Beeles

City has grown, especially south side, out of hand. City is behind on roadways for south side. Need another exit on Worthsville Road. Would like to see Worthsville Road go to State Road 37. Would help traffic issues on State Road 135 and U.S. 31. Developers should play big role in handling transportation and

Not much land left for development.

Gibson

Only land left is down Honey Creek. Thinks sidewalks and trails are expected out of developers now. City changed housing sizes and are upgrading types of houses. People have to have exercise. Trails are a way to ride scooters and enjoy life.

WHERE THEY STAND

Should the city's ordinances be changed to require more of developers in terms of building sidewalks and trails as land is developed? What do you propose?

Armstrong

Recent developments all have sidewalks within the subdivisions. Is happy with trails around outside of subdivisions. "I believe that trails through people's back yards are not the best solution to adding trails." Trails along the exterior are the most appropriate use. Trails connecting subdivisions to each other are also beneficial. Important for residents, especially children, to be able to ride their bikes to neighboring subdivisions without having to cross a busy street.

Colvin

Ordinances require sidewalks, and city has a park impact fee. Developers can pay it or donate land to offset that fee. That should continue. "If it should be revisited, we can look at it and see if working properly or needs to be changed."

Beeles

Parks board is controlled by council, also controlled by mayor. Parks board does not control the city. The sooner the parks department realizes that, the better off they would be. Did not agree with park board's actions. It was made up of people personally selected by the parks department or mayor. Once again, we need representation throughout the city, not just personal group.

Gibson

Trails advisory board was a volunteer group and council doesn't want to micromanage. His job is constituents and taxes. He never got involved with parks department. Has worked with them on payroll and budget. Hasn't really been told what happened and didn't make it an issue.



Should the city council have asked questions or for an explanation about actions or inactions by city government, even for matters that wouldn't necessarily come before the council? An example could be when the parks board fired its volunteer groups. Why or why not? Do you agree with the park board's action?

Armstrong

"I understand why they did what they did, but I don't agree with it." Council should understand why actions are taken and any time actions like that occur, he has asked questions and gotten to understand why the actions were taken. "I do not always agree with those actions but understand the limitations of my position." If somebody were to ask him for an explanation, would be able to at least express why it happened. May not always agree with it. There are limitations to his position. Job is to set budgets for those departments. That is his primary oversight.

Colvin

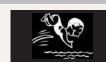
"There are separation of powers and duties in government, and I think that is healthy." Would be mindful of that. If the council is not pleased with an outcome on an issue, can look to the person the council appoints to that board and ask for an explanation. Or if that person is not representing ideas the council thinks they should represent, that person could be replaced. "To get actively involved in another agency would blur that line and probably wouldn't be appropriate." Said he is not privy to what information the park board had when it made that decision, so can't comment.

Beeles

Knows details of park and is not happy with way parks department handled planning of park. Totally supports a new theme park as long as can find a way to take burden off elderly homeowners and disabled. Tax rate should not increase for them. Is for a pool because he has kids. People with no kids at home probably wouldn't be as interested. Should build this in stages. Need a new pool, and putting cost in stages would not put a burden on residents.

Gibson

They've explained to us that they would bring in sections. One of the priorities would be a swimming pool. Some people would like an aquatic park. Support pool with Olympic-sized lanes, that is functional and current. Hasn't seen any cost estimates. Is more than having a pool; have to figure out what makes whole picture.



The park board has been planning development of a 72-acre park to include softball fields, trails, a dog park and a pool. A similar park in Kokomo cost \$6.5 million. The park board has not discussed the park since February. Will you push to get details about the proposal before the election? Why or why not? Do you support the park's construction? Including a pool? And the cost?

Armstrong

Current pool needs to be replaced because the refurbishment costs are nearly equal to the cost of a replacement. "That said, I believe that the cost of the pool should be significantly less than the \$6 million of Kokomo's pool, which I have visited. I believe that the entire development can be done for \$3 million to \$5 million with options to expand as revenue is available from other sources, not the taxpayers." If parks board wants a lazy river, ask to build it with money from impact fees or private source, "but I can not put the lazy river on the back of the taxpayers." Council asked for additional information in November 2005 and has yet to receive it.

