Jim (James) Davis (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jim.davis@highpointnc.gov

Age: 50

Profession: N.C. licensed general contractor

Highest degree earned: Some college

Leadership experience: Mayor of High Point; served as mayor pro tem; liaison to the High Point Realtor Association and past board member; past member of High Point Parks and Recreation, High Point Board of Adjustment, High Point Planning and Zoning, and Forsyth County Farm Service Agency.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? The value of prior elected experience, which I have, is a complete understanding of city departments and their roles in the operations of the city and their budget needs. It is fundamental in providing services to our residents.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? We can continue our current policies of mid-size businesses. We need to improve on the recruitment of small businesses. Work with our neighboring communities toward a regional economic development partnership to promote this area. Explore creating a small-business incubator.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? The first and most important priority will be hiring a new city manager. Job creation and economic development. Variable planning and development permitting processes that promote development and growth.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Please provide more information on question.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? By making our city government more efficient to reduce our property taxes so we can be more competitive with our neighbors. Favorable planning/development and permitting processes that foster new and redevelopment.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? Yes, there was no accountability and no transfer of information between the employee and council. I believe this will foster better communication, accountability and additional resources and collaboration. There's already validation of expanded communication and resources following the change.

Funding for revitalization efforts increased. Council reallocated money for the core city plan.

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Roger Sims



Lives in: High Point

Contact: rogerdsims@bellsouth.net

Age: 46

Profession: Insurance agent

Highest degree earned: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Leadership experience: Former president/chairman of Rotary Club of High Point; Salvation Army Advisory Board; Leadership: High Point Steering Committee (graduate Class of 2004); National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, Greensboro Chapter; Executive Board member of High Point Chamber of Commerce; state board member of NAIFA-North Carolina.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? I believe an elected official needs to have mutual respect with the city staff to facilitate a productive and cooperative atmosphere. While I have no political experience, I have been actively involved in the High Point community for over 10 years and have good relationships with many city department heads.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? We need to overcome the perception (or is it reality?) that High Point is not "business friendly." If more businesses come to town, more people will come to spend money, which will directly influence how many more businesses would like to come to our town, and so on, etc.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Re-establishing the trust of its residents. Too much press on the controversies and disagreements have overshadowed the positive work the current council has done. The new council needs to demonstrate members can cooperate and work together for the success and prosperity of our town.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Of which proposed business alliance do you speak?

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? We must keep taxes and fees to a minimum while maintaining sufficient services, a tough objective to achieve. We need to be able to demonstrate that High Point is a great place to conduct business and a community to which people are attracted.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? I do not support a reduction in funding to the revitalizaiton effort, nor the elimination of City Project as a department and the transfer of the executive director's job. However, we still need to actively promote our strengths and recruit small business, whatever structure the current council dictates.

James Corey



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jcorey@triad.rr.com

Age: 76

Profession: Educator

Highest degree earned: Ph.D.

Leadership experience: 25-year career U.S. Naval officer

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? Prior elected experience is very valuable. I have served two years as a City Council member and am very familiar with the city government.

What, if anything, can the city do to promote economic development? The city is the furniture market of the U.S. We need to diversify into other areas and look for new technonogy that can be utilized.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Balancing the budget is a huge task. Road maintenance is a pressing need.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? Yes.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Some local businesses will thrive; others will fail. Attracting new businesses with new ideas and products is the real challenge.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? The City Project has not done an overly good job. We need to refocus our efforts to revitalize not only the downtown area, but also other areas in High Point.

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Jason Ewing (i)



Lives in: High Point

Contact: jpewing2@gmail.com; www.JasonEwingNC.com; @JasonEwingNC on Twitter

Age: 37

Profession: Real estate broker

Highest degree earned: Not answered

Leadership experience: High Point City Council (chairman of nonprofit grant review committee); Board of Directors for Welfare Reform Liaison Project (finance committee), High Point Regional Association of Realtors (chaired YPN and website committee), High Point Economic Development Corp.; council liaison to High Point Public Library board of trustees.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful council member? Council is a role that takes more than two years for most to fully understand the many aspects of city government, but an existing knowledge of city processes/procedures, roles of each department and the role of City Council in a council-manager form of government are beneficial.

What, if anything can the city do to promote economic development? Continue to improve infrastructure, reduce taxes and fees that impede economic growth, and streamline the permitting process for businesses.

What is the most pressing issue the council will face in 2015? Overcome reduced revenues (estimated $800,000) affected by the N.C. General Assembly's capping of business license tax, without raising property taxes.

Do you support the proposed business alliance in High Point? I support strategic business alliances.

How can High Point retain local businesses while attracting new ones? Partner with our economic development staff and the Chamber of Commerce to make sure businesses (big or small) are able to be successful and expand as needed, without unnecessary barriers placed in their path.

Do you support the council's elimination of City Project as a city department, a reduction in funding to the revitalization effort and the transfer of the executive director's job? Why or why not? Yes. A single person should not be classified as "a department." City Project received the same grant amount in the 2014-15 budget for revitalization efforts as they have had in their previous operating budget. Creation and relocation of the core city administrator position allows for better use of city resources.