

## Candidate Questionnaire

**Introduce yourself:** (please provide your name, how long you have lived in Reile's Acres, Occupation, etc....) I am Jim Thornton, a resident of Reile's Acres. My family and I relocated from Harwood three years ago, where we had established our home for 11 years prior. Professionally, I am an Aircraft Maintenance Technician with over two decades of experience in this field.

Outside of work, I find fulfillment in spending quality time with my family, fostering connections with friends, and engaging with our esteemed neighbors. Additionally, I am dedicated to supporting my children in their various extracurricular pursuits, which keep our family dynamic and involved within the community.

**What inspired you to run for office, and what qualifications or experiences have helped you prepare for this role?** I am driven by a genuine desire to make a positive difference in our community, which inspired me to pursue candidacy for city council. Having been actively involved in various community boards, such as youth baseball and church, I've witnessed firsthand the impact of dedicated service and effective leadership. These experiences have honed my ability to collaborate with diverse groups and address community needs.

Furthermore, my professional background has equipped me with valuable skills essential for this role. As someone who is detail-oriented by nature, a quality imperative in my career, I am adept at analyzing complex issues and formulating practical solutions. I am committed to working diligently on every task, driven by the satisfaction of achieving tangible results. My passion for our community, coupled with my proven track record of service and attention to detail, positions me well to serve effectively on the city council and contribute meaningfully to its endeavors.

**How do you plan to cultivate a sense of community and belonging among residents in Reile's Acres?** I believe fostering a strong sense of community and belonging is essential for the well-being and prosperity of Reile's Acres. My approach centers on actively listening to the diverse voices within our community, ensuring that all opinions and perspectives are valued and considered without bias.

By creating an environment where residents feel heard and respected, we can nurture a collective vision for the future of Reile's Acres. Additionally, I am committed to actively engaging with residents, being readily available to address concerns, and facilitating meaningful dialogue to cultivate a sense of unity and purpose.

Together, through open communication and collaboration, we can shape a vibrant future for Reile's Acres that reflects the aspirations and values of our community.

**What do you feel set Reile's Acres apart from other cities in the Fargo/Moorhead metro?** What distinguishes Reile's Acres from other cities in the Fargo/Moorhead metro is its unique blend of small-town charm and access to urban amenities. As someone hailing from a small Minnesota town, my family and I were drawn to Reile's Acres in our search for a community

that offered the close-knit atmosphere of a small town while providing the conveniences of a larger city.

Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of witnessing Reile's Acres evolve and grow, all while retaining its cherished small-town identity. It's been a joy to observe the community flourish while still maintaining its sense of community and camaraderie.

Reile's Acres stands out as a place where families can experience the warmth and familiarity of small-town living without sacrificing access to essential services and opportunities. This unique balance is what truly sets Reile's Acres apart and makes it a special place to call home.

**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. Growth of our city and the surrounding area:**

- Plan: My focus will be on ensuring that the growth of our city and its surroundings aligns with the values and needs of our community. This involves careful consideration of development projects within our city limits to ensure they harmonize with our community's character. Additionally, I will advocate for thoughtful planning and collaboration with neighboring areas to shape a future that reflects our collective vision.

**2. Increased traffic and safety:**

- Plan: As a parent with children of various ages, I understand the paramount importance of traffic safety. I am committed to prioritizing measures that not only ensure the safety of our children but also enhance overall community safety. This includes working closely with relevant authorities to implement traffic calming measures, improve signage, enhance crosswalk safety, and explore innovative solutions to address traffic congestion while maintaining efficient mobility.

**3. Keeping the community's appearance to its already high standards:**

- Plan: Maintaining the aesthetic appeal of our community is crucial in preserving its character and enhancing quality of life for residents. I pledge to uphold existing standards for all areas, including streets, parks, and properties, and to implement stringent maintenance measures without exception. This entails proactive measures such as regular inspections, timely repairs, and community engagement initiatives to foster pride and ownership in our shared spaces.

By addressing these challenges with proactive and community-centered approaches, I am committed to ensuring that Reile's Acres continues to thrive and remain a vibrant and desirable place to live for generations to come.

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

Voters should consider me the most qualified candidate for this position because I am deeply rooted in small-town values and possess a strong work ethic. I am dedicated to fostering meaningful relationships within our community and am committed to leveraging any necessary connections to enhance the well-being of our residents.

My steadfast commitment to serving as a voice for all members of our community ensures that every perspective is heard and valued. I am eager to bring my passion, integrity, and dedication to the role, working tirelessly to address the needs and concerns of our constituents.

By entrusting me with this position, voters can be confident that I will tirelessly advocate for the betterment of our community, striving to uphold the principles that make Reile's Acres a special place we are proud to call home.