Colvin

Not in position to push to get details. As a citizen, can ask questions about that proposal. Sometimes proposals do take time. Doesn't know enough about details to intelligently discuss cost. Current pool is out of date and in bad shape; it needs to be replaced or completely rehabilitated. Initial impression is that would be cheaper to replace it. Would support replacing the pool. Favors something similar to what city has now. Would look at the options and see what the costs are with all the options. Would debate publicly, ask residents what they want.

Beeles

Drive around Greenwood, don't see too many people using trails. Is sure they do, has used them a few times. Trails can be done in-house at fraction of cost. Pool will probably take priority over trails, but it's only if we can do it in stages.

Gibson

City has some trails. Thinks city doing quite well on those. Sees a lot of people using trails. He supports trails and pool. Is cheaper to build trails than pool. Thinks will have good feasibility study to see priority.



What's more important: Trails or a new pool?

Armstrong

"I believe with the state of the current pool and the amount of trails that have been put in place so far, the next money needs to go to replacing the pool." Council approved a \$200,000 expenditure on trails this year. Believes both are important. Trails can be piece-meal much easier than a pool. The pool has to be done in large chunks, as opposed to smaller pieces. Can build a pool and add additional features.

Colvin

Both are important. As far as year-round use, residents would get more out of the trail system than a pool. But pool is a definite amenity that is well used. Children enjoy it.

Beeles

Unless you go with them, it's hard to control. Is aware of city employees using city vehicles to go to full-time jobs elsewhere. Is an everyday event. Are a lot of vehicle policies; city needs to have departments operate under one policy. with exception of police department. Is supportive of every police officer having personal vehicle. Some departments take out expenses for use of vehicle outside of city limits. Controlling that is more of a department responsibility. Hard for council to control.

Gibson

Everyone must be accountable for what they do. Expenses have to be in the budget. Are certain guidelines they must abide by. Doesn't want to overexpand and stop someone from going to another conference.



Public officials throughout Johnson County have been accused of using taxpayer-owned property for private work, giving it away, stealing from the coffers, running up high cell phone bills or staying overnight at conferences but never attending the sessions. How would you make sure that such exploitation or nepotism does not occur in the city?

Armstrong

Never received any benefit other than the salary he is paid. Has not attended seminars outside of city. He said he is not guilty of it, but believes that each individual's supervisor should be responsible for actions taken within their department. The only person the council supervises is the mayor. If someone finds an issue that supervision has not addressed, would be open to reviewing it on a case-by-case

Colvin

Unfortunately, as council member, doesn't have direct control over that. That would deal with the executive branch, which is the mayor. From fiscal standpoint, council can monitor expenditures and set guidelines for what is appropriate when traveling, when to spend the night and price ranges.

Beeles

Would welcome them with open arms. There are some intelligent people in the city who have great ideas, but no one is listening to them, and he does not know why. City should never turn down a good idea from anybody. Everybody has same vision here. We want a safe city, we want an attractive city, we want a city that's full of activities.

Gibson

Council discussing how to get people involved. Some people, if things are going fine, they have no question. City is always looking for people to be involved. Can get on committee or in program, help with guidelines, help with grant writing. As for nationalities, just doesn't have an answer. There's so many groups. Can't say one helps over another. Schools have a lot to do with that too. Education program to bring other people on board.

With the city growing and bringing in more and more people with professional and managerial backgrounds, as well as numerous nationalities and ethnicities, how would you promote government taking best advantage of the talents, ideas and willingness of residents wanting to participate in public policy matters?

Armstrong

Comprehensive plan committee work that just occurred is an example of how that is done. Whenever there are issues that can benefit from public input, is willing to listen. Issues can be addressed through e-mail, letter or phone call.

Colvin

It wouldn't matter what race, background or ethnicity of person is. Wants everyone to get involved. Would try to promote everyone getting involved in the process.

Beeles

Need development program that benefits three levels of income, blue-collar, medium and high-income residents. Must be able to offer three different income levels of housing. Want an attractive city, a safe city, a city that others use as a model. He used to be proud to say he lives in Greenwood, now says live on southside. Nothing has changed in past 20 years. Need to bring some pride back to Greenwood.

