

The background image shows the exterior of Lakeville City Hall, a brick building with large glass windows and a central entrance. Two tall flagpoles stand in front of the building, one with the American flag and another with a blue flag. Lush green trees are visible behind the building. The text 'City Council Interviews' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the date 'June 12, 2023' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the date. The bottom of the image features a solid orange horizontal bar.

# City Council Interviews

June 12, 2023

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# Overview: City Council Interviews

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Craig Rapp conducted 30 minute phone interviews with the City Council members in early June 2023 to get an overview of their perspectives on Lakeville, current challenges , and prospects for the next 10 years.

# Interview Response Themes

## How it's going in Lakeville currently

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- **Community Growth & Development:** There is a positive outlook on growth and desirability. Concerns about handling growth-related challenges, maintaining quality of life as the growth rate is too fast and could have impacts on various aspects. Also concerns about expanding infrastructure to accommodate the growth.
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** The mention of pockets of diversity within the community and the importance of diversity. Efforts to engage with different communities and cultures was also mentioned.
- **City Management & Services:** City staff effectively handles issues and complaints. The City is committed to certain initiatives but requires financial stability (C/I) for sustained growth. Protecting and evolving the community, and following established processes was also mentioned.
- **Education & Schools:** Importance of good schools in the community with partnerships involving schools and community organizations. There are challenges in managing schools due to lack of control.
- **Community Identity & Values:** The community's core values are Police, safety, parks and financial stability. There are some concerns about political changes and the impact on the City's identity.

# Interview Response Themes

## How it's going in Lakeville currently

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- **Events & Connections:** There needs to be a focus on maintaining events, connections and social engagement within the community. Branching out to include physically disabled individuals and those seeking non-traditional social opportunities was also mentioned.
- **Partnerships & Collaboration:** There is an emphasis on forming partnerships for the future. Collaborative efforts with organizations like the Chamber and Dakota County as well as expanding initiatives like Lakeville Works and Avi Lake Park.
- **Financial Stability & Growth:** We need to balance growth with financial stability. There are potential concerns about taxation and financial well-being. Also need to take into consideration financial stability after a growth spurt.
- **Challenges & Potential Extremes:** Concerns about political changes and small groups trying to alter the City's direction. Striking a balance between community results and extremes is important.
- **City Planning & Strategy:** There was mention of strategic plans sometimes now being fully implemented and the importance of adhering to community documents and plans.

# Interview Response Themes

## Big Issues/Challenges for Lakeville

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- **Economic Situation:** Discussion of the economic situation on both national and regional levels. Concern about reliance on growth for revenue, which presents an issue.
- **Workforce Housing Affordability:** Workforce housing affordability highlighted as a regional concern. There is emphasis on the fact that this issue extends beyond just the local area of Lakeville.
- **Infrastructure & Land Use:** There was mention of infrastructure considerations, such as multiple centers of commerce. Importance of land use planning and how it impacts the community's development was also mentioned.
- **Education & Schools:** Schools are addressed in terms of financial matters, fostering a sense of community, and potential culture clashes due to diverse student populations.
- **Diversity & Community:** Diversity is noted as a factor in community composition and potentially influencing reasons for moving to the area. There is an emphasis on fostering a sense of community through more events.

# Interview Response Themes

## Big Issues/Challenges for Lakeville

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- **Future Planning & Sustainability:** Concern about the future tax base after development, especially regarding the establishment of a full-time fire department. Discussion of transitioning from growth mode to sustain mode to redevelop mode and setting up effective processes.
- **Pedestrian Safety & Access:** Pedestrian safety issues are mentioned, particularly in relation to partial access to parks.
- **Cultural Considerations:** Mention of cultural clashes, particularly in the context of a community with diverse backgrounds. Reference to specific instances of cultural communities such as East Indian and Ethiopian populations.
- **Community Engagement:** The importance of involving diverse voices through initiatives like EL (Equity and Leadership) Task Force was highlighted.

# Interview Response Themes

## Future/Next 10 Years for Lakeville

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- **Housing & Development:** Emphasis on the benefits of new housing. Mention of looking at zoning and re-zoning, suggesting consideration of development and land-use regulation.
- **Economic Considerations:** There was a positive sentiment about job opportunities and the economy being “all good”. There was mention of keeping track of PTO and economic balance and discussions of budget being supported by permit revenue.
- **Residential & Commercial Balance:** There was mention of an imbalance in the City, being overbalanced in residential development. There needs to be a balance between residential, commercial and industrial development.
- **Wages & Cost of Living:** Concerns about wages not matching the cost of living in Lakeville.
- **Supportive Services:** Discussion of services needed to support low-income individuals or certain groups in the community. Mention of core public services being important.
- **Downtown Development:** The need to address downtown development in a long-term context, indicating interest in its improvement and growth.