

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:63 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Melanie Hepperly

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

At Large

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5347 Canterbury Road

City/State/Zip : Fairway, Kansas 66205

4. Phone Number

913-403-9269

5. Email Address

Mjhepperly@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

7. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Retired CPA with over 30 years experience as a Vice President, CFO and Treasurer.

8. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

Thrivent Financial - Kansas/Missouri Regional Board member, currently serving as Chair for past 6 years.

Wayside Waifs - Board of Directors for 12 years, served as President and Treasurer.

Atonement Lutheran Church - Council served as President, Vice President and Treasurer.

9. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

Fairway City Council member for 10 years and Mayor for 4 years. Served as Council President for 8 years and Finance Committee Chair for 9 years. Also served on the Administration, Public Works and Parks and Recreation Committees.

3. Issues and Policy

10. As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (100 words or less)

My top three policy issues are:

- * Maintain our strong fiscal policies which will enable Fairway to continue with the quality of life our services provide for public safety, infrastructure and parks and recreation.
- * Continue collaboration with surrounding cities and the County in developing storm water policies that benefit our region.
- * Continue to review and establish administrative policies setting guidelines preserving our Home Rule and the uniqueness of Fairway.

11. What are your views on the services and value the City's citizens receive for their local tax dollars? (100 words or less)

Fairway city services provided for \$95.28 per month include: Police Protection, Snow Removal, Street Maintenance, Parks and Recreation Programs, Swimming Pool, Parks, Building/Planning, Code Enforcement, Animal Control and Municipal Court.

That is an exceptional value.

12. What changes, if any, would you like to see to the City budget? (100 words or less)

Finance is my area of expertise. The budget process that Fairway uses evaluates each City-provided service annually. Consequently, changes are made when needed. I would not change the process as it allows for an annual review.

13. What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to the community? (100 words or less)

Even though Fairway has very limited commercial properties, the City plays an important role in our economic development both from a jobs point of view and capital investment. Individuals working in our community have a positive financial impact to the City when they visit our shops and our restaurants. Private capital investment is also important to our revenue stream. It is the City's role to ensure the properties are maintained and enhanced for the needs of our community.

14. As the City considers future development and redevelopment projects, describe your views on how the City should best manage and balance growth? (100 words or less)

Future development and redevelopment projects are best managed by the City from a financial position and a community needs assessment, as times change. A project should not be allowed to place a financial risk on the residents. Analysis needs to be extremely thorough. As time passes, the needs of the community change and must be considered with any project brought to the City. Change is difficult but management of change allows for a community to stay relevant.

15. What is your philosophy on the role the City should play in terms of metro-area issues? (100 words or less)

If the issues concern the metro-area and would have an effect on the City, then the City should be involved and have a seat at the table for all discussions. However, if the issues involve subjects best handled by the County, State or Federal governments, due to the small size of the City then the City should not be involved.

16. What do you believe the takeaways for the City should be, if any, from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (100 words or less)

A positive takeaway for the City of Fairway was an opportunity to upgrade our technical capabilities improving our public meetings. And, the creativity in developing ways to continue operations of the City with no loss of service to our residents despite our physical buildings being closed was a tribute to the capabilities of our staff. A huge thank you to all our staff.

17. What do you believe are the greatest challenges the City faces over the next ten years and how would you address them? (100 words or less)

The greatest challenge to the City of Fairway is maintaining the livable community we enjoy. We are landlocked with no open space for growth. We are primarily a residential community with few commercial opportunities. However, with the pride we take in our beautiful City, the quality of governance of our elected officials and staff and the participation of our loyal residents, Fairway will continue to be great.

18. Why are you seeking this public office? (100 words or less)

I enjoy being Mayor and consider the opportunity to serve Fairway an honor.

19. What do you believe makes you uniquely qualified to serve in this position and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (100 words or less)

My strong leadership capabilities and financial background and expertise will result in continued and proven success for Fairway.