

CANDIDATES RESPONSE

Presented By:



MEET THE CANDIDATES

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Joseph Consolmagno, Ward 1

Joe Consolmagno is a 36-year resident of Bethel Park Ward 1. Joe is a graduate of Robert Morris University and has 45 years of management in the Food Services Industry. In 2016, Joe was appointed to Bethel Park Council and in 2017 he was elected to Bethel Park Council 2017. Prior to council, Mr. Consolmagno served on numerous Municipal and school district committees. Joe enjoys walking and biking on the Montour Trail. Joe has been married to Alexis for 36 wonderful years and has two children who are both graduates of Bethel Park School District.

As a council member, Joe Consolmagno has been instrumental in the following projects in Ward 1 and throughout the Municipality:

- Advocated for grant money to accomplish many of the improvements mentioned above – nearly \$4mm in the last 4 years.
- Attended numerous meetings with Bethel Park residents in the Coverdale area.
- Held Coffee/Milk with a Bethel Park Cop at the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center.
- Improved road program with the addition of Robotics (automated evaluation system).
- Initiated the Bee ordinance in 2019.
- New Miner's playground equipment for the young children and adults to enjoy.
- Promoted signs to be erected for lower and

upper Miner Fields.

- Promoted the demolition of properties on Elm and Willow Streets.
- Responsible to the residents to manage the budget within our means.
- Service the many needs and requests of the residents of Ward 1.
- Supported accomplished municipal manager- Laurence Christian.
- Supported construction of storm water management projects to avoid future flooding of residents.
- Supported the acquisition of the Bethel Green property to protect 41 acres for the purpose of greenspace in Bethel Park.
- Upgrade to Miner's Park, field & drainage renovations, renovation of concession stand, new fencing.

Mr. Consolmagno is looking excited to support the upcoming projects. He is involved in the design and building of the Splash Pad at the Community Center for all residents of Ward 1 and Bethel Park to enjoy opening spring 2022. He will continue to always be receptive to the needs of the residents of Ward 1 by following through with their needs and requests, encourage a cooperative business attitude and work to build strong communications between the new superintendent, school district administration and council.

Why I Am Running for Council

I want to continue to serve the residents of Ward 1 in the best possible capacity as an

honest trustworthy person addressing the needs and requests of the residents.

David Espinar, Ward 7

David Espinar graduated from Bethel Park High School. Upon graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and

served on active duty. After the Marine Corps, he served as a medic for the Pennsylvania National Guard. He has been trained as an EMT

and trained hundreds of soldiers as “Combat Lifesavers” prior to being deployed overseas. He has earned multiple certifications in emergency medical care to include PHTLS, Trauma Aims, and is a Basic Life Support instructor. During his military service, he earned his Bachelor’s degree in education from Slippery Rock University. He earned his Master’s degree from Duquesne University in

educational administration and leadership. He has volunteered in local sports, programs, and various volunteer organizations. He currently is an educator for the Bethel Park School District. Currently, he volunteers as a member of the Bethel Park Shade Tree Commission. David is supported to run for office by his wife Jennifer and three children, Cristiano, Adriana, and Santino.

Why I Am Running for Council

Hello Bethel Park! My name is David Espinar and I am running for Bethel Park Council representing Ward 7. The reason I am running for council is to be able to continue to serve the community that has provided my family with many great memories and opportunities. As a Bethel Park Alumnus, I have fond memories of a wonderful childhood, great schools, and a sense of community. After serving on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, I returned home to Bethel Park where I continue to give back as

an educator. As a father of three young children, I value the importance of having the youth involved in a variety of ways, whether that is through community programs, recreational activities, or volunteer opportunities. As a member of council, I plan on being responsive to citizen concerns, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and continuing to look for opportunities to raise the quality of life for all Bethel Park residents.

Lindsay Flinn, Ward 9

Lindsay Flinn has been your neighbor in Bethel Park for thirteen years. Her husband, Jason, is a lifelong Bethel Park resident and business owner. She has two young children, Vinny and Dom, and she runs her own small business, Power Color Beauty. Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and

Master of Arts in Higher Education, both from Geneva College. She has spent her career working in higher education and in the service industry before starting her own business. Lindsay and Jason also proudly support SHIM by collecting and donating during needs-based drives.

Why I Am Running for Council

I am running for Council because it is important to get involved on a local level. I am committed to transparent access to municipal information, prioritizing the needs of young families, and fostering a welcoming community for all of our neighbors and visitors. I love supporting new and local

businesses and believe that Bethel Park is ready for more positive change. Representation in leadership matters, and as a woman, I am prepared to be a new and diverse voice on the Council. Public service is a privilege, and I would be honored to serve this community as your representative.

