

PAUL HINTERLONG FOR NAPERVILLE

SUPPORT PAUL ON TUESDAY APRIL 2ND 2019

The League of Women Voters City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2019 Election

What are your priorities for developing Ogden Avenue and the other empty spaces in Naperville?

My number one priority is to continue to work towards solutions to bring businesses to the Ogden Avenue corridor. Businesses are starting to fill some empty buildings and starting to invest in their existing locations. I am hopeful that in the near future we can make some differences in our vacancies along the East Ogden Avenue corridor. I will continue to work with the Naperville Development Partnership and the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce to attract Businesses to Ogden Ave. I will also move forward with our incentive plan to give small loans towards the replacement of old monument signs that are old and outdated to bring them in compliance with our new vision for the Ogden Ave. corridor.

Other retail vacancies around town have different challenges. The old Dominick's stores around town were leased out by Jewel to prevent competition with their other stores. Lately, they let the location at Route 59 and 95th Street go. A fitness center is looking to move in to that location and possibly a boutique food store in a portion of the space as well. Other challenges with stripe centers is the fact that the smaller businesses are finding it harder to compete with Amazon, which we are losing \$3 million a year in online sales taxes hence, the urgency to shop local. Our vacant office space along the I-88 corridor is at the lowest levels in years, so we're doing very well in the commercial corridors as a whole.

Please explain why you do or do not support the use of TIF Districts or special financing districts in Naperville?

I do not support TIF districts or special financing districts in Naperville. TIF's hold back much needed tax dollars to our schools for 23 years. The taxes are frozen at the level at which time the TIF starts. Our schools are facing many cuts from the state already and the only revenue source they have to balance their budgets is through taxes. This would be too great of a burden on our school districts. I am not in favor of special financing districts as well. Naperville sells itself with the services, utilities, infrastructure, educated work force and one of the safest cities in the nation, so typically we don't offer incentives.

How would you address the city's shortage of affordable housing?

Whether you're a senior, empty nester, college grad, or a young family trying to stay in Naperville or move to Naperville, it's extremely difficult to find something that's both available and cost-effective to meet your needs. It's imperative that we concentrate on finding solutions in our ordinances and zoning codes that will give us more opportunities for a diverse housing stock that will meet the needs of these individuals.

We have opportunities as the owners of the property of the 5th Avenue study area to find some solutions to our affordable housing. I look forward to the discussions about housing alternatives for all ages with-in the development and will push to have those discussions. I think we could have some very positive results in regards to meeting our obligations in affordable housing.

Please explain why you do or do not support eliminating the Naperville Township Highway Department and having the duties assumed by the Naperville Township?

I believe the voters 2 years ago voted to consolidate Naperville and Lisle Townships in a referendum to reduce the size of government and to save taxes. Naperville Township only has 16 road miles left to take care of, so I think the voters saw an opportunity to save costs. As a candidate for the Naperville City Council, I am not up to speed of why this is coming back to the voters. However, if their plan was to eventually keep it within the township and sub contract the work out or seek an intergovernmental agreement with the city or another township to save costs, I could support that.

Do you support keeping and maintaining the Millennium Carillon?

The consultants are finalizing their reports now and in a few months they will send their findings to the Riverwalk Commission for their review and recommendations. Preliminary findings show that the issues with the Carillon are not as problematic as was first thought and that there is no sense of urgency at this time so we can take the time to thoroughly decide what direction and alternatives we have going forward. That said, the initial cost estimates will be reduced substantially, so finding funding sources should be easier to achieve. The Carillon is part of the Riverwalk and just like the Riverwalk, we've spent tens of millions of dollars in maintenance and upgrades through the years. Nothing is maintenance free and we have to maintain our capital assets just like our buildings and roads.