1. Tell us about yourself.

I am a dedicated public servant with a strong background in disaster readiness, emergency response, and community leadership. My son serves in the U.S. Marine Corps, and my daughter is heading to Air Force boot camp. I led a mounted search and rescue team and volunteered extensively with Civil Air Patrol and the Young Marines. Currently on the Billings City Council, I bring a steady, mission-focused approach to problem-solving. Outside of public service, I enjoy hiking Montana’s trails with my dogs and spending time in the mountains.

2. Why did you step forward to serve on City Council?

I believe in showing up, doing the work, and making a difference rather than standing on the sidelines. When the opportunity opened in December, I felt called to apply. Since my appointment in January, I have worked hard to represent Billings with dedication, common sense, and a commitment to solving problems.

3. Describe your leadership style.

My leadership style is collaborative, steady, and results-focused. I lead by listening first, understanding the real needs behind issues, and bringing people together around practical solutions. Building consensus requires strong relationships, humility, humor, and the courage to stand firm on priorities like public safety. Respectful collaboration with colleagues, staff, and public safety professionals delivers lasting results.

4. What is the role of city government?

City government exists to serve the people by ensuring that core services—public safety, infrastructure, and essential community support—are strong and reliable. Our role is to listen to constituents, work with businesses, nonprofits, and service providers, and make Billings a safe, healthy, and thriving community. At its best, city government delivers real value and protection for the people it serves.

5. What is the number one issue facing Billings and the biggest challenge?

Public safety is the top priority. Billings faces growing challenges from drugs, human trafficking, gangs, and overdoses, while firefighters respond daily to medical calls, accidents, and emergencies.

The biggest challenge is funding. Changes to state property tax rules create a shortfall in the General Fund, impacting our ability to meet rising demands and maintain competitive pay. My focus is to prioritize public safety, pursue efficiencies, and explore creative funding solutions to recruit and retain the firefighters and police our community needs.

6. How do you understand other council members’ perspectives?

I listen carefully—not just in meetings, but in real conversations. Every council member brings different priorities based on their ward and experiences, and I approach those with curiosity and respect. Billings has competing needs—public safety, housing, infrastructure, economic growth—and I focus on practical ways to meet multiple goals while staying oriented toward long-term outcomes. Progress happens when we work together, even from different starting points.

7. How do you approach public funding requests for fire services?

Funding proposals must be careful, transparent, and collaborative. I work with unions, department leadership, and community partners to ensure proposals are fiscally responsible and clearly communicated. Residents deserve to know their money is used wisely, and firefighters deserve the resources to do their jobs safely. Balancing these priorities is a key part of my role.

8. What is your view of the Union?

The Union is a vital partner, representing the 144 firefighters who serve our community daily. It provides an essential voice on compensation, staffing, health, and working conditions. I see its role as advocacy and collaboration—ensuring firefighters’ perspectives are heard while working constructively with city leadership. Open communication and problem-solving together strengthen both the Union and the community.

9. What is your stance on fire station maintenance and growth?

Firefighters deserve safe, modern, and functional stations. We must maintain and upgrade existing stations while planning for future growth. Renovations like those at Station 5 are long overdue, and planning for a new station is critical to maintain response times. Creative funding, careful budgeting, and collaboration with public safety partners ensure firefighters have the facilities they need to work effectively and safely.

10. How should staffing challenges be addressed?

Local 521 is managing a call volume normally handled by a larger department, which is difficult for both health and safety. Budget constraints mean we must be realistic and creative. I support working with the Union, city leadership, and state/federal partners to increase staffing through phased hiring, grants, regional partnerships, or other innovative approaches. My priority is protecting both the community and our firefighters.

11. How do you prioritize firefighter health and wellness?

Firefighters face extraordinary risks every day—from fires, cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness, sleep disruption, and trauma, with suicide rates three times higher than in the line of duty. Supporting their health means safe staffing, modern protective equipment, accessible mental health resources, and recovery policies. Healthy firefighters make the entire community safer.

12. What is your approach to contract negotiations with Local 521?

Contracts are negotiated by the City Administrator, with Council as final authority. I respect the process, maintain open communication, and review agreements for fairness, fiscal responsibility, and firefighter well-being. Competitive pay, benefits, and working conditions are critical for recruitment and retention, and I am committed to approving contracts that balance the needs of Local 521 with responsibility to taxpayers.

13. How should the city approach prevention and preparedness?

Strong public safety includes prevention. Fire prevention education, wildfire preparedness, and public health partnerships reduce risk, save lives, and protect first responders. I support expanding outreach programs, partnering with schools, neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and health providers, and prioritizing wildfire preparedness as our city grows. Prevention keeps the community safer and allows firefighters to focus resources where they are needed most.