



Vote for five

Salisbury

Question #1
How would you reduce crime?

Question #2
Would you sell, lease or manage Fibrant?

Question #3
What is one innovative idea that you have?



Karen Alexander
Address: 419 S. Fulton St.
Age: 67
Occupation: Mayor/architect at KKA Architecture
Education: Architecture degree from UNCC

Community engagement. Fostering a partnership between community and police department. Encouraging citizens to say something if they see something.

Lease or manage. Thinks of paying off Fibrant like paying off a mortgage and says city only has 11 years left to pay off Fibrant debt. Thinks it would be "crazy" for city to sell and lose investment.

Restoring the Empire Hotel.



Leda Belk
Address: 200 S. McCoy Rd.
Age: 70
Occupation: Retired educator
Education: Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UNCC

Thinks City Council's job is policy making and engaging people. Wants to support police chief and make sure officers have what they need to do their jobs. Thinks cleaning the city will lead to reduced crime.

Doesn't think city should lease it or sell it, but should keep it and try to make it work. Thinks city will take major loss if it's sold or leased. Thinks Fibrant hasn't been given a chance because it hasn't been marketed.

After-school, recreational activities for kids.



Ryan Evans
Address: 9 White Oak Cir.
Age: 27
Occupation: Retired Army soldier
Education: Currently studying political science at Livingstone College

Thinks talking to the youth will help solve crimes and find criminals. Thinks opioid abuse is behind spike in crime. Wants to find people at top of crime rings because, if they're stopped, small-time criminals will stop, too.

Thinks Fibrant hasn't been positive since it's existed. Thinks the service is good but there's no one around who can afford it.

Building a housing community on land the city already owns.



Kenny Hardin
Address: 107 Willow Rd.
Age: 51
Occupation: Air Force veteran; consultant
Education: Journalism degree from Pfeiffer University

Thinks police cannot adequately serve minority populations if they don't understand each other culturally. Thinks there should be a midnight curfew for kids under 18. Thinks there should be targeted enforcement where crimes occur.

Thinks citizens deserve to know more about Fibrant. Wants to hire an agency to do an exhaustive, in-depth investigation into it. Wants to know who the investors are, how it started, what legalities city is involved in.

Wants a partnership between the county and the city to restore dilapidated houses that would then be sold for low prices to teachers and police officers.



Al Heggins
Address: 1210 Old West Innes St.
Age: 53
Occupation: Owner of Human Praxis Institute
Education: English degree and Master's degree in Education from UNCC

Thinks there should be facilitators between police and community. Says there's no "one magic bullet" to solve crime, but that root problems need to be addressed. Thinks that No. 1 priority should be getting police department to full capacity.

Thinks she needs to have more information before she can determine what to do. Says that she is still a regular citizen and doesn't have access to information.

Congress of Neighborhoods, which would allow communities and neighborhood representatives to self-select representatives who engage with each other and City Council.



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Brian Miller

Address: 110 Kingsbridge Road
Age: 48
Occupation: District manager for BB&T
Education: Business Administration degree from UNCC

Question #1 How would you reduce crime?

Thinks it is the council's job to give police department the resources they need. Relies on the professionals city hires. Likes new approach to community policing and happy that council gave police pay raises.

Question #2 Would you sell, lease or manage Fibrant?

Thinks selling Fibrant at a deep discount would not help citizens. Thinks city should find experts who know the industry to determine what to do. Wants citizens to buy in, but knows they can't be forced to.

Question #3 What is one innovative idea that you have?

Thinks council should get involved in early education efforts, potentially in the form of a board or commission.



Todd Paris

Address: 113 E. Council St.
Age: 53
Occupation: Lawyer at D. Todd Paris Sr. Law Firm
Education: Political science and history degree from UNCC; law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill

Thinks police have to be an actual deterrent to crime in order for it to be effective. Thinks people are getting a criminal justice bandage instead of real investigations. Thinks there needs to be an even bigger police staff, up to 107 officers.