Danielle Gosnell, Ward 3

I am employed by a major international manufacturing company’s legal department. I have been on BP Lions Club board since 2015 (President in 2017-2019.) I have held various board positions with the Rotary Club of USC-BP (President in 2019-2020.) I was named “Rotarian of the Year” in 2015-2016. I chaired

the USC Rotary Farmers Market in 2018-2019. I sat on BP Historical Society board from 2018-2019. I am currently a PTO Homeroom Coordinator at Washington Elementary. I was a “Big Sister” from 2007-2017 with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. I completed the Court Appointed Special Advocates

program in 2015. I was the Washington County March for Babies Chair in 2016 & 2017.

Why I Am Running for Council

My husband, two sons, & I are proud to call Bethel Park our home. Ever since I was a little girl, I had a dream of being a public servant in some shape or form. It is time for some fresh, diverse ideas, & people to represent our growing community. In 2015, I took the next

step & started my 2nd Master's program in Law & Public Policy to better prepare me to serve our community. I feel with my professional, philanthropic, & personal knowledge: I would be a perfect candidate to serve Bethel Park!

Jim Hannan, Ward 3

I am a 40+ year resident and homeowner in Bethel Park. I have spent almost half of my post college career working in senior management positions in local government. Over my career I have managed two municipal Authorities in Allegheny County. I have experience on how government works and how it does not. I earned both my Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. I am a registered Professional Engineer in the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and have professional memberships with the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pennsylvania Water Environment Association and Water Environment Federation. I have a professional association with the Allegheny County Borough's Association where I served on the Board of Directors from 2005 to 2021, was Vice President in 2008-2009, and was President in 2010.

Why I Am Running for Council

Over the last few years there have been many challenges and opportunities for community life in Bethel Park.

Bethel Park has responded well to the pandemic from the safety protocols put in place to the vaccine distribution.

Being the incumbent I would like to see these things that have been developed under my term in office for example Blueprint Bethel Park, Live Well Bethel Park grow and prosper.

It is not going to be an easy road ahead but my experience will enable us to focus our limited assets to where they are needed.

This is my key focus:

- Keep our neighborhoods safe
- Protect our property values
- Keep Property Taxes low
- Expand our recreational facilities and programs for all residents
- Provide innovative and creative solutions
- Focus on the Future

Don Harrison, Ward 5

Hello, my name is Don Harrison. I have been Fifth Ward Bethel Park Councilman for 48 years, Boy Scout leader for 40+ years. I did many things for the Scout Troop: ran summer camp for 10+ years, ran fund raisers, planned and lead spring educational trips to historical places (Gettysburg, Williamsburg, Ford museum, etc.). Guided many Scouts in the process of becoming Eagle Scouts. I was

elected to Home Rule Charter (HRC) commission, authored a large part of the HRC, chaired Council committees, provided Fifth Ward constituents, as well as other BP residents, with necessary interaction with Municipality. I also organized a volunteer group to man the Community Center desk to guide visitors.

Why I Am Running for Council

I am a long-term apolitical member of Council. I have built a reputation of serving people based on facts and not on politics. I am the elected Councilman from the 5th Ward but get requests for help from the entire Municipality. I am frequently criticized by

Council members for casting a no vote on items that I do not consider are in the best interest of the public. At times Council takes actions contrary to the law. I inform the public of these actions much to the chagrin of the offending Council members.

Joe Janosik, Ward 5

Joe is 50 years old, was born and raised in Bethel Park and lives here with his wife, Sharon, and their sons, Jack & Max. He attended St. Germaine Catholic School and graduated from Bethel Park High School in 1988. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from West Virginia University. Joe currently works as Vice

President and Team Leader at BNY Mellon facilitating the transfer of assets in global markets and is serving his third year on Bethel Park's Zoning Hearing Board. He also has experience in new home construction sales and the computer networking industry.

Why I Am Running for Council

I want to run because I love Bethel Park and share its vision. I am excited about the opportunity to expand my contributions. Being an Officer on the Zoning Hearing Board has been extremely rewarding and I want to take that to the next level. Since I became involved locally, my life has more purpose.

Specifically, I would like to focus on connecting the community to the Library T line to make sure this distinct feature stays viable. Seeing the difference that I can make, even at the local level, has been inspiring. I am ready and I am able.

John Oakes, Ward 3

I am originally from East Pittsburgh and chose to move to Bethel Park 10 years ago and I have also relocated my Plumbing business into our community. I have been a registered Master Plumber for 14 Years and my company employs 7 local people. Amanda and I have three children Madeline, Benjamin, and the Late John Oakes Jr.

been a Volunteer with the SHIM Community Garden, Bethel Park Historical Society, Bethel Park Municipal Authority where I currently serve as VP along with several other community groups. I take pride and work very hard on these organizations to move our community forward. What drew me to Bethel Park was the friendliness of the people and seeing neighbor helping neighbor and I believe that is what makes Bethel Park a great place to call home.

