

Candidate Questionnaire

Introduce yourself: (please provide your name, how long you have lived in Reile's Acres, Occupation, etc....)

I'm Shane Amundson, a resident here for nearly 15 years. Since 1992, I've served in the Air National Guard, transitioning to full-time duty on September 11th, 2001. My wife recently retired from a 27-year Army National Guard career and will teach at Oak Grove next year. We have two grown daughters, an active 12-year-old son, and an extremely extraverted 2-year-old Springer-Doodle named Cane.

What inspired you to run for office, and what qualifications or experiences have helped you prepare for this role?

The inspiration to pursue public office in this city stems from a five-decade connection to Reile's Acres, beginning in 1972, when I was two years old, my father built our first home here. I have observed the evolution of our city, from 45th St as a dirt road with a grass strip and 12 homes to the growing city it is today. All these experiences fueled a vision for its growth within me.

Qualifications:

In 2011, I was appointed to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, where I later assumed the role of President in 2013. Seeking further avenues to influence progressive growth, I ran for a city council position in 2014, and in 2016, when the position of Mayor unexpectedly became vacant, I was appointed to fulfill the role. I then ran for and assumed the position of Mayor in June 2016, continuing to serve in this capacity since then.

Experience:

My fulltime job has instilled in me time management, effective communication, fiscal responsibility, and adept prioritization, it has also equipped me for the demands of this busy role alongside a bustling family life. It's this combination of experience and dedication that drives my commitment to continually serving the residents of Reile's Acres.

How do you plan to cultivate a sense of community and belonging among residents in Reile's Acres?

Since 2016, I've established our city's social media presence to ensure transparent communication and community engagement.

Moving forward, I'll continue organizing events like picnics, coin hunts and clean-ups to foster stronger bonds among residents, creating a tighter-knit community in Reile's Acres.

Additionally, investing in local infrastructure, such as parks and recreational facilities, is crucial for providing inviting spaces for social interaction and enhancing our community's vibrancy.

What do you feel set Reile’s Acres apart from other cities in the Fargo/Moorhead metro?

What distinguishes Reile’s Acres from the Fargo/Moorhead metro area is our unique identity as a bedroom community. Unlike larger cities where individual voices may get lost in the crowd, here, every resident has meaningful opportunities to be heard by our city government.

Our community’s size fosters a strong sense of neighborly connection. In Reile’s Acres, we have always prided ourselves on knowing our neighbors and actively caring for our community. I believe this close-knit environment promotes a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, and I truly believe residents feel valued and connected to one another.

What do you feel are the top three challenges facing our city, and what specific plans do you have to address them if elected?

1. Challenge: Growth and expansion that aligns our boundaries with Fargo and West Fargo, a process that will undoubtedly entail comprehensive zoning to accommodate various land uses beyond residential areas.
 - a. Solution: Proactively expand our city’s municipal boundaries and intentionally build new and maintain established relationships with surrounding city’s leadership teams.
 - b. Solution: Develop and refine Reile’s Acres’ growth plan with community input out to 2040.

2. Challenge: Addressing public safety concerns related to traffic.
 - a. Solution: Implementing a comprehensive traffic calming plan. This plan includes installing speed bumps and speed tables, enhancing pedestrian crossings, and increasing police presence in high-risk areas. By prioritizing these measures, the intent is to mitigate accidents and promote safer streets for all residents.

3. Challenge: Maintaining infrastructure without resorting to raising property taxes or levying excessive special assessments on homeowners.
 - a. Solution: I propose a multi-faceted approach. This includes seeking state and federal grants, low interest loans from the BND, exploring public-private partnerships, and optimizing existing budget allocations. The aim is to sustain and enhance our city's infrastructure while minimizing financial burdens on residents through creative resource management.

Why should voters consider you the most qualified candidate for this position?

As a candidate for this position, I bring a wealth of experience and a proven track record of effective leadership and tangible results to the table.

Since assuming the role of mayor in 2016, I've spearheaded initiatives that have transformed our city's landscape and financial standing. Through strategic annexation efforts, we've expanded our borders by almost 400 acres, ensuring we avoid becoming landlocked like Frontier or Prairie Rose while meeting the growing demand for housing and future development.

Over the past 8 years the city's prudent fiscal management has resulted in a remarkable surplus, with our general fund now exceeding \$1 million, providing a solid foundation for continued growth and prosperity.

My initiatives in infrastructure development and maintenance, such as the refurbishment of all residential streets, the 45th St. improvement project and the addition of essential city shops, underscore my commitment to enhancing our city's foundational elements. Furthermore, my dedication to community facilities improvement, evident in the successful execution of projects like the community center remodel and park developments, demonstrates my proactive approach to enriching residents' lives.


I've also prioritized environmental sustainability efforts, spearheading initiatives such as the introduction of no-sort recycling and extensive tree planting efforts with over 300 new trees planted in the last 8 years, showcasing my commitment to sustainability and beautification.


Moreover, my ability to foster strong working relationships with neighboring city leadership teams and key stakeholders has allowed us to secure representation in crucial discussions about development projects and transportation planning.

In just 8 short years, we've transformed from a city people had heard about to a community they're clamoring to call home.


As always, please reach out to me for an open discussion about any questions or concerns you may have.

 shane@reilesacresnd.org

 Twitter - @SJAmundson

 Instagram - sjamundson

 Facebook - facebook.com/shane.j.amundson

 (701) 729-1945