Question #1:

Being a member of the City Council requires a significant time commitment, usually 2-4 meetings a month, as well as reading prep prior to meetings. How will this fit in with your other commitments?

Response:

Prior to making my decision to apply for this position I had spoken with current and previous elected officials for the City and they educated me as to the amount of time and the levels of commitment which is expected from a Councilmember. I have also met with my employer and the chief of the Fire Department and they are both in favor of my pursuit of this position.

Through my involvement in past committees and boards; I have learned and am a firm believer in the amount of effort you put in is a direct correlation to the amount of satisfaction you get in return. In my professional career and involvement as an officer of the Glencoe Fire Department I need to make educated decisions that could impact the lives of others; I don’t take that responsibility lightly and I won’t take my responsibility with the City Council lightly either.

Question #2:

What do you believe is the role of the City Council in our community?

Response:

I believe the role of the City Council is multifaceted.

In order to be effective and successful at their position the Council members need to be good listeners, fiscally responsible, and forward thinking while trying to have the best interests for the community and its residents.

* Good Listeners by making yourself available to hear the concerns and interests of their constituents both residential and businesses within the community. Being able to listen to understand instead of listening to respond.
* Fiscally responsible to manage the revenues and expenditures of the city in the best and most efficient way possible; asking the tough questions, providing checks and balances, and ensuring everyone is held accountable.
* Forward thinking to help grow the community and make the community a better place to live, work, and visit. I feel that past Glencoe leadership has been too reactive to situations and opportunities instead of being proactive. The Comprehensive Plan is a big step in the right direction and now we need to use the plan as a map and guide for the advancement of the city for the coming years. We need to be the biggest promoters for the City of Glencoe!

Question #3:

Do you think you have any personal or professional relationships that could become a conflict of interest while serving as a Council member?

Response:

As I stated in my earlier response I have done a lot of homework prior to submitting my application for the City Council. Through my conversations with these various individuals I feel I do not have any conflicts of interest at this time.

City Attorney Ostlund, has provided Mr. Larson a copy of the legal opinion of previous City Attorney Kerry Olson dated 9/25/98 showing no conflict of interest between my involvement with the Glencoe Fire Department and being able to serve on the City Council.

Question #4:

Upon selection to the Council, what are some specific goals that you would like to achieve? What challenges do you anticipate in achieving these goals? How do you plan to overcome these challenges?

Response:

* I feel like the council in the past has had the wrong culture and approach towards the city and its operation. I feel we need to transition away from the “reactive” approach and mentality and instead have a “proactive” mentality. In the past 6 months I have noticed a few glimpses of this within the council and I am excited to help continue and move this culture change forward in the coming years. By being proactive in our approach towards the future of Glencoe we can more readily embrace growth instead of fearing change, because as I learned during the City of Glencoe Blandin Training “change is inevitable, but growth is intentional”.
* Change is always hard because change comes as a reactionary response, but with growth comes progress and improvements. Changing the culture and mentality of how a city functions will not be easy and it will face many growing pains during the process. One such growing pain will be trying to fiscally plan for the future while still managing the emergency needs or expenses that may arise. Continuing to do a task the same way it has been done for the past 50 years; because that is the way it has always been done is not a viable or responsible answer to our constituents.
* Education, communication, and listening are the keys to the implementation and success. Educating the residents, and communicating with staff and department heads to be proactively orientated will be a learning process. We also have to be open to listening to staff and department heads who are on the front lines doing the work as they may have better knowledge and a hands on understanding that we should consider.

Glencoe has a unique opportunity for growth in the coming years with the expansion of Hwy 212 to 4 lane from Glencoe to the Metro. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the residents of Glencoe and if the city has a “pro-growth” mentality it will become a community that the residents and businesses will be willing to live and invest in for years to come.

Question #5:

 What do you see as Glencoe’s strengths and areas of improvement and why?

Response:

Glencoe is a community with a lot of opportunity. Glencoe sits on two major highways in out-state Minnesota, we have an active railroad; along with many other amenities including the county seat of McLeod County, a hospital, school district, industry and nice parks. We are also positioned less than 60 miles from the largest metropolitan area in the state yet, I feel the City of Glencoe doesn’t really have a strong identity.

The City, and Council needs to do a better job promoting all we have to offer and using the information compiled in the Comprehensive Plan as the road map to the future growth and improvement to the City of Glencoe.

Question #6:

Why do you want to be a City Council Member?

Response:

My desire to take on a more active approach to city government began in early 2019 after I was asked to apply and subsequently chosen to be one of 11 men selected to attend the Blandin Community Leadership Program for the City of Glencoe. Prior to that time, I had served on the Glencoe Fire Department and various community committees including the Glencoe Days Committee. Since that time, I have continued to serve on the Glencoe Fire Department (10-year member) and have been active on the Glencoe Chamber Board as a director (2020-2022), a member of the Downtown Revitalization and the Comprehensive Plan. By being active in many facets of the community it has helped to broaden my perspective and desire to be more involved in the direction of the future of the City of Glencoe.