My involvement in the community started shortly after moving to Bethel Park. I have

Why I Am Running for Council

My involvement in the community started more than 10 years ago when I moved to Bethel Park. I learned very quickly that Bethel Park is a community of people that are willing to help each other in times of need. I am currently a volunteer at SHIM Community Garden, Historical Society, and Municipal Authority and have worked on a number of community projects.

Based on my Community involvement, I have had a number of neighbors and friends encourage me to run for Municipal Council. I believe my experience on the Municipal Authority has helped me gain an understanding of local government and this is why I chose to run for Council.

Justin Tiano, Ward 9

My name is Justin Tiano and I have been a Bethel Park resident with my wife and two daughters for 13 years. I had grown up in the south hills, went to Penn State University currently own and operate a local business with my brother. I am very excited that my youngest daughter desires to keep the family business going! My wife and I are both active Rotarians and have volunteered in several

local organizations to keep our community amazing! I love to find activities and volunteer opportunities that we can do as a family. We have participated in SHIM food drives, clean up days and tree planting. I have also volunteered at Spartan Pharmacy's vaccination clinics. I look to continue helping people and bring us together in Bethel Park Ward 9.

Why I Am Running for Council

Bethel Park is an amazing place to live. I have lived here for over a decade with my wife and two children. During that time, we have participated in many Bethel Park events including the gingerbread house competition, Christmas and Halloween decorating contests and several volunteer opportunities. I would love to see more residents get involved in everything Bethel Park has to offer. I believe

that I would be an amazing conduit to my constituents and can spread the word. Additionally, I am here to represent the people of my ward; listen to their concerns and strive to create transparency between the residents and the council. I will work hard to keep taxes low, the municipality safe, and our parks clean for all to enjoy.

Jonathan Winfield, Ward 9

I have been married to my wife, Amy Allen Winfield, for nearly 18 years. We have five children: one son and four daughters. I am a District Sales Leader for a Fortune 500 company responsible for over 400 accounts and seven direct reports. I cultivate business relationships, negotiate contracts, resolve customer issues, and manage my portion of

the facility's budget. I have organized several successful fundraisers including: Make A Wish, One Warm and Hero Box. I am a Member of the South Hills Knights of Columbus, a Son of the American Legion and a Eucharistic Minister at St Thomas More Church in Bethel Park.

Why I Am Running for Council

I am running for Council in Ward 9 to give back to the community that my family and I continue to call home after 20 years. I want to do more to keep BP the greatest place to live, work and raise a family in Allegheny County. The safety of all residents, businesses and those visiting our community is my top priority.

No new taxes! We can accomplish more in our community without increasing municipal income or property taxes. I will be a councilman for all of BP to ensure our community continues to thrive well into the future.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The following are the responses to the questions that the Municipal Council Candidates were asked at the Candidates Forum hosted by the Bethel Park Chamber of Commerce held on May 4, 2021 at the Bethel Park Municipal building. *PLEASE NOTE: The content below is provided as presented with the exception of grammatical and spelling edits.*

1. What can be done to reduce the amount of policing, and thus the amount of the budget spent on police, in Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I do not know if the police budget needs reducing or not. I would need to research our entire municipal budget to pinpoint how the money is being spent in the police department as compared to other departments. I am open to discussing new ways to look at all budget issues. That being said, Bethel Park police officers deserve to be compensated fairly and appropriately.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Police presence belongs in all communities. I do not believe in defunding the police. I do believe in reforming the police. This includes providing annual robust training programs including regular mental health checks for all police officers. I would also find funding for the police officers to have body cameras. Overall, these measures protect the police and the citizens.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5,

I would have to look more closely at the budget before I could speak to this, but I do not see any reason to reduce the amount of policing at this time. The reason for this large expense in the budget is the salary and benefits that we provide to those who protect us. We cannot reduce public safety measures in any way that sacrifices the safety of our Community.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Reducing the amount of policing or cutting the Police Department budget would be detrimental to our residents and our businesses. The BPPD is not only responsible for the safety of our 30,000+ residents, but they must also respond to matters involving the thousands of people working, shopping, and transporting goods to our vibrant community.

The police exist to enforce the laws of the state, county, and the Municipality of Bethel Park. Seeking to reduce the police force/budget will result in a strapped department having to choose what laws to enforce and what calls for help are worthy of a response.

2. **The police budget is massive when compared with every other budgeted expenditure. If you were to reallocate funds from the police to another department which, would you choose and why?**

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Please refer to my answer from question #1.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

In 2019 the annual budget for Public Safety was \$8,451,528. This is 35% of Bethel Parks Annual budget. Again, without fully analyzing the budget of all departments with a professional financial advisor, I do not think I can say I would reallocate any funds at this time.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

See above regarding the size of the police budget. I would not reallocate funds from the police to another department, but I would consider reallocating within the police department to implement mental health and diversity training. Proper training would serve the community and officers well and help protect the community from costly litigation.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

A line-item review of the municipal budget would need to be conducted to determine the scope of the police department's budget in comparison to the community's expected return on investment. The men and women of our police department are highly trained individuals placed in extremely stressful circumstances day in and day out.

