



## Thoughts.....!

The lights have been burning late most Tuesday nights in City Hall. Must be the City Commission trying to get a handle on the debt. I have watched the efforts during the past two years and the five have managed to slow down the train. They could not stop or turn it around, but first step in stopping any runaway train is to get a brakeman on the wheel. It looks like we have two brakemen on the wheel of the city debt, but to stop the train we need a third.

The city election is coming up in April and I am interested in hearing what the seven declared candidates will actually do if elected. A number of Forums will be hosted by various groups. Those candidates that are truly concerned with listening to the citizens and being open and honest should attend all of the forums, courage will be on display. Absolute candor is my expectation from each and every candidate. We might judge the courage of the candidates. With my large ears I should be able to hear the comments made at the forums. I for one will be totally informed before I cast a ballot. I want to find two or three more brakemen.

One of the earliest is at the City Library on 23 February and is hosted by Our Manhattan. A voter's guide is anticipated to be in print on the evening of the forum. I trust all of the candidates will have the fortitude and courage to answer the 12 questions that OM has circulated as part of the voters' guide. I obtained a copy of the questions that were distributed to the candidates and have posted a copy below.

The snow has melted and I like the new lighting in the City Park – great cooperation between the City and KSU on using the City University Fund to light up the pathway. [Mr. K](#)



## **Our Manhattan Voter Guide Questionnaire – City Commission Election 2013**

Please answer **Yes** or **No** to the following questions. You may provide an explanation or additional comments by expanding the space below each question. Additional comments or topics may be added to the concluding remarks section. Thank you for participating in the Our Manhattan Voters Guide.

1. **Y N** Do you support a study to consolidate or produce a unified City/ Riley County government?
2. **Y N** Do you support increased mil levy for outside agencies, special interest groups and other projects that are not core to the city mission? (Please remark on your definition of core projects)?
3. **Y N** The Citizens recently approved the ½ cent sales tax. The revenue for the City of Manhattan is allocated 35% to debt relief and 65% to infrastructure/economic development. Should the majority of the funds in the 65% category go to infrastructure?
4. **Y N** 35% of the approved sales tax must be used for property tax relief/debt reduction. The revenue gained should reduce the city debt by at least 1 million dollars per year. Should the City Commission pass a resolution or statement of policy ensuring that no new bonds are issued unless bonds of like value are retired thus ensuring a steady one million dollar per year debt reduction over the ten year life of the tax?
5. **Y N** If elected, will you support efforts to vote/re-instate the City LGBT or Civil Rights Ordinance that was rescinded in 2011?
6. **Y N** If elected would you support efforts to vote/re-instate the rental inspection program that was rescinded in 2011?
7. **Y N** Do you support continued Municipal building programs like the projected Library expansion, City Hall Expansion, Parks and Recreation Office building and other regional projects like the Field House and Welcome Center Proposal?
8. **Y N** Do you support providing tax dollars to aTa to provide fixed route bus service to the region?
9. **Y N** Should the City establish wage rates for businesses receiving economic development subsidies? Do you support changing the city economic development plan to include a living wage requirement?
10. **Y N** Do you support the SOS initiative to dedicated 2% of the General Fund to support the ten social services agencies that are provided tax dollars from the city?
11. **Y N** Do you support the mayor joining the national organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns? Should Manhattan enact additional gun ordinances?
12. **Y N** The Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization has been established. The cost for the next two years will exceed 100K for the City. Do you support using the ½ cent sales tax to fund the MPO cost?

Remarks (please provide any other additional comments that you may find appropriate).