

Recently Asked Questions #2
October 3, 2018

Campaigns can be messy. People are quick to jump to conclusions, hear what they want to hear, tell lies, and spread lies as truth. Here are some recently asked questions and my honest answers. FACTS are better than fiction and drama. The City of Ward is not a reality show, let's not make it that way.

As always, if you have a question or want to confirm or dispel a rumor, please call me at 501-413-9341 or send me an email at charlie@cgastineau.com. You can also visit my Facebook page, Gastineau for Ward Mayor, or my website, www.cgastineau.com.

1	<p>I heard the new Wastewater Treatment Plant will be at capacity when its complete.</p> <p>Is that true?</p>	<p>FALSE. The new Treatment Plant WILL NOT be at capacity when it comes online.</p> <p>Let's do some simple math to see how long it should last before it is at capacity:</p> <p>If we assume the current plant is receiving 500,000 gallons per day (GPD) (it was built to 300,000 GPD) and the new plant will process 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD), then the new plant will be running at 1/3 capacity when it goes on-line. If we also assume our current population is 5,500 (Metroplan has it at about 5,311...but rounding up), our population would have to be 16,500 before the new plant has reached capacity.</p> <p>So, how many years till we reach 16,500 population? According to the Metroplan, Ward has been growing at a rate of 30.6% over the last eight years, from 2010 to 2018. If we assume a 30.6% growth rate into the future, we will reach a population near 16,500 somewhere around the year 2050, or 32 years from now.</p> <p>You can play with the numbers, but the bottom line is the new plant WILL NOT be at capacity when it comes online and will service the city for many years.</p>
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2	<p>Are you still for looking into having bonds as a form of paying for things the city needs, as you were in 2014 when you were the only one that voted against a new one-cent sales tax?</p>	<p>Absolutely; a bond could have been issued back then. My point then was that no other options had been discussed other than passing a one-cent sales tax. I was quoted in the Leader Newspaper as saying, "I'm not satisfied with our exploring alternative avenues of revenue. We're up against a time crunch here (to be on the November ballot). I don't know why this was brought up just last month."</p> <p>Recently Cabot issued a \$2.6 million bond to fund the construction of a new fire station. They are using an existing revenue stream (Franchise Fees) to pay for the Debt Service. However, if a city doesn't have an existing revenue stream to pay for the bonds, they can ask for a tax hike OR obligate existing taxes to pay for the debt service. In our case, we could ask for X amount to pay for a certain capital improvement project (such as streets) and obligate one-half cent (or some amount) of the existing one-cent sales tax to pay the bond indebtedness until it is paid in full. Once the bond is paid in full, the obligated taxes either go back into the General Fund or go away depending on how the measure is worded. Remember that any change in taxes (raising, lowering, obligating) requires a vote of the people. Neither the Mayor nor the City Council can do that on their own.</p> <p>YES, if elected, I will be looking at a bond issue to pay for capital improvement projects, and NO, I do not intend to raise taxes to do so. We will look at using existing revenue sources to fund the bonds, such as obligating existing sales tax monies.</p> <p>In that same Leader Newspaper article (written in 2014), Mayor Brooke, speaking about the one-cent sales tax that was going to the voters said, "if the tax passes, in five years, the city could look at passing a bond issue."</p> <p>We are there.</p>
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