They put their lives on the line every time they pull over a car, knock on a door or answer a call of distress. In my opinion, the current budget is sufficient if the department is getting the training and equipment needed to continue keeping our community safe. I will not vote to reallocate funds from the police department; however, I would like to see where we could save money from other departments to move into Parks/Recreation and Public Works

3. **Is the community oversight currently being done on police adequate and do you think it is leading to fair and equal outcomes?**

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

We should strive for fair and equal treatment of every single Bethel Park resident, visitor, official, and person that works in and for the municipal. There is always room to examine current municipal policies, the police department included, and determine if we are using the best practices possible.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I do not believe we have any community oversight on the police department that is publicly run. I do believe there is an opportunity to implement a Citizens Police Review Committee. This is a common practice in other communities.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I have not seen anything that would question the oversight of the police department nor whether that would lead to fair and equal outcomes. I would ask anyone who has concerns about this particular issue to reach out to me directly to discuss their experiences.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

We, as a community and a nation, must not lose faith in our men and women who swear to serve and protect ALL citizens. Unfortunately, there are individuals in almost all walks of life that have a dark heart and commit atrocious and cowardly crimes against those they swear to teach, manage, or protect. Second guessing an outcome of a police encounter days after or longer is dangerous to our community. Our justice system is designed to ensure ALL people are innocent until proven guilty. ALL people are treated equally under the law. If there is an issue involving an officer, it should first be directed to their supervisor, the Chief of police and then the courts if necessary, to ensure an individual's rights were not compromised.

4. **Why do you run for office as a Democrat when you only place signs in your yard for Republican candidates running at federal, state, and local levels? (for Joe Consolmagno)**
5. **What is your opinion on whether we should limit expansion of commercial property in Bethel Park?**

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Small businesses are at the heart and soul of Bethel Park. Not a day goes by that I do not hear praises of local restaurants, coffee shops, or services. Let's focus on supporting and growing the small businesses we already have. Then we can work on ways to make Bethel Park more inviting to new small businesses.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I'm not sure there is much more area to expand commercial development; however, a lot of current commercial property is long overdue for rehab.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I don't think that we should develop every parcel, but commercial expansion adds to the tax base and provides more revenues that are necessary to meet the growing needs of the community.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I am in favor of less government regulation and believe in the free market. With that said, the retail business segment is going through a metamorphosis that could have a significant impact on existing commercial property.

I applaud Simon properties efforts converting vacated store space at the mall into restaurants and medical facilities instead of leaving our once thriving mall desolate. Consideration should be given to unused and under-utilized properties within the municipality before removing more green space from the community.

6. What are your plans for making Bethel Park a marketable community to attract new businesses and residence?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

These are two separate but connected issues. Expanding Bethel Park's sidewalk network in areas close to schools, public transit stops, businesses, and community amenities will better connect residents and visitors to local businesses. Continuing to update our neighborhood and community parks, as well as explore more ways to better utilize our Community Center will enhance the hometown pride that is already so strong in Bethel Park and make our community an even more desirable place to live.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

If we rehab our current commercial property, new businesses would be willing to move their business to Bethel Park. Keeping the houses affordable and at a low tax rate will attract new residents. Also, providing a welcoming environment along with an excellent school district will help our community grow and flourish.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

Blueprint Bethel Park states that we will provide an inclusive, safe, and well-connected community that fosters business development and innovation, protects and enhances environmental resources and respects local heritage while addressing the challenges of the future. I would start with doing more to connect the community to the T, our schools, and the local business districts. Fixing our existing sidewalks and strategically placing new ones would be a good start. More walking/bike trails and bike racks, too. Other attractive features are the steadily rising home values and the proximity to shopping and downtown Pittsburgh.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Bethel Park continues to be a community where individuals want to do business and raise families. We have several new businesses opening their doors for the first time throughout 2021. Our Realtors are navigating a robust housing market where homes in Bethel Park are on the market for a few short hours before being sold.

We need to continue investing in our infrastructure, our police/volunteer fire departments and revamping/maintaining our many parks. I do business in many parts

of Allegheny and surrounding counties and not one compares to the large borough with the small town feel we all call home. Additionally, we need to keep municipal taxes low and work closely with our school directors to make BP schools top in the state.

