

★ Salisbury City Council ★

Choose five

On the issues...

Why do you want to be on City Council?

What are the goals you have if you are elected?

What are the budget priorities for the city?

Charles Black

Address: 112 Celtic Circle
Background: He has worked with the N.C. Department of Corrections 13 years and works now at High Rock Prison. He also worked with the Virginia Department of Corrections for several years.



Salisbury annexed the area he lives in two years ago, and he said he has had to fight for benefits, such as street lights and speed signs, other city residents have. He wants to represent the middle class population, and he said none of the current council members are truly middle class.

He plans to make sure every type of person from every area of the city is represented. He would find ways to cut things from the budget so more money could be spent on infrastructure in annexed areas.

He wants to see all areas of the city, including annexed areas, get the things they need before spending money on things that aren't necessities. He said some things, such as bike paths and walking trails, are nice but aren't necessary, and he said city money, which everyone contributes to, too often gets spent on things that only a few people — often wealthy people — can enjoy.

Maggie Blackwell

Address: 422 Mitchell Ave.
Background: She is a former member of the Zoning Board of Adjustments, a member of the Salisbury Planning Board, a former deacon at First Presbyterian Church, a volunteer at Rowan Helping Ministries and has been a mentor through Communities in Schools.



She was raised in a home where community service was the expectation. In Salisbury, she has worked to strengthen her own neighborhood, including working to get Centennial Park built. She wants to help other neighborhoods achieve their goals.

She emphasized she isn't a single-issue candidate. She wants to help provide a high quality of life to all citizens but especially wants to focus on strengthening a base of young people to fill leadership roles in future years. That means supporting high-quality affordable rental properties, creating jobs and boosting arts and entertainment, she said.

She supports Fiber to the Home because it will raise money for the city without anyone's taxes increasing. Just a 2 percent cost of living raise for city employees would cost the city almost \$500,000, she said, and that money has to come from somewhere.

Carl Dangerfield

Address: 1311 Oak Leaf Lane
Background: He is a detective with the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Before that, he was a Salisbury Police officer for nine years.



He is raising his grandchildren and decided if he wants to make a difference in their lives, he needs to get involved. He got interested in politics during last year's presidential election and realized a lot of people had a lot to say.

He thinks the city should grow, not through annexation but through recruiting businesses that people now drive to Concord and Kannapolis for. He also wants to see relationships between the county and city improve, which he said would help the area in general.

Money should go to recruiting new businesses, he said, including incentives and tax breaks for businesses. He also wants to see Salisbury become a leader in the rate it pays city employees.

Blake Jarman

Address: 231 D Ave., apt. 39
Background: He grew splitting his time between Salisbury and Lexington and eventually settled here full-time to go to college at Catawba College. He has worked at Starbucks for four years, some of that time as a manager.



He said he loves Salisbury and thinks now is the time for change. He said many people have told him they don't feel represented, and he said he can thoroughly represent everyone in the city. City Council can help or hinder Salisbury's growth, he said, and he wants to be part of the city's growth.

He wants to create an art district and build up entertainment opportunities to attract young people. He wants to reach out to families who are just getting by with improvements to childcare and efforts to strengthen education. He also wants to create jobs.

He hesitates to take money from the federal government and wants to find ways for Salisbury to survive without outside help by relying on its citizens. He doesn't think the city should spend money on walkways, planting trees and so forth but should focus on making schools better.

Benjamin Johnson

Address: 308 Knollwood Ave.
Background: He is a senior programmer/analyst for TIMCO Aviation at the GSO airport in Greensboro. He has been a member of the Rowan County Republican Party, including the Men's Club and Executive Committee, and vice chairman of his precinct with the Republican Party.



He doesn't see a lot of representation of conservative fiscal policies in city government. He has young sons, and he wants them to be able to grow up and start their own business if they want without barriers from city policies. The city puts up too many obstacles to businesses that want to get started in Salisbury, he said, and small businesses need all the help they can get.

He wants to make the business environment more favorable using free market principles. He wants to get ordinances that add cumbersome steps to business ownership pulled back. He wants to establish term limits to keep the same people from being council members for years at a time. He also wants to increase salaries for elected officials to make it easier for people at all income levels to run for office.

He said some budget items, such as police and fire departments and education, are critical and will determine Salisbury's future growth. But he said the city needs to stop spending for superfluous things and instead allow taxpayers to have that money to do what they think is best. For instance, he said he sees a lot of wasted spending in middle management and administration in the city.

William "Pete" Kennedy

Address: 1116 Crestview Ave.
Background: He is finishing his 16th year as councilman. He owns William R. Kennedy Realty and is a retired school teacher and guidance counselor.



The city is only as strong as its weakest neighborhood, he said. He wants to empower citizens and see through projects that were started in the years he's been a councilman.

He wants to see Fiber to the Home completed and help people buy into the program. He wants to see downtown continue to improve and plans to support development of the Empire Hotel.

Hiring police officers is important for gang prevention, he said, as are other initiatives, such as Project Safe.

Susan Kluttz

Address: 329 W. Bank St.
Background: She has been Salisbury's mayor for 12 years, a member of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, a board member of F&M Bank and a Rowan-Cabarrus Community College trustee.



She has several projects going she wants to see completed. She works as mayor full time, even though it isn't a full-time position, because she said there's so much each term she wants to accomplish.

She wants to bring more jobs to the area, see the Fiber to the Home project completed, continue working on public safety and gang prevention issues, help get the Empire Hotel on its way, help the arts community continue to develop, strengthen the relationship between City Council and the Rowan County Board of Commissioners, and promote the city's relationship with Salisbury, England.

