

On the issues...

Robert 'Bob' Boone

Challenger

Age: 66

Address: 1605 S. Main St.

Occupation: Owner, Southern Motor.

Organizations: Boone said he doesn't want his personal affiliations to be tangled up with politics. He said he's offering himself as a candidate "without any backing, just me."



What city problem or issue needs to be addressed soon?

Boone says council has to keep a closer check on spending and what the city budget can take. He also has concerns about a growing bond debt, which he describes as "huge." "I think spending is a big issue. We have already spent into my grandchildren's time."

Which city dept. needs the most attention?

"I would certainly say parks." Boone says the Salisbury Community Park should not have portable toilets, for example. Land Management also should be a priority because it's always been hard "for developers to jump through all the hoops." He also would like to see small retailers given more consideration.

How much do you want Salisbury to grow in 10 years?

Boone says it's obvious growth will occur in the south and west corridors and if some of that occurs through annexation, he has no problems with that. As for city government itself, Boone says it needs a central office because operations are too scattered now. Many buildings occupied by the city need to go back on the market, he says.

Your best attribute for the next City Council?

"Basically, I'm not an architect, banker or cleaner. I don't live in the Country Club. I don't have a personal agenda. I don't have any ties to any particular political group. ... "I just think I'd be a freer agent, and that may be some difference." He adds being on the council too long can lead to members's becoming "somewhat obligated."

Bill Burgin

Incumbent

Age: 55

Address: 317 Mahaley Ave.

Occupation: Architect

Education: Rutherfordton-Spindale High, N.C. State.

Organizations: Milford Hills UMC, Rowan Rotary, Board member, Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare, Rowan Tourism Development Authority, Salisbury Rowan Economic Development Commission, American Institute of Architects.



"Until we have in place a new Land Development Ordinance, growth remains my biggest concern and one that remains for me the next big thing. Once this is in place our city's aging infrastructure (storm sewer, water lines in older neighborhoods, sewer lines and treatment capacity, streets and sidewalks) need attention."

"Land Management. Our council must complete and adopt a new Land Development Ordinance that supports our 2020 growth plan. With this in place, our Land Management staff, Planning Board and future councils will be equipped" to match the city's growth patterns to what citizens want.

"My preference is for Salisbury to grow at a manageable rate, which I would define as fast enough to maintain our quality city services while keeping our tax rate level or declining." Burgin wants population to grow in density, filling in gaps within the city. "I believe this infill will have the greatest effect on our city."

"My training as an architect. It has equipped me with an understanding of urban growth issues and solutions. It also has contributed to my appreciation of Salisbury's built environment and a clearer perspective as to why our buildings remain a valued asset that defines our city."

William 'Pete' Kennedy

Incumbent

Age: 67

Address: 1116 Crestview Ave.

Occupation: Retired educator. Owner, William R. Kennedy Realty Inc.

Education: Dunbar High. Livingstone College. Master's, UNC-Charlotte.

Organizations: Chairman, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency and First Legacy Federal Credit Union; trustee, Risk Management Services, N.C. League of Municipalities; director, Ruffy-Holmes Sr. Center. Southern City church.



"The creation of jobs and employment is still a major concern. I will assist in creating a positive environment for business to expand and locate here with jobs. The council must provide the leadership to foster an understanding of the city goals among the business, historic, neighborhoods and cultural communities."

"The next council should provide more activities for the youth of our city to counter the growth of gangs. The city should expand the recreational programs with the guidance from our youth and provide transportation to the Salisbury Community Park on Hurley School Road."

"With the near completion of the expansion of I-85, the city of Salisbury will be bombarded with growth. The council should be progressive in allowing growth that complements our established residences and businesses."

"I offer to our citizens my acquired knowledge through experience on council with a progressive attitude with a deep commitment to serve my fellow man."

Susan Klutz

Incumbent

Age: 58

Address: 329 W. Bank St.

Occupation: Former executive asst. to superintendent, Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

Education: Boyden High, Mount Vernon Jr. College, UNC-Greensboro.

Organizations: Salisbury Community Development Corp., Salisbury Community Foundation. Board, F&M Bank, RCCC, Project SAFE. N.C. Metro Coalition, League of Municipalities. Rail Advisory.



Klutz says a clearer Land Development Ordinance, already drafted, needs to be in place to make the development process smoother. "The staff has been placed in a difficult position of having to follow ordinances which have become outdated and confusing. ... The result has been a perception that the city is not business friendly."

"I believe the first priority is to continue to strengthen the support of the Police Department. Gang activity has complicated the work for police. The council recently increased department personnel by two officers, but we must continue to make sure that our support is adequate" to meet the new challenge.

Klutz says council can control how the city grows. "I would like to see Salisbury grow significantly enough to fund increased services. The growth needs to be balanced, including more affordable housing, more upscale housing, industrial base and more retail. Infill development always remains a top priority for council."

"I believe it would be my sincere love and concern for Salisbury and its people. My husband, Bill, and I grew up here in families which realized that Salisbury was a special place, and both of our fathers served on City Council. We returned with a strong feeling of responsibility for a city that was important to our families."