7. How do you feel about the transportation options currently available in Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Bethel Park has some fantastic public transportation options in the Trolley line, Port Authority Buses, and the Mon Valley Buses. We must make these public transportation stops safe and easily accessible for our current riders. This may help to bring more revenue into our community as well as help our residents with better employment opportunities.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I'm all for preserving the Library trolley line. We can increase sidewalks and bike lanes to allow safer eco-friendly modes of transportation. Some commercial properties have sidewalks, but in other places, the infrastructure is sporadic and leads nowhere. Develop and annually fund a program to build and improve sidewalks according to the Sidewalk priority map referenced in the Blueprint Bethel Park. The Snow Angels Program would assist the resident with their sidewalks if they were unable to take care of them themselves.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

See above regarding sidewalks, but there aren't many communities that have a Trolley line split at its entrance that leads to two different ends. This is special and needs to be preserved.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

There are no shortages of transportation for residents to traverse our community. Public transportation options include the T, Mon Valley and Port Authority busses. There are also several private options using ride sharing services or taxis.

8. If you could change one thing in our zoning code, what would it be and why?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

According to the 2020 Municipal Comprehensive Plan, updating the Zoning Ordinances is a high priority to start work towards a "downtown" area in Bethel Park. Currently, it would be illegal to create a downtown district because of setback distance from the Trolley, commercial vs residential spaces, public and private parking, etc. I would explore opening up our zoning code to make way for the downtown retrofit.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Overall, I'm impressed with our two zoning code employees. It seems like they are always willing to try to accommodate the citizens of Bethel Park. I have not had any

personal issue with zoning; however, I'd like to reach out to the citizens of the 3rd ward to see if they feel differently. I do think there's always room for improvement for transparency in all departments.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

Getting blighted/abandoned properties cleaned up more easily. They are an eyesore and bring down the housing values around them.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Zoning codes are in place to protect the integrity of our community's design and function. I will work closely with the Municipal Planner and the Municipal Engineers when considering proposed changes or additions to our zoning codes.

9. How do you plan to involve Bethel Park residents in the decision-making process?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

The current Municipal Council did a fantastic job gathering input from residents when creating the Bethel Park Blueprint. Community events, public forums, and various surveys were used to get citizens involved. Since we are currently limited physically, I would like to make Bethel Park's online resources more user-friendly. Let's create continuity between the municipal website and social media outlets to make information more transparent and accessible so that residents can be better-informed citizens.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Our residents want to live in a community they feel is safe and close-knit, they want transparency and a responsive local government. The residents of Bethel Park deserve total transparency regarding all municipal matters. This also includes implementing an anti-nepotism policy within the municipal hiring and bidding process. Personal accountability means reaching out to the residents of Ward 3 for feedback and listening to their needs. I've gotten so much feedback the residents have felt "unheard" when they have concerns regarding municipal matters in Ward 3.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

By being available and transparent, and by encouraging them to speak up at Council meetings and even run for office if they really want to be involved in the decision-making process.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I will govern with absolute transparency. Social media and other internet platforms are a convenient way for two-way communication between the residents of Ward 9 and me. I also understand that there may be residents within our community that do not use social media or those that could find navigating the internet to be cumbersome. I would encourage all residents to....

10. If you were given a proposal to build a new piece of public infrastructure (road, bridge, sidewalks, etc.) how would you evaluate whether or not the project is worth implementing?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

First, I would consult the 2020 Comprehensive plan that lays out all the high-priority projects as defined already by the community and municipal leadership. Second, I would compare community value vs financial burden. Will the proposed public infrastructure enhance the residents' quality of life, bring in more revenue to the community, and/or make our community safer? Making a decision like this is multifaceted and bigger than just one person.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I'd reach out to the citizens of Bethel Park. Their voice is of the utmost importance to our community, and they deserve to be heard.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

Cost, cost, cost. We can't build what we can't pay for and everything is more expensive so this will be a challenge. I believe that the Municipality has a bidding process that helps to keep the price of the bids down. These bids are reviewed carefully before any decision is made. I would rely on the experts who evaluate the bids to make a recommendation and respond to any questions, comments, or concerns that I have.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I would rely expert testimony from the Municipal Planner and Engineers to establish the need of the infrastructure project. Next, I would evaluate the case study with the associated costs, review of any negative impact to private property and outline the benefits the project would bring to our community. Finally, if the project is deemed worthy of implementation and is put to a vote, I would only vote yes if the project was fully funded without the need to raise taxes or take on municipal debt.

11. If elected, what three steps would you to put in place to get Bethel Park on a firmer financial footing?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

This would take some time to dive into the current and past budgets as well as what is being proposed for the future.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Municipalities are often recipients of county funding. The County receives funding from the Federal and State governments in which they disperse to various municipalities. Having healthy communication with County Council often helps expedite those grants. I'd also evaluate the social and demographic changes within the community. This includes population, age distribution, and personal income - which have significant and lasting effects on local budgets. Finally, several factors can influence the economic environment of local government budgeting, including economic influences, inflation,

interest rates. You can prepare for economic influences by (1) prohibiting departments from spending all their allocations, holding back on permission to hire new staff or make other contractual commitments, building reserves or rainy-day funds; and (2) obtaining a competitive advantage over other jurisdictions is to export the tax burden, lifting it from residents to nonresidents. Such action reduces taxes on residents while allowing service levels to be maintained.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I'm not sure that we're not on firm financial footing. I was concerned that there wasn't enough emergency money to pay for the damage from the 2018 flood, but the Municipality took care of that I believe. That's one, a bigger reserve fund that appears to have been addressed.