She said budget priorities for the city will be hashed out in a February retreat but to her some of the most important priorities are anything that brings in jobs and anything that helps keep people safe.

Mark Lewis

Address: 109 Kingsbridge Road
Background: He has been a council member for six years and is a regional executive with Bank of North Carolina. He represents City Council on Downtown Salisbury Inc.'s board and the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau board. He is also on the Rowan County Tourism Development Authority.



He has a leadership role in three city projects he wants to see through: Fiber to the Home, redevelopment of downtown and implementation of the Salisbury Tourism Development Authority.

The Fiber to the Home project will fail without excellent customer service, he said. Service the city offers needs to be better than that offered by existing companies. He also wants to see Salisbury foster cultural, historic and arts tourism and foster an "enterprise economy" — an economy based not on big business or manufacturing but on entrepreneurs and innovators.

He said success of the Empire Hotel will require the city's commitment to provide adequate parking and street infrastructure, which will take significant money. Public safety is also a priority. He said programs to support education and reduce poverty, which in turn reduces gang activity, will not take a huge amount of money but will require significant coordination of resources from lots of groups.

Brian Miller

Address: 110 Kingsbridge Road
Background: He is a senior vice president for Citizens South Bank, past chairman of the Salisbury Planning Board, past chairman of Downtown Salisbury Inc.'s board of directors, chairman of Downtown Salisbury's board of Empire Hotel Task Force and leader of the loan pool for the hotel project.



He's been involved in Downtown Salisbury Inc., United Way, the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations involved in some aspect of the city. He said he considers becoming a councilman the next logical step for which he has developed a strong skill set.

He doesn't plan on changing things to fit his personal preferences. His primary goal is to be able to look back after two years on council and see ways the city has been improved. He cares a lot about the Empire Hotel and the downtown area, but he said he would also pay attention to neighborhoods, roads and public safety employees — nothing should have sole priority.

He wants to first figure out what items are essential, such as police and fire departments, water and sewer services, things that are essential functions of government. Then he would use what's left to pay for less essential programs. He said he wants to add his input but respects the process the whole council will go through in establishing a city budget.

William Peoples

Address: 522 N. Fulton St.
Background: He has been involved in the Project SAFE Salisbury, in the Neighborhood Alliance program, in One Church, One Child and in the Community Child Protection team. He spent six years as vice chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustments for the city and is in his second term on the Salisbury Human Relations Council.



The city needs new ideas, he said. He said he brings a new perspective because he lives in the West End neighborhood and sees some of the issues minority and less fortunate communities face. Some neighborhoods lack basic necessities, he said.

He wants to advance recreation and healthy activities for young people. He said the council needs to make sure the infrastructure of the city is taken care of equally in all neighborhoods. He said he would like to take a close look at why some neighborhoods struggle and address the underlying issues.

He said public safety employees need to be paid better. He also would like to hire more police officers. He said the city is losing too many good employees to neighboring areas that can pay better rates.

Sidney Roberts

Address: 110 Confederate Ave.
Background: He was born in Salisbury, but his family moved away shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He moved back in December 1998. He is a pastor with Church of God in Christ and is working to get a church in his denomination started in Salisbury.



He thinks new people should take part in government, rather than relying on the same people to be council members for multiple terms. He said new people bring new perspectives, and he especially wants to represent areas of the city that aren't represented now.

He wants to pull together colleges, non-profit organizations, business owners and other interested groups to work together to bring more jobs to Salisbury. He also wants to see Salisbury act more like a city than a small town. And he said he wants to push an open-door policy, making sure council members are always available to the people they represent.

He said the biggest priority is not in a particular funding area but overall to make sure short-range and long-range goals are known throughout the city and are driving budget decisions.

Paul Woodson

Address: 6 Dogwood Road
Background: He owns Vogue Dry Cleaners on North Long Street and has been president of the Margaret C. Woodson Foundation, a trustee of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and a representative with the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation. He has been on City Council for 12 years.



He likes meeting people and being tuned in to what's going on all over the city. He said it keeps him from getting bogged down in the daily routine of running his business.

He wants to make Salisbury is as friendly to new businesses as possible. He also wants to see the Fiber to the Home project finished. He wants to make things better for everyone in the city.

He wants to put money toward a business incubator, where small business owners can pay rent on a small space and share the price of telephone and computer expenses. He also wants to put more money into different neighborhoods, especially programs that help first-time home buyers. Finally, he would like to be able to maintain the same water, sewer and tax rates the city now charges.

Michael Young

Address: 117 Maupin Ave.
Background: He came to Salisbury to be executive director of Downtown Salisbury Inc. He has spent his 27 years in Salisbury trying to lead by example in developing downtown properties and living downtown.



He's passionate about downtown and has spent his 27 years in Salisbury developing the downtown area. He said he doesn't have a particular agenda for the city but wants to serve the community and thinks he has the skills and the time to be a good councilman.

He thinks neighborhood groups need to be represented better. He said there are organizations to work on behalf of business groups but no one is representing neighborhoods. He would also like to create a registration and permit process for rental properties and finish creating a commercial maintenance code, which is in the works, for downtown.

Dozens of areas are fighting for money, he said, and he would want to allocate money to each area in a balanced way and then prioritize the funds from there. The city should invest in many small business, he said, because that would help keep Salisbury's economy stable over the long run, rather than investing primarily in a few large businesses.