

Tony Caterina quotes in the Edmonton Journal in 2009

On the City Centre Airport:

"I said from the beginning I need all the information in front of me. We got some information about the revenues, but the costs involved, they still don't have."

"Those reports from last year were bogus. They said in the fine print they were just numbers. Things aren't as rosy as most people were led to believe."

"We're talking about closing aviation down, and businesses, and putting people on the unemployment line. Really, that doesn't make sense."

"In regards to economic development, it's critical ... here we are contemplating getting rid of something that's already here. That just doesn't make sense to me."

"I think this is the most ethical way to do it, as the Oilers can continue pursuing their interests and Mr. Nichols can continue pursuing his interests."

"If we're not going to talk about the possibility of improved aviation service, what are the possibilities? From our perspective on council, we will want to push for that to be part of the debate."

On the Edmonton Indy:

"It's not a cost, it's an investment into promoting Edmonton as a world-class city. We made a decision as council to support this event because it is world-renowned ... Given the exposure we have had, it's money well spent."

"The publicity, you can't even put a price tag on it. The Indy is being seen by countries around the world."

"(An audit) is already being done as a normal course of doing business, so, really, it's redundant. Something that needs to be made clear is that we as a council asked Northlands to take this on for us, not the other way around. We considered this event to be very important to Edmonton and for its reputation. The \$5.3 million it cost us to put on this event, in my estimation, was very worthwhile. It gave us exposure that we would never, ever have been able to buy for any amount of money."

On EXPO 2017:

"The prudent thing would be to get a...firm commitment from the province and the federal governments (that) if this bid is successful, they are prepared to support the \$2.3 billion."

"That's pretty close to home for us not to know about. I'm so surprised we hadn't heard. Calgary would have had to do a lot of work in the past year. A lot of questions are going to be asked on Monday."

On Budget 2010:

"We have gone all year asking administration to work on this budget, three per cent (plus) two per cent for (neighbourhood) renewal. They have certainly done that. It's a very fair budget to everyone. If we don't accept this recommendation on this after a full year's work, then going forward from this, any time we ask them to do something, where's the credibility?"

"The capacity is there ... We're getting quality work at hugely reduced prices at this time. That certainly bodes well for keeping the economy going, keeping people working."

On Jasper Avenue:

"The pedway system is there. Certainly, we're not going to get rid of that, but there probably needs to be better planning for the buildings that are going up. The main floor has to be commercial, more so. They should be concentrating on getting merchants back on the street so people have a reason to be outside, and not just in the pedway system. To bring people back on the street, you need something for people to attract them -clothing and shoe shops."

On the York Hotel:

"They make everybody else look bad. The majority in the...industry are good operators, but you have the few who, they can't comply or won't comply."

On cats:

"I don't know what it is about me, I've always denied that I like cats but I'm always the first one they come to."

"When it's a cat involved, there are more people saying 'just keep Fluffy, I'm not paying 250 bucks for it. It seems dogs have more value."

On infrastructure:

"We've been so far behind in infrastructure repairs. The more we can get done, the better. There are a little sharper pencils putting the prices out. This will help go a long way to making sure we come in with a very very reasonable tax rate for next year."

On the U-Pass:

"There's enough residual benefits, from (lower) carbon dioxide emissions and fewer vehicles...We subsidize (student) tuition, we subsidize transit, we subsidize all kinds of things, but they're an important group."

On LRT:

"What I understood from the meeting was at Grant MacEwan there would be a skeleton. That was stated a number of times by (transportation general manager) Mr. (Bob) Boutilier, that would only supply a skeleton, no operating station...a hole in the ground."

On the anti-tarsands calendar that used an image for the Reuse Centre:

"I don't know if the city of Edmonton would be prepared to take a position in implied support to Greenpeace and their actions at this point."

On the new ward system:

"Even with the system that we have now, you're running against each other. There's always a chance that one incumbent, as happened in the last election, or both, could be defeated. I don't think that's an issue for consideration."

On bike trails:

"There's a limited amount of money and we have to look after higher priorities. Edmonton already has a lot of paths for a winter city -- about 1,000 kilometres of bike trails and roads -- so I think we've done a good job."

On the Citizen Panel:

"How many members, how many panels, do we need? We might as well just ask the public where to put the money. That's a big part of the councillor's responsibility. It sounds good to have public involvement, but at the end of the day that's what council is here for."

On the idling bylaw:

"It's an unenforceable bylaw that will create problems, pitting neighbour against neighbour."

"All it's going to do is pit neighbour against neighbour. I would have to agree with my constituents that have phoned in to say this sounds like the silliest thing we have done here in a number of years. I think this is a little excessive. People in general are good. They understand the environment and will do what they can in order to mitigate their contribution to ... pollution."

On the police commission:

"There have been a number of meetings that I have voluntarily not attended given the comments made by one of the members that councillors shouldn't be on this ... commission. If I can't get a comment from the commission themselves that that's not their position ... then I have a problem with that. My advice would have been not to present the way the first presentation went forward, and use that wording that was used."

On bloggers:

"A number of bloggers – who knows where they come from – are treated as gospel."