Secondly, it is my understanding that the Municipal pension funds are both more than 90% funded which is fantastic. I know this is good because I've worked for the largest custodial bank in the world since 2008, so I know the devastating effects that the Great Recession that year had on pensions and other retirement plans all over the country. We are in good shape here.

Lastly, I would work to make Bethel Park an inclusive, safe, and well-connected community as stated in the Blueprint Bethel Park plan. This should preserve and increase home values and the tax base which would also put us on firmer financial footing.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Step One – Is the budget balanced? Research and Analyze the existing budget in committee looking for savings or potential cost overtures in every department.

Step Two – Secure funding for long term financial obligations. Council has historically managed our pension obligations successfully and I would work with our new members and Municipal Manager to continue this trend.

Step Three – Refuse to take on debt. We can accomplish more for our residents with the tax revenue currently being collected.

12. What is your plan to ensure that Bethel Park a welcoming and safe community for everyone, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender designation?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

The school district has recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee made up of students, teachers, School Directors, Administration, and community members. A committee like this is also needed on a municipal level and has already been proposed in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan as an "Inclusion and Accessibility Committee to advise Council on establishing Bethel Park as a welcoming community that promotes and honors Diversity." In August 2020, elected officials and community

leaders hosted a Roundtable Discussion on Race, Discrimination, and Inclusion. I would build upon and see through what has already been started.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I want to be an example to our community. It starts right here. Bethel Park is over 50% women, and our council needs to reflect that. We have not had a council member with a young family in over two decades. Unfortunately, bullying exists in our community. Take a look at some local Facebook pages. We could create an "anti-bullying program" within Bethel Park, just like our current "Live Well" series. I think this would be a wonderful way to educate the residents about real issues that are happening within the community.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

First, I would make sure that everyone knows that I am available to anyone in our Community, not just the 5th Ward where I'm running, to reach out to me directly if they are not having a healthy experience here. Having a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, or sub-committee to Health, Safety & Welfare would be a good start. There is a lot to be learned about unconscious bias and how it can affect people adversely.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

We are ALL one people under God. I will never vote in favor of a bill, law or ordinance that promotes the exclusion of others.

13. Bethel Park has a lot of older residence, what is your plan to attract younger people and families to the municipality?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I would continue to prioritize the upgrades of our neighborhood and community parks. Our residents no longer have to go to neighboring community parks. I want to explore making better use of our Community Center by expanding the breadth of activities and programming, as well as create a space for unstructured use for youth and families. Also, hearing from several residents, community youth sports is an area of concern that needs to be addressed at length.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Foster to continued growth without displacing our senior residence. The main goal is to foster a thriving local economy to cultivate a safe and friendly place for families to grow. Create a more robust recreation program for residents of all ages. Preserve green space and support organizations that encourage outdoor participation.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I think the plan is in motion and working. The new splash pad should be a boon for the Community Center. We should offer more youth programs at the Community Center too. Additionally, the upgrades to our neighborhood parks and trails that are in the Blueprint add to the marketability of Bethel Park to younger families.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I am thankful older generations continue to call Bethel Park home. We have elderly neighbors that my family and I enjoy sharing parts of our day with. Attracting younger individuals and families starts with a safe and secure community. We must always support our police department. I will continue to support the investment into public spaces including, but not limited to, the ongoing restoration of our neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

Families also are looking for local activities to do together. I want to utilize the Park/Recreations department to expand family friendly activities and programs. For example, family movies nights in the park (rotating basis to all neighborhood parks). Families will be able to enjoy a drive-in like setting supported by local food vendors, expanded community day activities, and other community events.

14. What is more important to our community right now: building new homes and commercial space or rehabbing/expanding/better utilizing our existing homes and storefronts?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

New spaces and land are hard to come by in Bethel Park. Protecting our green space is vital. Let's focus on working with what we currently have and create incentives for current business owners and residents.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Unfortunately, we are running out of land to build new construction. Most areas are already developed. We do have a lot of blighted properties that could use a major facelift.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

At this point there isn't much left to develop in Bethel Park so I would say we are entering a phase where the latter in your question is more important. I've started to hear about "tear downs" where smaller homes in need of rehab get torn down for a new bigger house. I foresee this increasing in the coming years.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

I believe that the municipality should work in partnership with the individual property owner when discussing the rehabilitation of commercial buildings. Mandating Improvements to any structure, commercial or private, is an act of government overreach. The one exception is when a home or commercial structure is out of compliance with municipal building codes and improvements are needed for the safety of the occupants.

