



## **IRNA & CWC Questionnaire:**

### **Herbicide spraying in canals and retention ponds:**

Glyphosate has been implicated as a cause of cancer in humans. The city had a moratorium in place that banned its use of glyphosate herbicide spraying in the past. However, Glyphosate is not the only bad chemical used in spraying. Will you vote to ban the city's use of other toxic synthetic chemicals on public property such as the canals and the stormwater retention ponds? If not, can you think of an alternative to the spraying to deal with pollution and damages caused to our environment and likely public health by chemical spraying?

*I certainly wish to work to find a more environmentally friendly approach to this. I am not an environmental expert, but I can certainly do my part to understand the problem and find the right people to educate our city leaders on what would do best for our area. I was reading about a method being tested in Sarasota, flocculation, as this is not just a Sebastian issue. The entire state is scrambling to find better methods to treat their canals and retention ponds to find a solution for the algae blooms and negative impacts of chemical sprays on the environment. We need to care about our residents and environment. I think Sebastian has always had nature's best interests in mind, at least in more recent years. We can certainly do our due diligence to find out what other areas are doing that works and what other methods should be considered.*

### **Annexation:**

The Graves Bros. annexation is back in front of the city council, almost twice as big as the failed initial proposal two years ago.

A. Will you as a city council member ensure that there is a fully transparent review process for any new Graves Bros. proposal?

*If elected, I will most definitely be requesting a more detailed & thought-out plan for the acres of land being annexed. We cannot go into this blindly trusting that the plan is going to be good for Sebastian.*

B. How would you rate the process so far and how would you improve it?

*I would say the City has learned lessons from the last go-round and I am pleased with the decision to bring on an experienced attorney to help with this. I am also happy the City held workshops for its citizens, but those could*

*have also been advertised more. Simply relying on citizens to check the City of Sebastian's website or expecting them to see it on Facebook is just not enough. I think more polling of the population in regards to how they see the land being used, more communication on the process and more of a comprehensive plan overall is needed.*

C. Will you advocate for the city and the developer to follow the county's New Town rules and designate half of the annexation property for conservation and open space protection purposes as has been done in other large annexations, especially in Fellsmere?

*I will definitely advocate that the developer keep the environmental impact of this project at the forefront, making certain that everything is being done to keep our water clean and maintaining the maximum amount of green/open space is considered. We simply need to know more.*

#### **Relations with the county:**

What will you do as a city council member to mend and improve relations with the county administration and what do you see as the City's relationship with the County and what it should be?

*I have always lead by example. Even when it is hard to bite my tongue, I will always rise above pettiness and drama and behave in a manner that makes my family, children and fellow citizens proud. I think Sebastian has done a fine job considering the County in their decision making. I think Sebastian historically has reached out and set the example. The County, in my opinion, has not. I think the only way this relationship will be repaired is if Sebastian continues to serve its citizens while following rules set by the State. The relationship will be mended most if the County begins to make decisions with the City of Sebastian in mind.*

#### **Stormwater management:**

The city is investing in a new stormwater management plan. There will be many controversial and expensive recommendations in this plan. In due course the city will be spending millions of dollars on projects to improve stormwater management. As a council member what will you do to improve public transparency, to gather public input on expensive projects that will impact people's lives and homes? Finally, how do you compare how the County maintains and operates it stormwater facilities vs. how the City does

*First of all, it is great that the City of Sebastian is finally tackling this issue seriously. It has been a problem for decades. I have a Master's Degree in Digital Education, where I learned how to teach and communicate effectively through digital methods. I would certainly be able to use those skills to create public information more residents will understand and follow.*

**Septic to Sewer:**

A. Are you in favor of mandatory sewer connections where sewer lines are available?

*I believe in freedom, so nothing should be mandated. I feel when the ability to hook up to sewer is available, there should be incentives encouraging those residents to do so. I know I certainly would hook up, as being restricted to do certain things to your property because of the location of your septic creates additional challenges, plus the negative environmental impacts of septic run-off has been proven.*

B. Should the City offer any financial aid to help connect those homes that are house residents who are not financially able to afford up-front costs, i.e. financed through utility bill, obtain grant funding, etc.

*I certainly don't see anything wrong with having financial aid, in the form of grants, offered to our citizens who want to connect and simply cannot afford it. We have many residents on fixed incomes and who just struggle to afford the day-to-day with the annual cost of living increases at unreasonable percentages thanks to greedy insurance companies and failed federal government policies. It is an item that should be considered during future budget discussions.*

**Sustainable Sebastian:**

The city's natural resources committee has drafted and partly implemented a plan to encourage sustainable behavior in many things its residents and departments do. Some argue that this program is merely superficial and does not get to the heart of creating a truly sustainable community. What would you do to make this a truly effective sustainability program?

*I love that Sebastian is looking at a way to be a more sustainable city. The most crucial component of maintaining a sustainable environment is engaging and enabling citizens to do their part in the effort. Organizations that engage in clean-up activities, animal and plant preservation, lagoon management and other initiatives are key for the sustainment of Sebastian's*

*unique environment. The community has many people and organizations that engage in these initiatives. Going forward, the City should include information about these initiatives in its more effective communication efforts.*

**Upgrading the city's building and tree ordinances:**

How would you suggest these ordinances can be updated to require reducing residential and commercial lawns in favor of native vegetation species and protecting and planting native tree species?

*I don't see why we cannot apply for and use grant monies to fund an Arbor Day initiative where the city offers native trees and plants to its citizens at a reduced cost or free to every household who wants and proves a need for one. The more natural the town, the more beautiful it is, as long as it is well maintained.*

**Future:**

What do you think are the three most urgent, far-reaching and challenging issues facing the city over the next four years?

*The top 3, most urgent issues facing our city are the annexation, working waterfront and properly funding our police department. Our community is highly sought-after for its charming, natural waterfront for both work and play. We need to make sure it stays that way and that any new development along the waterfront keeps Sebastian's history in mind while enhancing the lives of all in the community. As we grow, we need to understand where our City is lacking and be sure to include those areas of concern in the annexation. SPD is understaffed and underfunded. It is critical we address this as a priority. More people equates to more crime and more demands on emergency services, especially in this economic climate. We must support our Police before our city faces a population that does not have adequate police coverage to manage the associated crime and emergencies.*