

Candidate Questionnaire - Brentwood Commission

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Please provide a brief personal bio. *

Husband, Father, soon to be Grandfather, owner/operator of Rhea Little Tire & Auto Repair, Graduated Franklin High School and Belmont University. Lifelong service to Brentwood through work, church, schools, many civic organizations; such as, Brentwood Rotary, the YMCA, Williamson Chamber, etc. Served as a Commissioner for twelve years, Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Planning Commission, Park Board, Tree Board, Environmental Advisory Board, Regional Transportation Authority Board, WCCVB, and numerous other local, regional, state and national boards.

Why are you running for Brentwood Commissioner? How does your background and experience qualify you to hold this position? *

My life spent in Brentwood and my love for and years of service to Brentwood's Citizens, there was a distinct calling to serve Brentwood as a Commissioner and all the many avenues of service that are possible in that role. My great desire to be a leader with a servant's heart, owner/operator of Rhea Little Tire & Auto Repair, Graduated Franklin High School and Belmont University. Serving Brentwood through work, church, schools, many civic organizations; such as, Brentwood Rotary, the YMCA, Williamson Chamber, etc. Served as a Commissioner for twelve years, Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Planning Commission, Park Board, Tree Board, Environmental Advisory Board, Regional Transportation Authority Board, WCCVB, and numerous other local, regional, state and national boards.

What should be the top priorities for Brentwood over the next four years? How would you address and fund these priorities? *

Brentwood is a unique and wonderful City! I think it is the greatest community in the world! Our biggest challenge continues to be growth - especially in how to deal with the growth of communities surrounding us. I would continue to address this challenge by:

1. Maintaining prudent, thoughtful and methodical growth, and continuing our strict requirements of 1 acre density and having high development standards. With communities around us rapidly growing, it is vital we continue with experienced leadership that understands Brentwood's past, the present challenges and with the seasoned vision to see that Brentwood's future will be even better.
2. Continuing with strict attention to wise budgeting to keep us financially strong which helps to combat the challenges of pass-through traffic of communities around us. We will continue to carry out projects, such as the Sunset Road widening, working with the State to get Franklin Rd widened as soon as possible, moving forward with the McEwen Dr. extension, etc. to help with this.
3. Supporting the work to keep our City secure. It has always been very important to the citizens of Brentwood and there has always been great support for our first responders. It is through determined leadership that our Police and Fire Departments are internationally accredited. We will continue and build on that tradition with our new Police Headquarters and fire Station # 5.
4. Promoting our quality of life and health through our world class Library, tremendous parks and trails systems and community events, such as the Independence Day celebration, Crockett Park concerts, Movies in the Park!

As a Brentwood City Commissioner, I have always been dedicated to a strict budgeting process and faithful stewardship to our citizen's tax dollars. We have gone 31 years without a property tax increase, we have a tremendous diversity of revenue sources, our staff is dedicated to achieving the most efficiency and effectiveness to every dollar we spend, looking for the best value in whatever activity we undertake. Due to diligence in budgeting, we will end up with at least 5 million dollars above budget in revenue, which allows us to do things like build Fire Station number 5 in a more rapid fashion because of wise planning. Even during a pandemic, for us to have budget surplus is a testimony to our excellent staff and the Commission's attention to being good stewards.

What is your vision for residential and commercial development in Brentwood over the next decade? What steps will you take to ensure road and other infrastructure improvements keep up with growth? *

Brentwood is 90 percent residential and my commitment to continue to protect Brentwood's residential nature is very strong. As we approach build out, the thoughtful and methodical growth and my commitment to low density, one acre plus residential will continue. As for commercial, our commercial is 5 percent of our land but provides approximately 60 % of our revenues, it is very important to our continued strength and independence. Our commercial is on the far north and far south of our City and I have and always will be committed to keeping the commercial areas in those places. It is very important to keep our commercial areas vibrant but in keeping with the nature of Brentwood and the resident's desires. Brentwood is a sought out community, with Brentwood's excellent demographics and high land value. Businesses that desire to be in our commercial area will be best served and will best serve if they conform to the desires and wants of Brentwood's unique and premier community.

Our strict budgeting allows us to do local road projects, such as, Ragsdale Road and Sunset road improvements, intersection improvements, signalization improvements, etc. Also our planning and budgeting process also allows us to be shovel ready as we work with state and federal entities on many of our major thoroughfares, that go through Brentwood, but the state and federal governments control. We also continue great co-operation with cities like Franklin as we look towards the McEwen extension.

What role should the Brentwood Board of Commissioners play in promoting economic development opportunities? *

We best promote Economic development by continuing our dedication to our residential nature and our strict development standards. We are a premiere desirable community and our emphasis on safety and security, financial discipline, thoughtful methodical growth and the excellent intelligence and demographics of our citizens, Brentwood will continue to be one of the most desired communities in the world for businesses to operate in. As long as the businesses meet our high standards and are appropriate for our community, then we will allow them to conduct business in our strictly delineated commercial areas. By continued wise management and strict financial discipline Brentwood will continue to have appropriate economic development.

Do local governments in TN need broader taxing authority granted from the General Assembly? Does Brentwood? If so, what specific revenue-generating options would you support? *

It is always helpful to be able to have more control at the local level. At the local level, government is closest to those they serve and best understand their citizen's needs and wants and can most efficiently serve those needs and wants. However, we have certain taxes and fees that we have the authority to do and do not have those at their maximum (Natural Gas Franchise Fee, Cable TV Franchise Fee, Hotel/Motel Tax, etc.), we do this by being strict and efficient in our budgeting process. Over the last few years, the State Legislature has taken away local taxing authority in a few areas and it is my goal to prevent the State from taking even more local taxing authority away, since it often leads to less efficient use of our citizen's money. Our desire is for the State to allow Brentwood to have the taxing authority that allows us to most efficiently and effectively use our citizen's taxes to produce the most value for those who live in Brentwood.

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