

The Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce recently sent a questionnaire with questions for Wilsonville candidates to fill out. I submitted my responses (they are posted below), however, I am also including some questions not included by the Chamber that I thought our city's business community would want to know.

What unique skills do you bring to council that would benefit work serving our business community?

My profession is in data analysis and I have worked in a variety of roles doing research, evaluation and assessment for different programs and systems. I have worked for private companies, non-profits and in the field of higher education. I have a very analytical approach, am comfortable digesting complex data, and base my decisions on careful research. I am currently working on a graduate degree from Syracuse University in the field of Business Analytics from the Whitman School of Business and I am motivated to continue to expand my own skills and learning in this area.

I also have a background as a partner in a small firm that did outsourced institutional research for colleges and universities. I served as the Director of Research Projects and managed partner association's national benchmarking reports, and worked with projects that supported schools by providing predictive models in the areas of admissions and student persistence. Over several years we grew the company and increased profits year over year, until we were acquired by another larger company. During these years I felt both the excitement and intense demands small businesses experience when developing their company. I am familiar with sweat equity and the personal investment small business professionals put into their work. I am also happy to say I know the success that can come when a well-functioning team works together and builds on each other's strengths.

What have you done recently to help expand your understanding of the business community's needs?

Just a few weeks prior to the onset of COVID-19, I was happy to attend the 2020 Greater Portland Economic Summit along with Wilsonville business leaders and hear from many panelists and presenters in our region. I have also attended several Clackamas County Business Alliance events that help provide information to businesses in our community and support the economic strength of Clackamas County. Both the City of Wilsonville and Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce are members of this group. It has been very exciting to attend several Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremonies for Wilsonville businesses and I appreciate the opportunity to welcome these businesses to our city. These touch points are also valuable in having conversations with local businesses that help build understanding and relationship building.

Finally, while attending League of Oregon City annual conferences and New Partners for Smart Growth conferences, I have sought out many sessions that present information on both the challenges and successes local governments have found in encouraging economic development in their areas. I recognize my involvement in all of these areas is important and I will continue to expand my learning as I believe our partners in the Wilsonville business community are important for the success of our city.

What are current things the city can do with infrastructure to help support the business community?

While government does not create business, it can help create a setting that will help business be successful. Part of this is certainly creating an environment that is attractive to businesses, provides long-term stability, and which will thereby help them be successful. For example, building our own water treatment plant was a bold step for the city that helped ensure control over our resources. The current plant can produce 15 million gallons/day of high-quality water that is desired by multiple Wilsonville businesses. Now, I support innovation

within our city operations as we prepare for future expansion of capacity. This year the city will be conducting a pilot project over the next year to explore increasing production capacity. The Willamette River Water Treatment Plant Filtration Study will study up-rating primary treatment processes to increase production capacity to 20 million gallons/day without the need to build additional major infrastructure. If successful, this study has the potential to save the city and water users substantial financial resources. I applaud the City's efforts in bringing invention and careful planning to benefit all facets of our community members.

I also appreciate the careful planning that has gone into road design and construction in our industrial employment areas and look at how we can continue this into the future. Current street improvements along Garden Acres Road is one example of this. This project will construct an industrial roadway connection suitable for supporting industrial vehicles and safe access to future businesses in the Coffee Creek Industrial Area.

And finally, I believe that maintaining attractive open areas, clean streets, quality parks, and excellent city amenities all contribute to creating a place that people want to be. This draws in customers and employees to our area, and reflects a level of care and expectation for community success that I believe is fitting to our city's ethos.

As employers hear that housing is a pressing need for our region as a whole, how can Wilsonville's housing strategy also help the business community

I understand that economic development extends to many other areas of the City's work—housing, transportation, and childcare are key issues that affect employee's ability to find balance in their work and personal lives. When any of these areas experience significant stress, it effects an individual's ability to perform their job, access their work site, and become part of our community. It also effects an employer's ability to attract and retain their workforce over the long-term. In the area of housing, I support the City's plans to offer a variety of housing types that is responsive to the community needs. More diverse housing options can help spark more local job opportunities, which would allow residents to both live and work in the community, in turn alleviating some of the traffic. The amenities we offer in our community, like parks, trails, our library, and thoughtful neighborhood planning all contributes to making Wilsonville a setting that bolsters the health and success of businesses and employees. Transit is another important amenity and we also should support both vehicle and bike/ped mobility to ease in-city commutes.

WILSONVILLE

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 3, 2020 General Election for the City of Willsonville

Mayor and City Council Candidates Business Constituency Survey

(Please limit your individual answers to 100 words or less. Responses need to be emailed back to kevin@wilsonvillechamber.com and received no later than noon on 9/4/2020)

Candidate Name: Kristin Akervall

1. If elected (re-elected), what will be your priorities in office to promote a healthy business environment in Wilsonville?

I believe that communication and thoughtful planning is necessary for a healthy business environment. I welcome involvement from our business community as we make plans that directly impact our business community (such as the partnerships that went into the Town Center Plan). I have also greatly appreciated business community's involvement in the Urban Renewal Task Force as we continue to look at program models that will be a good fit for our community and benefit investment in Wilsonville, job creation, and use of community resources. Finally, I anticipate city staff will continue to bring professionalism in providing supports and services for our business community. As we face the challenges of our current point in time, I wish for a new page of cooperation and collaboration that will benefit our loved city, Wilsonville.

2. In office, how do you envision that you will reach out to Wilsonville's business community for their input in policy decisions?

