

Erika Johanson, Democracy Direct White Rock

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you're running for City Council:

This is a job I am applying for and I am running because I am well qualified. With a degree in Political Science, I have the education. I have the experience: working in municipal governments such as the City and County of San Francisco, I know how municipal governments work. I have created business plans and budgets, feasibility studies and cost benefit analyses. I bring my projects in on time and on budget. I am knowledgeable about issues specific to White Rock. I will be an effective member of city council and can hit the ground running.

I will be commitment to this job – committed to restoring openness and transparency, committed to being an advocate for all residents of White Rock – committed to a Council that listens to everyone...not just a few.

2. Several candidates are independent, and while others are part of a slate, it is entirely possible that only one from a slate may be elected. Regardless of whether you are part of a slate or an independent, how will you work with what may be a mayor & council with diverse viewpoints to bring forward your ideas and address issues?

I have worked as a consultant in the IT field for over 30 years. As a consultant, I have had contracts with many companies on a diverse range of fields – from business taxes and auditing to distribution planning and scheduling for a major utility company; from juvenile probation to supply chain management. Each project challenged me with a new set of people and personalities. I attribute my success to my strong communication skills (mainly listening) and ability to bring people together from various departments with differing agendas to develop solutions to complex problems.

The City of White Rock is facing complex problems and I will bring my unique combination of experience and education to the table.

3. Affordability is a major challenge for residents and businesses in White Rock. Sky high property values lead to rising housing costs and expensive leases, making it hard for people to live here and businesses to stay here. How will you address this existential threat to our community?

I will work to stop the practice of city planning based on DCCs and CACs. I will work to use CACs to provide for affordable housing instead of more concrete along the foreshore.

Among the proposals PH2P advocates, I would support:

- creating a rental-only zone.
- waiving the DCCs for affordable and non-market housing.
- contributing land to the development of public, non-market housing.

I would ask for a public consultation process on Airbnb-type rentals to study the impact of these rentals on the supply of secondary suites.

We should be taking advantage of funding that is available now from provincial and federal governments for affordable, non-market housing.

The City should have a permanent rental housing task force representative of the community.

4. How will you improve our transportation system- including roads, sidewalks, transit, and bike routes- to ensure that our community is accessible for residents and visitors?

Safety is a concern. The lighting at night is sparse and it is difficult and dangerous to be walking out at night. Our roads are in disrepair and not all roads have sidewalks. I would look into fixing our roads and infrastructure rather than focusing on adding more concrete at the beach.

Make the local buses run more frequently and people – including myself – will use them!

5. Communication between the City of White Rock and the residents and businesses have been challenging- there have been concerns that people haven't been informed of projects and decisions. How will you revitalize communications and relationships between residents/businesses and the City?

Restore Question Period and hold regular Town Hall meetings with true public engagement.

Publish Freedom of Information (FOI) requests online once the information has been made available to the requestor.

Post water quality measures online as soon as they are available.

Using available federal funds, implement an online Issues Tracking and Management System similar to those used on IT projects. This will allow a resident to report an issue and track its progress through to completion.

Rather than bury reports in long “agenda” packages, make them available as individual documents.