15. Where are your favorite places to spend time in Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Before the Covid-19 Pandemic, my family found a second community center of sorts at the Spencer Family YMCA. We frequent Family Deli, Spoonwood Brewery, and Reginald's Coffee Shop. A new favorite restaurant of ours is Pho Saigon Café. We miss Give Mia Cookie! My kids enjoy Simmons Park, the Bethel Park Library, and all the folks at Gymkhana. I also spend many days a week on the Montour Trail. We are looking forward to the start of the Farmer's Market season!

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Bethel Park Historical Society is very near and dear to my heart. I have watched this building threatened of being razed into a current community masterpiece. Lions Park is the home of the Bethel Park Lions Club. I have been a member of the Lions Club for over 6 years. I just adore the community coming out to support us at the park for our annual fish fries and BBQs. My son plays baseball for Bethel Church League. Our home field has been Ruthfred Baseball Field for the past 3 seasons. I've spent a lot of quality family time at that baseball field! Finally, Ruthfred Market: if you haven't tried their "homemade" Roast Beef go now to try it. After all, you don't make friends with salad!

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

The "secret park" we discovered after we moved here...Molly Hill. It's at the end of Santa Fe and you can see it to your right when leaving Washington Junction towards South Hills Village. It has a basketball court and playground that rarely get used. We love it!

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

There are several spots around Bethel Park that my family spend recreational time away from home. Simons Park has a beautiful new playground. My daughters love playing on the zip line or having me push them on the giant merry-go-round. We also spend a lot of time riding bikes in our neighborhood or on the Montour Trail. The new fields at Village Green Park are a great place for running around when our yard is wet from rain or playing a family game of dodgeball. Somehow, I am always the first one out of the game.

16. Do you believe it is important to work in collaboration with the School Board and Business Community? If so, why?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Absolutely. Bethel Park takes pride in an exceptional school district and a thriving small business community. These are the main components of who we are as a community. I would also like to add the Bethel Park Volunteer Community to this list. Our residents step up like no one else, both individuals and our many volunteer organizations.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Even though each entity is funded through different financial sources it's important to work in conjunction with all community stakeholders to create the most rewarding community outcome.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

Yes, we are all intertwined, and a strong School District would help any Municipality, and vice versa. We already have the Shade Tree Commission and a few other programs where we collaborate. I think it's important.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

A successful school district is one of the key building blocks of a strong and vibrant community. Yes, I support a coalition of school directors, council members and business leaders to discuss matters that impact all residents. Developing emergency readiness plans in case of a natural or man-made disaster, the effect of increased real estate taxes and zoning of commercial buildings near school properties are just some of the issues that would benefit from all groups working together to better serve the community.

17. Where is downtown Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

We don't exactly have a downtown in Bethel Park. We have many gathering places, but not one central downtown. I know residents would love to see the municipal move forward with the downtown retrofit in the West Library Avenue and Brightwood Road area. Although a long-term project, this is a priority of mine to start making steps toward.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Per the Blueprint Bethel Park, a downtown retrofit is being considered on Brightwood Road. This would be a gathering place in Bethel Park where residents and visitors can enjoy local retail, restaurants, and public amenities in a traditional downtown setting. Business owners, the redevelopment authority, the chamber of commerce, and additional community stakeholders would be great partners for this program. This is a great way to explore new opportunities and partnering up with our neighbors in other communities.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I don't know the exact boundaries, but I believe it encompasses the Police Station/Lytle T to the Community Center to South Park Road turning right all the way past Church Road. It's expanded since the beginning.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

This is an interesting question. Bethel Park does not currently have a designated "downtown" area like some surrounding communities. However, I like many, view the

commercial area of Brightwood Road our downtown area. Here you can access the library and municipal buildings, the community center, St Vals Church, Bethel Bakery as well as other businesses. This area of Brightwood is also accessible from the T-line.

18. What beautification projects would you like to see implemented throughout Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

The Trolley Line Beautification project should be expanded. I would love to see a beautiful outdoor space at the Bethel Park Library. Whether it is updating the outdoor seating area or finding space out front, our community could benefit greatly from this type of project. Community input on beautification projects would be welcomed.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

The current beautification projects such as the Trolley Beautification Project & Annual Spring Clean-Up Day are very near and dear to my heart. Unfortunately, cleaning up trash one time per year just isn't enough. I would like to work with local non-profit organizations and citizens to pick up trash one time per quarter. There's also an opportunity to clean up some of our business districts such as Industrial Park and various shopping plazas to "adopt" planters and other ways to beautify the community.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

The retrofitting of the downtown area would help a lot. I like the idea of expanding the Trolley Beautification program if we have enough willing participants, as well as more trails and more public gardens.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Bethel Park is a beautiful borough in every season.

The trolley line along Brightwood and Library Roads. Enhancing both sides of the trolley tracks with plants, mulched flower beds and decorative stone walls would eliminate the need for Public Works to maintain the grassy areas during growing seasons.

