

Micah Peters for Mayor of Spearfish

Bio

Born in Spearfish. Graduated from Spearfish High School. Graduated from School of Mines Mechanical Engineering & Computer Science. SBP SDSMT and Executive director for student bodies, post graduation 10 years work in the North Dakota oilfield. Since then I have been a business owner/property manager for Rental property in Spearfish.

Why am I seeking office

Concern about High turnover rate in staff reporting to Mayor and city administrator

Municipal water sewer garbage has risen 2.5X the speed of inflation over the last 15 years. I want to change the rate of that increase to an inflation adjustment going forward as a way to reduce the cost of living in spearfish.

Reduce wasteful spending, other people's money to me will be just as important or more important than how I spend my money.

Mismanagement of the workforce housing program. In the initial plan the houses were given as a gift to the owners after two years. They would then be able to sell the houses and receive a taxpayer paid windfall. This is bad policy for two reasons, first it gives a one-time windfall at the taxpayer expense second it eliminates the future availability of affordable housing. The new policy has been improved however the improvement only kicks the windfall down the road.

City is not currently responsive to the needs of citizens. This has become apparent when I witness persons organize to a cause and the city just continues with what it sees fit.

Washington street townhouses flooded with sewage and limited city response

Snow plowing in citizens driveways and sidewalks

I do not feel like the city has a vision for the long term. They are more often just tackling the immediate needs of developers and not spending time improving the welfare of the current citizens. I want the city to shift its focus to improve the well being of the current citizens.

Why not just run as a council member? I don't feel as an individual council member of six you are able to set a policy agenda which will move the city in a direction, I feel like others have tried this and not had positive experiences.

What topics are important to you?

Reduce wasteful spending

Cell phone bills to Vehicle and equipment purchases

Mismanagement of workforce housing development

Giving away equity and not supporting local contractors

More responsive to community members

The most recent example is taking community input on a comprehensive plan but then removing it.

The Mayor struggled with building code enforcement relations between the city and contractors. He did not seem to possess the ability to come up with a plan moving forward. This shows a lack of leadership and even managerial skill. The result was the termination of the relationship between the Building inspector and the city. To me this is unacceptable. You should not be able to fire someone because you can't come up with a satisfactory plan.

- Relevant experience: career, committees, civic organizations, leadership roles, etc.

Born in Spearfish, Graduated SHS, Graduated SDSMT ME, CSC during time at Mines was student body president, and Student Federation director. Post graduation I was a Design Engineer followed by 10 years work in the ND oil field as a Field Engineer and a Directional Driller. Subsequent to the work in the oil field I have managed and improved property.

- Issues of importance to you

Community Resilience and sustainability, affordable Housing, outdoor recreation, retaining small community feel, opportunities for youth, implementing policy to help current residents live a more happy healthy life. Developing the future leader of tomorrow.

- Challenges our community faces and your vision for change

cost of living concerns, government spending, growth and lack of idea of what the community should look like 50 or 100 years in the future. I think participatory budgeting could be a tool. Protecting homes in the wildland urban interface. Climate concerns, acreage under city administration (sprawl)

- What are positive attributes of our city/school governance

Staff, existing infrastructure to make positive changes for the community.

They are easy to get a hold of and talk to. They are interested in out of the box ideas about how to change things. Not all of them but some of them are receptive.

- Your thoughts concerning: school vouchers, banning books, support for libraries, DEI

I support libraries and librarians. I would give them authority to make decisions on selecting reading materials for the community. I support public schools and would let administrators and teachers decide what is best for their students. I want to select the best candidates for any job. I understand how unconscious bias can creep into the selection process and would attempt to guard against such bias.