Thinks best possible option would be if someone would buy it, but for a high enough price to pay off the debt. Thinks it was a mistake for city to get involved in first place and that, if someone else could run it better, they should.

2,900 project, which would allow homeowners trying to sell their homes to "become the bank" so they can sell to people who might not otherwise have the credit to buy a house; thinks it will solve abandoned houses problem.



David Post

Address: 121 E. Corriher Ave.
Age: 68
Occupation: Attorney at David Post Law PLLC
Education: Business degree from UNC-Chapel Hill; law degree from Duke University

Thinks police chief needs authority to do his job and the tools he needs to accomplish his job. Doesn't want to micromanage. Glad police department is focusing on community policing. Thinks poverty leads to crime.

Thinks city cannot sell because the value is too low. Doesn't think city can operate it because it doesn't have a business mindset. Thinks only reasonable option is to lease it, but needs to be someone who knows exactly what they're doing.

Salisbury charter school district.



Rodney Queen

Address: 101 Ferncliff Dr.
Age: 69
Occupation: Owner of Norwood Nursery
Education: Graduate of Holbrook High School

Thinks poverty is fueling crime and that, to reduce crime, poverty has to be reduced. Thinks crime cannot be solved by throwing police officers at it. Thinks police officers should go to schools and develop relationship with kids early.

Thinks council cannot focus on Fibrant as a reason that other things cannot get done. Thinks selling it will not work because buyers will want a bargain. Thinks leasing could be best option.

7-person City Council.



Patricia Jones 'P.J.' Ricks

Address: 225 Rutherford St.
Age: 72
Occupation: Retired educator/counselor
Education: Biology degree from Livingstone College

Thinks there should be a way for people to submit crime tips without putting their families in danger. Thinks police officers need to focus on crime and drug hot spots. Thinks there should be early programs that allow kids to see police differently.

Thinks city needs to stop looking at Fibrant as a utility. Thinks Fibrant should be marketed to hospitals, schools, colleges and apartments as well as single-family homes. Thinks discounted rate should be offered to low-income residents.

Would make crime the whole city's concern, a public policy concern.

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Tamara Sheffield

Address: 301 Maupin Ave.

Age: 47

Occupation: Senior account manager for Frito-Lay

Education: Marketing degree from Tennessee Technological University

Question #1 How would you reduce crime?

Applauds current council for giving police pay raises. Doesn't believe you can arrest your way out of crime problems. Thinks city needs to talk more about what causes drug and crime problems — lack of education, addiction, mental illness.

Question #2 Would you sell, lease or manage Fibrant?

Personally a fan of Fibrant. Thinks selling is not a sound financial option because city will still have debt. Thinks it needs to be marketed better and that there should be a full Fibrant staff.

Question #3 What is one innovative idea that you have?

Find innovative ideas through discussions with community and holding town halls.



John Struzick

Address: 1610 Secret Garden Ct.

Age: 71

Occupation: Financial manager for Innospec

Education: Economics degree from University of North Alabama

Thinks best thing council can do is support law enforcement. Thinks police department needs proper resources like vehicles that work, training. Thinks education is important to stopping crime.

Proponent of Fibrant; thinks its an outstanding resource for Salisbury. Thinks it's been severely mismanaged and hasn't been advertised. Thinks it shouldn't be treated like a utility because there's too much competition.

Get a permanent director for Fibrant who knows the business, then check in and get a report from Fibrant about their progress on a regular basis.



Latasha Wilks

Address: 701 Pinehurst St.

Age: 43

Occupation: Associate minister at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Education: Studying psychology at Ashford University

Thinks giving young people something to do, like after-school programs, will help reduce crime, and that the root of the crime problem is people feeling excluded and unequal. Thinks D.A.R.E. program should be at every school.

Thinks debt needs to be refinanced so that city is making lower payments over longer time so other items could be financed while debt is being paid.

Home ownership program. Meet with all of the home owners who have vacant houses. Work with banks to have them accept potential homebuyers with lower-than-average credit.