Jonathan Garison

1. I will lead the city council in working with the City Manager’s Office, various city department heads, and relevant federal and state agencies such as TCEQ and the EPA. Using the information provided by expert analysis we will craft well written bind programs to put before voters. We will ensure that the programs target the areas which are most in need first. Only a series of bonds can properly address our infrastructure needs. There is not enough money in the general fund to cover our infrastructure needs, as nearly 60 percent of the general fund goes to our police and fire departments.
2. We should work with CCRTA to bring back water taxi service. I am in favor of allowing companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate within our city.
3. I would like the city to partner with Del Mar, TAMUCC, and local business to create more internship opportunities for students. My plan to create tax reinvestment zones would also help to revitalize the areas around the current Del Mar campuses. This will provide an atmosphere more conducive to the construction of student housing and entertainment venues.
4. A great deal of federal legislation currently exists along with agencies to enforce the same. Legislation does not build acceptance. We need to focus on community activities and committees that will bring together people from all walks of life. Living, working, and playing side by side will foster a community of acceptance.
5. I have a plan for growing revenue and revitalizing our city that is unmatched by any other candidate. The use of tax reinvestment zones to fund small business loans, down payment assistance, and upgrades to public spaces will revitalize existing areas of our city as we continue to grow. I will work with landowners along our bay front to get revenue generating development begun, utilizing imminent domain and the courts as a last resort. I would also like to repurpose public areas such as Heritage Park. We would maintain the Heritage Museum, but lease the other properties to create a district of local stores, restaurants, coffee shops, etc…
6. The issues facing the homeless in our city are numerous and will require many avenues and creative thought to address. I would like to ensure that we have adequate shelter space to provide safety. We would further need to invest in mental and substance abuse treatment to assist some homeless. My reinvestment plans will help to bring new employers and allow others to procure employment to move out of homelessness.
7. I have mixed feelings towards plastic bags. When recycled or used as can liners they can be a relatively green option. On the other hand they have the potential to create an unsightly environment that poses a danger to wildlife. I believe the concept of a bag ban should be put before voters in a referendum.
8. I believe in climate change. The scientific research backing up the concept of climate change is overwhelming and nearly indisputable.
9. My response to an environmental, (water boil), incident caused by a refinery would depend upon the circumstance. Were it a preventable incident I would work to assess fines, fees, etc… up to the full limit of the law. Unlike many, I am not afraid to utilize our court system to ensure the health, safety, and prosperity of our city.
10. I will work with the EPA and TCEQ to ensure that local pollution emitters are following the letter and spirit of the applicable laws, and punished to the fullest extent of the law for noncompliance. I would like to promote greater involvement of local social groups, schools, etc... in bay and neighborhood clean ups. I would work with police department to make sure those that violate our litter and dumping laws are held accountable.
11. I believe our fire department, police department, and parks department are underfunded. I do not think any city department is overfunded. I would advocate for increasing the class size for upcoming police and fire department academies. As a city dependent upon tourism it would be wise to invest in a well-funded parks department.
12. I believe that we can get a bond program passed to begin updating our infrastructure. We can also put in place the tax reinvestment zones to ensure a program of urban renewal to create a city with a high quality of life.
13. I will work with landowners to create an environment conducive to upgrading existing buildings and development of vacant areas in downtown and along the bay front. Creating a walkable downtown with a variety of activities will help to attract new, higher paying employers to downtown. I would like to build a system of tax abatements or credits to upgrade buildings and attract technology start-ups akin to what has been done in Reno, Nevada.
14. I would lead the city as a facilitator and executive. I would work with various interests in our city to create an environment that will foster innovation, growth, and revitalization. I will be focused on creating a city that properly utilizes its natural beauty, diverse population, and creative spirit to create new revenue. Corpus Christi has potential, and I will work with the community to unleash that potential. We can become a city that is destination for people from around the nation and world.
15. I will ensure that we do not endure water boils on a regular and preventable basis. Working with the council, city manager, city departments, various agencies, and voters we will begin rapidly rebuilding our water infrastructure.
16. None of the council members run as party backed candidates. That in itself helps. Beyond that people from any party will desire a growing city with increasing revenue. No matter your political beliefs you need clean water and proper streets.
17. I have years of executive experience. I currently manage multi-million dollar budgets and inventories. I oversee a large number of employees, analyze data, and implement or adjust action plans on a daily basis. I have experience in emergency planning and response. I work everyday with people of various beliefs and from different walks of life.
18. I would move city-council and committee meetings to evening hours more convenient for the majority of residents. I would also limit executive sessions to only matters required by law or ordinance. I will also utilize online and paper-based citizen surveys to solicit input from citizens.
19. Legislation existing at the federal level would probably overrule anything the city could implement. I think that education and community awareness programs will help to make progress in these areas.
20. If I am not elected mayor I will continue to promote the growth and revitalization of our city. I will seek a position on city advisory committees.
21. I live in Corpus Christi with my amazing, intelligent, beautiful wife and our two fantastic children. I have a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Science in Educational Administration, both from Texas A&M University Corpus. I have traveled around the country, but chose to live in Corpus Christi because of the warm climate, beautiful scenery, and warm, diverse people. I want to be mayor to help our community leverage its advantages to build a city with a very high quality of life.