Route 88 and Connor Road. Some work has been completed along the hillside near the railroad trestle. Planting trees and flower beds along the right side of the road after Guardian Storage make the entrance to our community more inviting for travelers passing through our community or coming in to shop and dine.

19. What are your views on diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism in Bethel Park?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Please refer to my answer from question #12.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

I would implement Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion program required by all elected officials and senior legal Municipal employees. The current population of Bethel Park is 97% Caucasian. We need to figure out why more persons of color are not moving to our community. We need to create a more welcoming environment for all, no matter of someone's race, sex, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, etc.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

My views on DEI and anti-racism are that we should be lifting people up, not putting them down. Every individual is a human being and should be treated as such. I've heard stories of some extremely unkind treatment but haven't seen anything first-hand. I would try to stop it if I saw it because no one should live without psychological safety. Ultimately, we limit ourselves when we limit who we include in our community. And we should be teaching our children this.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

We are ALL one people under God. I will never vote in favor of a bill, law or ordinance that promotes the exclusion of others. The municipality does not discriminate in hiring of employees, participating in recreational activities or condone clubs/organizations that promote discriminatory ideologies. We are ONE community.

20. What 5 things would you like to see happen in Bethel over the next 5 years?

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

1. Expand the sidewalk network around schools, public transit stops, and businesses
2. Make municipal information more transparent and accessible to all residents
3. Move forward with beginning steps for the downtown retrofit
4. Implement a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee on a municipal level
5. Make the Irishtown, Logan, Patterson intersection safer for drivers

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Building a safer and more desirable community to live in and promote new businesses: this includes sidewalks, more robust recreation programs for residents of all ages, & promoting economic growth with a "downtown Bethel Park" and giving the Industrial Park a facelift. Transparency & Personal Accountability-This also includes implementing an anti-nepotism policy within the municipal hiring and bidding process. Personal accountability means reaching out to the residents of Ward 3 for feedback and listening to their needs. Finally, implementing a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion-I want to ensure Bethel Park is a welcoming community regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, etc. This will only strengthen our community.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

1. More new faces on Council 😊
2. A guarantee that the Library T line will be preserved.

3. That everyone stays safe and healthy, and gets vaccinated, so that we can get back to our lives.
4. A support network for families who have been affected by the opioid epidemic and the COVID pandemic. These have had devastating effects on many families in our community and I think it's the least we can do to make sure that they know that they are not alone.
5. That our neighborhoods are more connected, literally and figuratively. In addition to sidewalks and the Central Bethel Park Trail more interaction with and appreciation for each other, especially those who are different.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Five things in Five Years –

1. Maintain a long-term balanced budget without cutting programs or services to residents and zero increases to the municipal income and real estate taxes
 2. Expand the Park/Recreation Department's programs to create new and exciting outdoor activities for all individuals and families to enjoy in the summer months throughout the municipality.
 3. Continue investing in public green spaces including the revamping of our neighborhood parks and playgrounds
 4. Add a Leaf Collection truck to the Public Works department to better serve our residents during fall and spring cleanup.
 5. Ensure the Police department remains fully funded to keep Bethel Park the safe and secure community we are today.
21. **Diversity and safety have been brought up several times. One way to promote diversity AND safety is by asking the mental health community to work with the police and help train a crisis intervention team to go out on mental health crisis calls. Has anyone considered this as an option for Bethel Park?**

Lindsay Flinn, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

This is an excellent idea, and we should discuss this further. The police are an essential part of our community. We ask so much of our police officers. Let us support them in ways like this to lift such burdens. Ultimately, a Crisis Intervention Team would be mutually beneficial to both police officers and citizens.

Danielle Gosnell, Candidate for Council in Ward 3

Law enforcement officers are often the first point of contact for someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis. Because of this, one of the solutions our county has implemented is the introduction of Crisis Intervention Team training in our law enforcement departments. Some of the top de-escalation tips used during crisis response are:

- Being empathic and nonjudgmental
- Respecting personal space
- Use non-threatening nonverbal
- Ignore challenging questions

- Allow silence for reflection
- Allow time for decisions.

Joe Janosik, Candidate for Council in Ward 5

I am sure this has been considered but for whatever reason hasn't come to fruition. For the record, I am fully in support of this as an option for Bethel Park.

Jonathan Winfield, Candidate for Council in Ward 9

Every call for help is unique. The responding police officer does not know what they will encounter when they arrive at their given destination. The caller to the dispatch could under-state or over-state the gravity of the situation. For the safety of everyone involved, a civilian councilor should not accompany police officers on calls.

However, I would support additional crisis intervention training for a team of police officers. This specialized unit could assist on calls where domestic disturbance, abuse or a mental health crisis is anticipated. Chief O'Connor's experience and leadership would be paramount to the success of such a program.