



Vote for mayor, 3 aldermen

East Spencer



James Cowan

Address: 511 Division Avenue
Age: 66
Occupation: Retired Army veteran
Education: Dunbar High School

What is one thing that could be done to improve East Spencer's economic situation?

Cowan was not available for comment.

How do you propose addressing the housing crisis in East Spencer?

Cowan was not available for comment.

What do you think should be done with the Dunbar Center?

Cowan was not available for comment.



Barbara Mallett

Address: 206 Hall Street
Age: 70
Occupation: Retired town finance officer/clerk
Education: RCCC, Shaw University

It is housing — that is our core value that we need to start looking at. We are in the process of developing the East Spencer Housing Development Corp. We have properties available through foreclosures; there are things available through USDA & tax liens.

We'll try to produce the type of housing they desire. ... tiny homes, duplex, condos. We have to survey what type of neighborhoods & homes they want. Walkability — they want to be within walking distance of church, coffee shops, etc.

That is one of the eyesores of the community ... the town has to take aggressive action to remedy that, including development & clean up. You have to address expansion, development or redevelopment.



Teon Robinson

Address: 711 Pinetree Drive
Age: 27
Occupation: Owner of the Robinson Group, consulting firm for program management for construction
Education: North Rowan High

Bring industry. The use of the commercial land we have that would be able to produce jobs. Use our available resources on the local, state & federal level to ensure the citizens of our town benefit on whichever level works best.

The only way we will address the housing crisis here is ensuring that we produce jobs so that they will be able to afford homes. Clean up what we have that will attract developers to come in and build in our community. It all ties back to jobs.

I would love to see it be used for what it was intended for — after school programs, like a community center, which is what it was for a very long time.



Tammy Corpening

Address: 322 Adams Street
Age: 52
Occupation: Property manager
Education: Holds a degree in accounting, currently seeking a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Economic development. We can't concentrate on one thing. She said having quality development is better than any development.

The residents have suffered enough. We can't get anyone in East Spencer because of our water rates. I don't think our water rate should be our town's profit. Salisbury charges us a fee. Let's pay the fee. It should not be passed onto the residents.

Make it something for the community to enjoy. Let's focus the Dunbar Center on community enjoyment. I see a museum or a library. East Spencer doesn't have a business development place, or bank or Y or Boys and Girls Club.



Otis Gibson

Address: 221 East Hall Street
Age: Did not disclose
Occupation: Retired teacher
Education: George Washington Carver High School in Kannapolis & Winston-Salem State

Money. We need revenue to do what we need to for this town. We need revenue and housing and people in the houses. People in the houses that are paying taxes. It will probably help solve our water problem.

We are trying to buy up the properties that are dilapidated so that we can come in and build some houses or apartments so that younger people can come in and set up getting a house with the option to buy.

Cleaned off and torn down and turned into a community center. He does not want to see a charter school at that location.

East Spencer



Tony Hillian

Address: 313 Southern St.
Age: 42
Occupation: Self-employed; part-time Noble & Kelsey Funeral Home
Education: Salisbury High, Shaw University, Strayer University

What is one thing that could be done to improve East Spencer's economic situation?

Be more proactive in attracting businesses by including citizen input. They have resources that they can reach out to as well.

How do you propose addressing the housing crisis in East Spencer?

One thing we can do is if we can get more family-oriented and bring more resources for families to move to East Spencer like family parks, library. ... Either families move back to East Spencer or new families move to East Spencer.

What do you think should be done with the Dunbar Center?

It is an eyesore that needs to be cleaned up. I've been working with a private group in litigation with the property. We are proposing to make it a family fun center, similar to what it used to be.



Douglas Dwayne Holmes

Address: 516 N. Long St.
Age: 42
Occupation: Holmes Iron & Metal
Education: Dudley Cosmetology University

Industry. If it's brought in it will also bring people, and with people that means more tax revenue for the town.

It takes industry in order for people to come to your town. Jobs means more people to the town. You can't build a bunch of houses and expect people to come without jobs. Industry has to be in place first.

It's not the town's right to clean that up. I understand it's a historic site, but the town has more matters to deal with than the Dunbar Center.



Phronice Johnson

Address: 1231 Butler St.
Age: 65
Occupation: Retired accountant technician
Education: North Rowan High, Forsyth Technical College

We need people to buy the dilapidated houses, refurbish them and move in them. We need tax base in the town. We need taxpayers. Sure, we need businesses in the town, but we have to clean up the town. That is what we are working toward.

Main problem is the water bills. We are working on the water system. Having our own housing development corporation will bring in people. New homes will attract new families. In 2 or 3 years we will see some results as it pertains to water.

Need it cleaned up. I would like to see something else there. The county is doing foreclosure on it. Hopefully we can get into a position to clean it up. I see a building or community center so alumni can have somewhere to come to.



Jamilla Kennedy

Address: 212 Andrews St.
Age: 45
Occupation: Medical office administrator, cosmetologist
Education:

Trying to get the water rate under control for people who have businesses. "If we can clean those up and try to bring more businesses, we can get more economic growth. If we had our own water system that would be good as well."

"First we have to bring businesses into the town and people have to have jobs." She suggested training workshops so residents can find the skills so they can retain employment.

"Everybody has something to say but nobody is doing anything for it. I do think the best thing is to haul off that trash and talk to residents and see what they want to do. Get a nonprofit to use it. Knock it down."