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Candidates were all asked identical questions, and all answers were received prior to publishing, so other candidates did not know how others answered. Because there are 14 candidates for the four available seats on the Liberal City Commission, a primary election must be conducted Feb. 28 to narrow the field down to eight. Then the general election will be on April 2.

DAVE HARRISON



Why did you decide to run for the Liberal City Commission? I enjoy being involved in my community and helping to build community spirit, relationships and pride.

What do you believe is Liberal's greatest asset?

Definitely our people.

What do you believe is Liberal's biggest challenge?

Our lack of affordable housing. Liberal needs to address that shortage in a way that would stimulate developers to build. If a company is to locate in Liberal, there needs to be places for its workforce to live.

Are you willing to review and follow the priorities set by the community for the 1-cent sales tax when it was renewed in 2010?

Absolutely I am.

What are your economic priorities for Liberal?

We should focus on any business, new or existing, that wants to create new jobs in our community. There are always opportunities to be explored, but we have to make the effort to define these and then be willing to do what it takes to secure them. We need to focus on economic development that makes sense for Southwest Kansas and enhances our citizens economic well being.

How have you been involved in the community (volunteerism, etc.)?

Six years city commission, six years Southwest Medical Center hospital board, four years SKADAF board, two years SWMC foundation board, two years Focus on the Future

How would you utilize Liberal's existing assets to develop a more prosperous community?

Our assets that include water, oil and gas and agriculture are areas where the potential for growth over the next few years is outstanding.

As a city government, we should be ready to help these and any other industries that wish to expand or locate here by providing quality municipal services and a safe and livable community.

Be ready to discuss incentives and anything else that might be helpful in making them successful and want to expand or locate here.

DEAN ARAGON



Why did you decide to run for the Liberal City Commission? I decided to run for the opportunity to learn more about our city government.

What do you believe is Liberal's greatest asset?

Liberal's greatest asset has always been the people that live here.

What do you believe is Liberal's biggest challenge?

I believe that would be lack of affordable housing and more school rooms.

Are you willing to review and follow the priorities set by the community for the 1-cent sales tax when it was renewed in 2010?

Yes I am. I think the 1-cent tax has done great things for Liberal.

What are your economic priorities for Liberal?

I'd like to see more manufacturing jobs come to Liberal. I think we could do more to attract and keep new business here. I'd like to work with county commissioners, JEDC and Liberal Chamber of Commerce to make this happen.

How have you been involved in the community (volunteerism, etc.)?

Past chair of Cinco de Mayo celebration, past president of Liberal Chamber of Commerce, present board for Liberal Bee Jays.

How would you utilize Liberal's existing assets to develop a more prosperous community?

First, I would have to learn more about how our city commission works and then see how we utilize our current assets to continue the success our past commissioners have had.

I think our city has grown and has prospered but also has opportunities. I'd like to be a part of Liberal's continued growth and look forward to our future opportunities.

I would like to see more people get involved in our city and what happens in Liberal. I believe we have a great staff on the city now and also a good police department. I hope to work with all of these departments and learn more about how they operate.

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