Mark Lewis

Incumbent

Age: 45

Address: 109 Kingsbridge Road.

Occupation: Senior vp, Bank of North Carolina.

Education: Camden Military Academy, UNC-Charlotte.

Organizations: American Leadership Forum, Downtown Salisbury, Salisbury Civitan, Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning, Rowan Chamber, Rowan Alliance. Co-chair, Land Development Ordinance and Cultural Action Plan committees.



"Now is the time to invest in our downtown infrastructure as we continue to build upon our community's sense of place. Not only does this make us even more presentable to the visitor and potential resident, it also supports the redevelopment of the Empire Hotel property and other potential projects such as the Railwalk Arts District."

Lewis says it's difficult to single out any city department for attention because "this council has continually supported the identified needs of each department within the resources our citizens are willing to provide." Plus, city initiatives almost always involve several departments, such as anti-gang measures.

"I am committed to the growth of our city. Two of those benefits include jobs for our citizens and the spreading of municipal service costs over a larger tax base. ... Obviously, anywhere water/sewer is nearby is in the (Salisbury Vision 2020's) Primary Growth Area and will be the most likely candidate for development."

"My experiences with the American Leadership Forum have led me to understand the power of collaborative leadership. I enjoy working with groups to reach a collective vision, develop a plan of action for that vision, then working hard together to fulfill that vision."

Laura R. Lyerly

Challenger

Age: 28

Address: 331 Woodson St.

Occupation: Publicity, Historic Salisbury Foundation. Former administrative asst. for Downtown Salisbury Inc.

Education: North Rowan High School, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Organizations: Surge. Historic Salisbury Foundation. Spencer Presbyterian Church. Board member, Rowan Arts Council.



Economic development. Lyerly says Improving education (with a focus on diversity), history, the arts, healthy and walkable communities, cleaning up the city and supporting the downtown and making it a place for cities "will ultimately lead to economic development in the area, which really means jobs."

"I think streets and sidewalks are a major concern now. When I walk the side streets around Fisher Street (our emerging entertainment district) the sidewalks are all broken. I don't believe that tourists would be quite as forgiving as I am about the mess." Lyerly says put the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan into action.

"One of the best attributes that Salisbury has is its small-town appeal. While growth is necessary, it must be consistent with the Salisbury Vision 2020 Plan. ... We must actively seek out business and industry while carefully planning their placement and maintaining our historic character."

"I believe my ability to see the overall picture is my best attribute. ... I also believe by ability to work with all different groups of people is also a good attribute. Being able to move among various groups and gather information gives the opportunity to understand and then address problems from various viewpoints."

Bill Ward

Write-In

Age: 69

Address: 610 Mahaley Ave.

Occupation: Retired. Former publications manager for Charlotte engineering firm.

Education: Boyden High. Navy Hospital Corps School, Medical X-ray School. Credits, training, at University of Maryland, MIT, CPCC.

Organizations: Disabled American Vets. Sons of Confederate Veterans. Bonnie Blue Society, Society for Technical Communications.



"The (Council) should pass ordinances addressing the employment of illegal aliens by 1) the city and 2) privately owned businesses with stiff fines for each illegal employed." Ward says council also should make English Salisbury's official language, "with all documents related to city business written in English only."

"The Salisbury Police Department should be provided with ample resources for gang interdiction. The Hispanic gangs, specifically MS-13, are moving from the large metro areas to smaller towns like Salisbury. Gangs need to be stopped before they become entrenched in the community."

"Salisbury's growth probably will come from the south, considering the location of the bio-tech center and proposed airport expansion. I have no preference as to the amount of growth within the next 10 years, but 20 to 25 percent would seem reasonable."

"A measured, open-minded and analytical, conservative approach to management and spending. I strongly believe that government should serve the people — not the other way around. And that means elected officials sometimes must set aside their personal preferences and listen to the voice of the people, which is the real gov."

Paul Woodson

Incumbent

Age: 61

Address: 6 Dogwood Road.

Occupation: Owner, Vogue Cleaners.

Education: UNC-Chapel Hill.

Organizations: President, Margaret C. Woodson Foundation. Board of directors, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Hood Seminary Advisory Board. Salisbury Rotary. St. Luke's Episcopal.



"If there's one thing that could be strengthened, it would be to maximize our water and sewer utility to benefit our citizens for residential and industrial growth. This would help keep our taxes down. Salisbury has a really good system that most cities do not have. We need to do a better job of telling our story."

"I feel we need to strengthen our Land Management. The city needs a full-time land development coordinator, especially with our new Land Development Ordinance close to being passed. This person could work our developers through the process. If Salisbury is to grow, we need to make this more business friendly."

"I hope Salisbury will have moderate growth over the next 10 years. We have all seen the infrastructure problems of Concord and Cary. I feel that the I-85 corridor for Salisbury to Concord will be the main growth corridor. Second will be Highway 150 for residential and the new four-lane U.S. 70 for industrial and residential."

"I have run businesses since I was 16 years old. I feel like I bring a strong financial and budgeting background to our council. I describe myself as 'financially conservative, but progressive.'"