



Vote for mayor, 6 aldermen

Spencer

Why should people vote for you?

What should be done about the Park Plaza?

What are steps that you would take to bring industry to Spencer?



Jim Gobel

Address: Eighth Street
Age: 66
Occupation: Retired from Miller Brewing Company
Education: Spartanburg Technical College and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

"I've done all that I can do to represent the town of Spencer in a fair way," Gobel said. He will "have his feet under the table" at anything that will move the town forward.

Gobel wants to see some sustainable retail businesses move there, but a lot of work would have to be done on the property, first. Moving the police department and town offices there would be a first step.

The key is "getting our name out there." The town is currently meeting with the EDC, which is a "first step." But, "it's our responsibility to market ourselves as a town that wants to move forward."



James 'Mike' Boone

Address: South Spencer Avenue
Age: 64
Occupation: Retired from Rowan-Salisbury Schools
Education: Davidson County Community College

"I'm hoping they'll vote for me based on my past record," Boone said.

Boone said he has high hopes that municipal offices will move into the Park Plaza in the near future. "That would probably be the jump-start for other good things to happen there."

Spencer should partner more with the Rowan County Board of Commissioners and focus on marketing Rowan. "I think it's going to be very beneficial working together to accomplish something there."



Sylvia Chillcott

Address: Fourth Street
Age: 60
Occupation: Retired director of public safety, works as a substitute teacher in North area schools
Education: Catawba College

Chillcott said she is an incumbent who has worked hard on the board for nearly two years. "And I am excited about continuing on some projects that we started and I'd like to see them to fruition."

The Park Plaza is an "eyesore right in the middle of downtown Spencer." It should be bought, or the town should do something with it. The board is currently looking at options.

The town is looking at the old finishing plant on the north end of town as a possibility for a future business site. Jobs would have to come from a company that's large enough to employ a good number of residents.



Kevin Jones

Address: Pickett Avenue
Age: 37
Occupation: Subway franchise owner and works part-time at Life Church
Education: Elon University

"I think I have a proven track record of getting things done in Spencer."

"I think that any development that we can get in will help to spur on more in that area." While it's not ideal, it is still valuable property. And if filled it would hopefully pull people across from the N.C. Transportation Museum.

Spencer has a lot of good attributes — it's a central location, close to a river and close to an interstate. "It's a huge plus that we haven't done a very good job of marketing."



David Lamanno

Address: South Rowan Avenue
Age: 49
Occupation: Circulation department at Rowan Public Library
Education: Western Carolina University

Lamanno said he has experience in his favor, both from his two years on the board and training he received from the N.C. School of Government. "I bring what I learned at that workshop to every meeting," he said.

Lamanno said he would like to see the area near the road returned to a green space so the property is not "a sea of concrete." The board is also considering moving the police department and municipal offices there.

"We have our eyes and ears open to industry." Lamanno said. The town is working on combining tracts on Long Ferry Road to make them more attractive to developers, and is working with the EDC.

Spencer



David Smith

Address: North Salisbury Avenue

Age: 72

Occupation: Security manager; retired from Army

Education: Central Carolina Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Why should people vote for you?

"It's my town, and that's it," he said. Smith said he would also like to finish projects started during his time on the board.

What should be done about the Park Plaza?

He's for revitalization of the property, and he'd like to see a drug store go there. Moving the town hall and police department there may also be a possibility.

What are steps that you would take to bring industry to Spencer?

Spencer has limited land and space, so any industry brought in would need to be something with longevity.



Howard White

Address: Fourth Street

Age: 58

Occupation: Retired master combat meteorologist for the U.S. Air Force

Education: Department of Defense.

White said he will try to give everything he has to the town and the board. "You can't please all the people all the time, but I am willing to try and give 100 percent," he said.

Whatever happens to the property, White said he thinks the town should be involved in it "somehow, someday." Whether that's moving the police department there, or seeing if rental rates can be lowered.

Erase the stigma "that the town is overall bad." White said. "...If people don't feel comfortable here, they're not going to come." There's hope, in the future though, he said, with the growth of the I-85 corridor.