, at the age of 17 and, after a 3+ year stint in the Air Force, returned to join the senior company.
- In 1978, I joined the Pataskala Volunteer Fire Department, which became the West Licking Joint Fire District, and to which I belonged until 1991.
- Prior to leaving Pataskala in 1999, I served on several committees in the Pataskala United Methodist Church and helped with several youth mission trips.
- I was a member of the Dearborn County, IN, Water Rescue for 2 stints between 2001 and 2014, while we lived aboard our boat in Aurora, IN.
- In 2014, upon moving back to central Ohio, I rejoined the Pataskala United Methodist Church, where I currently serve as a trustee and sit on a committee. Since 2014, I have been very active in a program called Kids Eat Free, which, annually, served 2500+ lunches to local kids in the summer.
- I joined the West Licking Fire Fighter's Association in 2014, and currently serve as Vice-President. Yearly, I have assured that the Pataskala Street Fair has adequate and safe electrical connections for vendors. The Association maintains a truck which responds to fire scenes and provides refreshments to first responders.

Both my mother and father did extensive volunteer work throughout their life and they instilled that philosophy in me.

As you can tell from my history, I find volunteering to be very rewarding and is an important part of my life. Now that I'm fully retired, I have the time to volunteer where I can.

3) If placed in this position would you intend to run again when the term is up?

Yes!

4) In your opinion what is the #1 issue that Pataskala is dealing with currently? Why?

Schools and taxes! They go hand in hand. The growth of residents in the city is faster than the school systems can keep up with. People **don't** understand the levy system, and, therefore, levies fail. What we can control is the number of residences being built and the number of businesses and industries that comes into the city. By reducing the number of residents to business ratio, the residential tax burden will decrease and, hopefully, give the schools a chance to catch up to recuperate from the rapid growth in student numbers.

5) Please describe your philosophy regarding development and how it affects Pataskala.

I am greatly in favor of the right kind of development. As stated above the city has too many residents and not enough businesses of all kinds. Rather than being the bedroom for Jersey and Etna townships, I think we need the kind of development they have been experiencing.

6) Generally, the departments of the city are listed below. (excluding Finance) Please rank them in order of importance to you:

Drainage/Water and Sewer/Police & Protection/Parks and Rec./Roads/ Development

- Number One: Police
- Second: Development
- Third: Roads
- Forth: Drainage
- Fifth: Water and Sewer
- Sixth: Parks and Recreation

7) If the annual city budget was \$100, how much money would you assign to each department (I am roughly looking to see what percentage of 100 you would assign to each subject)

- Police: \$25.00
- Water and Sewer: \$20.00
- Roads: \$20.00
- Drainage: \$15.00
- Parks and Recreation: \$15.00 (needs its own tax levy).
- Development: \$5.00