

## QUESTIONS

### FOR LANCASTER CITY TREASURER

1. Would you briefly describe in general terms your view of the duties and responsibilities in your role as Treasurer. What do you view as your main function in this role? **I view the main function of the Lancaster City Treasure as providing an independently elected check and balance on city spending and purchasing processes and procedures. Specifically, this involves reviewing and approving/returning for additional information purchase orders originating within city departments that have received approvals from department leadership and then move to the City Controller. Another critical function for the City Treasure is to provide an independently elected voice and vote on the City's multiple Pension Boards (Police, Fire and Non-Bargaining) and oversee the Trust & Charity Fund.**
2. Please describe your working relationship with the Mayor and Business Administrator. How often do you meet with them and what issues are discussed? **Patrick Hopkins has been one the best to work with as I have witness him treat every city employee with dignity and respect, regardless of position and or political affiliation. We meet as needed to discuss issues that may be of a time sensitive nature. Issues discussed vary depending on the circumstance and can include submitted purchase orders, city projects etc. We also meet quarterly as we all sit on the City Pension Boards**
3. Do you believe the current arrangement in which daily duties of the office of the Treasurer are signed over to the administration leads to good customer service? **I do not believe this process ensure great customer service, nor do I believe if the Treasure elect was maintaining the signed over duties that it will guarantee good customer service. I do believe that the elected City Treasure and Elected Controller should have more interaction and or authority over the City Treasure Department**
4. Do you believe the Optional Third Class City Charter Law – Plan A limits your flexibility in carrying out your responsibilities? If yes, in what areas? **I do not.**
5. Do you believe there are duplicative, fragmented and/or overlapping areas in the elected and administrative functions of City government?
6. Does the current budget process provide for appropriate involvement by your office? **I am not directly involved in the budget creation process. I see my role in this process beginning after City Council has approved a budget that goes into effect on January 1st . Once this occurs, my role related to approval of purchase orders (see Question 1) begins. I do believe the City Treasure and City Controller should see the proposed budget before they get presented to council**
7. How often, if at all, do you meet with Council, a Council member or its representative on the activities of your office and was information presented? Has Council assigned any specific powers to your office as permitted under the Optional Charter? **Since taking office, interaction with council has been very limited and or minimal in regards to my office.**

8. Do you believe the City has the resources to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its residents? If not, what are the shortcomings? How could they be addressed? **I believe that the City of Lancaster faces challenges like many third-class cities across Pennsylvania. On the revenue side, a structural overreliance on property taxes to fund services has led to steadily increasing tax rates to ensure City services remain at levels expected (and deserved) by residents.**

9. What are the biggest challenges facing the City? What are the solutions? Does the City have the authority and ability to address these challenges under the Optional Charter form of government? **I believe that the City of Lancaster faces challenges like many third-class cities across Pennsylvania. Majority of the City budget goes to Police and Fire, but those are not the only service that the City provides for its residents. The current process only allows the city to collect money through property tax and the fee collected from that only cover part of the total budget.**

10. Do you believe the City can benefit from any possible restructuring including remaining under the Optional Charter form of government? If yes, why, and what changes would you recommend? If no, why not?

**I do believe that the charter form can empower the citizen even more in the way that government is run by changing the format of how council is elected and the power of council. This can also give citizens more insight on what is important to them in the city budgeting process.**

**The problem with changing the format to a Council Run government is that it will require all those that are elected to council to be a full time employee of the city, which will then add to the overall budget challenges that we are trying to address now.**