Gibson

Keep high employment-type businesses with lack of smokestacks in manufacturing area. If could stay with professional businesses and service type business, will be all right. Getting to be servicemandated society. City expansion is going farther to east and south. East is the real way to expand. Hopes something will be worked out for east-west traffic. Looking for another interstate interchange at Worthsville Road.

The city is in the process of revising the comprehensive plan that will guide growth in the coming years. What types of development should the city recruit, and what should be turned away? What is your vision for the city in 2015 and beyond?

Armstrong

Worked on the land-use committee and the design standards committee. City needs to return to a balanced housing market and the land-use committee has designated the east side of Greenwood for more expensive housing. That will significantly help not only the city of Greenwood but also the Clark-Pleasant school district. Need higher-end jobs that go with manufacturing as opposed to distribution. That is appropriate where it is currently designated along Interstate 65 corridor.

Colvin

"We need to diversify our community." Need to diversify economically, socially and politically. "That strengthens our community. A diverse background will make us stronger." The vision for the city is to provide best possible services at most reasonable cost. City should attract businesses that will help achieve a higher quality of life. Would discourage businesses that will hold city back from that. Doesn't know of a specific business to discourage, but would be businesses that don't have overall welfare of community in mind.

Beeles

Everyone has a constitutional right to open a business. I don't know if that was advertising or some promotional deal that was so blown out of proportion. He has never been in the store. Nothing really changed downtown. At some video stores, kids can walk into back room where they have adult videos. Nothing was ever said about that. No one really approached her. They basically blew it out of proportion before they actually investigated it.

Gibson

Point was made that we didn't want

that type of business in city. Have regulations in ordinance. Business met requirements of ordinance at that time. Nothing could be done about removing them. He supports ordinance. City doesn't need that type of business, that's not Christian-like. Thinks the people in general mishandled. She met requirements and she opened the store. There was nothing we could do about it. She's entitled to that, but it doesn't mean he has to visit the store.



Did the city handle the proposed lingerie shop properly? Do you support the ordinance? Why? Were any missteps made in how that was handled by city government?

Armstrong

No. Did not handle correctly. He was unable to talk to owner because she intentionally misspelled her name. The missteps were not finding out what was going on before launching a media blitz. Always preferable to have information rather than rumor, innuendo and speculation. Believes that the ordinance is appropriate. City needs to make sure that businesses that need to be away from schools and be in areas where children are not frequenting are kept in right places. On the other hand, Victoria's Secret and Spencer's Gifts are subject to the same ordinance.

Colvin

In zoning, best practice is to try to anticipate situations, but cannot anticipate every situation. Goal is try to put in place appropriate zoning for the community and establish standards. Doesn't know particulars, so doesn't know if city made missteps. "Sometimes you can't pass a law before that comes to town." Even now, city should look at zoning in all districts and keep those regulations up to date with current uses. Comprehensive plan should be updated every five years, and ordinances right behind it. City had good intentions from what he knows of situation.

Beeles

Need more on-street patrolmen, more modern equipment to do their everyday jobs. Police department should be No. 1 priority. If can't guarantee residents' safety, we failed our jobs. Crime is on the rise. Getting hoodlums from northside and wannabes from southside and they are meeting in Greenwood.

Gibson

Is an area he really doesn't get into. Doesn't attend police merit meetings. Qualified men have to be to be on there. People who retire have to be replaced.



What changes do you think need to be made in the police department?

Armstrong

Staffing levels are insufficient. With growth of Greenwood, we should have a significant increase. Based on FBI data of police officers per 1,000 people. City probably needs 20 to 25 more police officers because city has grown so much over the past several years. The population has grown from 32,000 to 47,000 in five years. "We need to catch up. We need additional officers immediately."

Colvin

Is not aware of any major issues in police department. The goal is to make sure they have resources and are adequately funded. Is concerned with crime in general and keeping the crime rate low. Statistics don't indicate a sharp rise, but need to make sure that continues. When officers were shot, it was a real shock to the community. Would make sure publicsafety departments are adequately funded. "That is core to quality of life."