

Brady touts record of civility

Name: John Brady Education: Bachelor's degree in nursing from Mankato State University, degree from Northwestern College of Chiropractic.

Work experience: Registered nurse at Immanuel St.

Joseph's Hospital, Midway Hospital, chiropractor for 25 years, nurse at Horizon Homes' intensive residential treatment services, part-time consultant to Mankato school district for sexuality education Community involvement: Former director of Council for Health Action and Promotion Previous offices held or sought: City Council since 1996, elected mayor in 2006 **MANKATO** — Mayors of old running for re- election would stand behind an agenda accomplished. Perhaps a ribbon cutting for a high-rise or a drop in the crime rate. Mankato Mayor John Brady doesn't talk about his role like that.

"I view it as a position from which one can help guide community dialogue," he said.

In Mankato, the position of mayor is largely ceremonial, but Brady's priorities

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Mankato Mayoral Primary

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also reflect his philosophy about civility and respect.

"How we solve problems is as important or more important than the problem itself," he said.

When a May public meeting about the issue of raising backyard hens grew caustic, Brady voted against holding a later public hearing.

At the time, he said, " There's a lot of anger around this issue for some reason. ... More so than the war by far. I don't think it would be a healthy discussion."

He ended up voting for a two-year, three-permit test run for the chickens.

Brady's priorities leave him with few concrete accomplishments to campaign upon. He was a strong supporter of Riverfront Park — even when some on the council were critical of a \$3.2 million park when police positions were left open.

Brady said beautification is a “ hard investment in the future,” in part because it encourages residents to make their own little corners of Mankato more attractive.

“We took the downtown as a priority because city centers, if allowed to deteriorate, really create a lot of problems,” Brady said.

But he's candid about his role in these events. He voted for them and lauded the staff members who came up with the ideas, but they may have happened without him, too.

While it's difficult to quantify this accomplishment, Brady hopes that his time conducting meetings has borne its own fruit.

“One of my strengths is conducting meetings so that people are heard,” he said.

Brady takes less interest in budgetary discussions than some on the council.

He said he has supported cost- cutting moves like early retirements to avoid layoffs of city employees and said basic services will remain despite budget cuts, though they may be done more cheaply.

He also supports a reduction in the number of local governments.

“ There's going to have to be some movement toward making government more efficient,” he said.

A highlight of his term was the city's passage of the smoking ban, which he opposed at first but eventually voted for. There are other unhealthy behaviors that he would consider regulating. He said he'd approve a ban on artificial trans fats in restaurant food, as New York approved in 2006.

Brady isn't big on campaign promises, and said four more years as mayor would allow him to continue to set a positive tone in public dialogue.

“I really think we're on a good course.”