

Mike Musick

musickforlakeland@gmai...

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March 1, 2021 21:43

Name	Mike Musick
Office Seeking	City commission district d
Do you currently reside in the district?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Years lived in Lakeland?	42
Campaign Address	[REDACTED]
Campaign Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Campaign Email	musickforlakeland@gmail.com
Campaign Website	www.Musickforlakeland.com
Party Affiliation	Republican
Education	Fsu geology Finishing degree in psychology at southeastern university
Occupation	Construction and roofing contractor
Employer	Musick construction and roofing
Have you attended a Public Leadership Institute/Political Leadership Institute (hosted by a Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you ever run for office before?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe your civic involvement:	Attend local meeting that have direct impact to my situation. Aim to buy and support local first. Founder of leverage ministries with a focus on lakeland's underserved youth. Heritage baptist church deacon Board member of camp gilead in Polk city
List any Boards on which	Lakeland historic board

you serve, including positions of leadership

Lakeland board of adjustments and appeals

Describe your political involvement:

In the past have been supporters and help as needed for Scott Franklin, Keli Stargel and Bill Mutz on their campaigns.

Why are you running for office?

Because it matters...
it matters who we elect and what their positions are on taxes (I never saw a tax I liked)
It matters what the candidate thinks of business growth and development (I believe we need to continue to encourage new businesses to set up shop in Lakeland into support our existing businesses)
It matters if the candidate has real world business experience. (I've owned my own business for over 20 years and know what it's like to manage payroll, work within a budget, and make the tough business decisions)
It matters if the candidate is committed helping Lakeland be the best it can be for those who are coming behind us with strong leadership and a fiscally conservative attitude. (That's me and I'm ready to serve!)

I.

Hospital lease, but it appears that will be settled before I take the seat. I believe the money should be set into an account that will generate interest and the monies used in the balanced budget. Even though we can't bind future commissions we need to be prudent to set up the budget to work efficiently within the interest payment and not spend more than we have. Since I believe the above issue will be taken care of for the most part I believe the attention should be turned to the RP funding center. I believe with the assets they have and setting Covid aside we should see a Center that can generate money while still setting dates aside for smaller organizations and nonprofits to use the facilities. It's a great asset that should and can cover its expenses.

II.

Lakeland electric generator issues. We have the opportunity to have this power generation facility be a tremendous asset but with the closing of Macintosh number three in the future we need to be prepared. It doesn't do us any good if we generate our own power only to need to buy some from the surrounding power companies. Plan for future maintenance and set the money aside so we don't put another power company in control if we aren't generating enough.

III.

We have a city budget of just over \$605 million. Of that 29% is personnel. We need to be prudent in evaluating city pay, raises and other expenditures to make sure we are being prudent and transparent. 11% of the budget is debt service and I would work to see that eliminated. 19% is fuel and purchase of power and that needs to be a minimized outlay to other municipalities. We need to have the strongest most efficient electric company we can.

Rank the following as you see their current order of importance for the City of Lakeland:

1: Reducing taxes and government spending

2: Improving roads and infrastructure

3: Improving parks and recreational facilities

4: Improving public safety

Cut Spending

During an economic downturn, how should the Lakeland City Commission handle increasing and decreasing City tax revenues caused by the normal economic cycle? You may check more than one choice. Depending on your choice/choices, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

Depending on your choice/choices above, please state what you would cut and what you would increase.

What do you believe are the main issues facing Lakeland's downtown urban core?

What is your opinion on government providing incentives to businesses?

How can the City of Lakeland help attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce?

I believe the government should be run just like you and I run our businesses and our personal budgets. We cannot spend money that we do not have we can't just go and raise prices (ie taxes) we live within our budget and I would require that the city does the same. Those are tough decisions but they need to be made Math doesn't lie.

The lakeland downtown urban core needs to continue to offer adequate housing for both businesses and their employees. It will also need to have mixed use available for the residence downtown to get all of the items they need within a walking distance. The East and west need to be brought together through proper development and create better continuity throughout the core

If the government is going to provide incentives it would need to be thoroughly analyzed to make sure that the incentives are short term and that the benefit that the city receives are ongoing and exponentially more than the incentives given.

Lakeland is a beautiful centrally located city that currently has a lot to offer businesses. We have low property taxes and have wonderful parks and rec facilities. We offer great access to logistical hubs and the i4 corridor. We can continue to work with large companies like Summit to set up shop and invest millions in the downtown area. By continuing to be committed to incubators like catapult we can help home grow individuals get the start they need. With so many colleges and universities within a few miles of downtown including Florida Polytechnic University we can offer a talented and experienced workforce for companies from pharmaceutical to hi tech and gig companies.

The future of Lakeland is bright indeed!