Wilsonville has used the task force model for many projects, and I think it can be effective in bringing everyone's voices around the table when important plans are being developed. I appreciate Kevin O'Malley, and other business members from Wilsonville, serving on many of these task forces. One good thing that has come from COVID-19 is how quickly we have learned to adapt to participating in online forums. This medium allows easier access for community members to join a meeting and offer feedback while balancing their own busy lives and professional demands. I will also continue to have an open door to all members of the community and look forward to hearing their thoughts and future productive collaboration.

3. Do you believe it is important to engage with the Chamber of Commerce, and how do you plan to partner with the Chamber while in office?

During my time on council whenever invited to Chamber of Commerce events, I have made an effort to attend and I have greatly appreciated these opportunities to converse and celebrate with our community businesses. I do believe it is important to engage with the Chamber of Commerce and I would like to continue being part of both these formal events and casual conversations. I appreciate the work the Chamber has done in hosting events that lead to these varied engagements and look forward to future participation. As mentioned above, I also welcome the Chamber's involvement in city Task Forces, open houses, and community feedback events.

4. What is your position regarding the runway expansion at the Aurora Airport, or commercial development to expand jobs at the Aurora Airport?

I believe that all people in our community should have a voice in matters that effect their quality of life. I welcome participation and collaboration from all within our city matters, and in topics effecting our greater region. I support Oregon land use laws and believe in the benefit of having open and transparent public processes that follows the structure set in place by our state government for equitable outcomes. These processes are built to encourage trust, respect, and long-term health for all in our community. The airport serves as a resource for businesses in our region and, of course, many businesses are part of the airport itself, but I do believe all projects need to follow the public process within Wilsonville and in our greater region.

5. What would you propose as policies to encourage new business development in the City of Wilsonville, particularly in the Coffee Creek area?

I believe improving the infrastructure in this area is critical so that businesses find it a promising area to grow their business. The Urban Renewal district has been helpful in this and we need to continue to push infrastructure projects forward while we are promoting to new and expanding businesses. In addition, the adoption of the Coffee Creek Industrial Form-Based Code provides project applicants clear standards to create a streamlined process for high-quality site development. This code is important in presenting the balance of certainty of guidelines, yet still allowing a range of flexibility with adjustment criteria for a limited set of standards. I am interested in hearing feedback during this pilot period for the new form-based code and examining its effectiveness in simplifying the development process while still maintaining the quality of development we desire for Wilsonville.

6. With the exception of some grants, the lion's share of SMART's current budget is funded by payroll taxes from Wilsonville businesses. Currently, riders and the community do not contribute meaningful monies to the funding of SMART. Do you believe that is a sustainable model, and if not, what should be considered to address SMART funding?

I believe our SMART staff have done a tremendous job operating services for our city as well as conducting thoughtful budgeting that allows for careful use of our resources. With the inclusion of all revenue sources, I feel we currently have a sustainable model. I do believe it is important we consider the amount of grant funding SMART receives when considering the operating framework for our SMART services. In the most recent 2020-21 city budget, it is noted that the proposed budget resources for 2020-21 is \$5,050,000 from payroll taxes and \$5,296,588 from intergovernmental grants. The amount of resources that the SMART team has been able to bring into our city is incredible, and has been a clear benefit in regards to administrative efforts in this area. We must consider how we use the administrative time of our staff, and I support the current work of SMART and am proud of our successes. The SMART transit system does a great job supporting our businesses by helping transport employees to and from work and bring customers around our city for their shopping needs.

7. Do you approve of the current model for appointment volunteer committees and commissions, and to filling vacant council seats? If not, what changes would you propose?

I believe this model is set by both the mayor position (makes recommendations for committees and commissions) and city manager (appoints task force members) and I have appreciated the tremendous amount of time our current mayor has put into interviewing volunteers. I do believe application materials should be publicly accessible. I also greatly appreciate the service our volunteers give to the community through their time

and skills. I am thankful for the many thoughtful and caring people that have offered to help serve Wilsonville in many different positions and want to support their willingness to do this important work for our city.

8. When the City Council is expecting to make a decision impacting local businesses, should those issues be published ahead of the City Council Meeting and included as an agenda item as opposed to Mayor's reports or City Manager's Reports where the topic(s)/issue(s) are not published in advance?

I am committed to good governance. Efficiency, transparency, and clarity is certainly part of this work. Our city charter and city code lays out the process for public meetings and states that the mayor will set the order of business for council meetings. In following this process and for the sake of transparency, the city does in fact publish an agenda in advance of the meeting. However, just as public citizen comment can bring up new topics to any meeting, sometimes urgent issues come up and Council needs to deal with a question or recommendation. Understandably, Council may not know all topics in advance of the publication of the agenda. For the sake of efficiency, Council may need move something forward during the meeting, but still acting in accordance with Oregon state meeting laws and statues. Members of the public and business community are welcome to attend to listen at council meetings and participate during public comment to ensure their interests are heard.

9. What actions would you propose in order to address traffic issues within the city, particularly with congestion on the I-5 Boone's Ferry Bridge?

During my time on council we partnered with ODOT to complete research on the Southbound I-5 congestion. This research ultimately produced the I-5 Wilsonville Facility Plan. Our state representative has since pushed for funding on the state level to scope the proposed Boone Bridge auxiliary lane and seismic improvement project. We need to keep moving this work forward, and we also need to be aware of development adjacent to the city that will impact traffic in Wilsonville. Finally, we need to continue to look at how SMART services will help bring employees in and out of our city in ways that limit traffic congestion on I-5.

8565 SW Salish Lane Suite 150 • Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

“Building Business • Building Community”

503-682-0411 • www.WilsonvilleChamber.com