

WHERE THEY STAND

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Greenwood City Council: Districts 1, 5

Election day: Nov. 6 ■ Voting hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ■ Web Extra: Expanded answers and more questions at thejournalnet.com

District 1
Pick one



VALERIE SPERKA, Democrat



JOHN GIBSON, Republican, incumbent

On Nov. 6, voters in Greenwood Districts 1 and 5 pick candidates to represent them on the Greenwood City Council. Reporter Joseph S. Pete interviewed the candidates on a wide range of issues. Voters have a right to know where the candidates stand. Use these pages as a guide to help you make your voting decision.



District 5
Pick one



DUANE O'NEAL, Democrat



MONICA MAGNA-REES, Republican

Sperka

No. 1 is safety. Police department is short-staffed. Believes police department needs to be expanded. Need to ensure a vital community where people enjoy spending time and would like to live. Involvement of the community, ensure community would be more informed. Wants to hire more officers, make better use of city's Web site to put more information out there. Work toward a safe and clean community with greater sense of community pride. Ask more residents to step forward and be involved.

Gibson

Traffic on the west side. Thinks city needs to get those streets paved and get subdivisions the budget money they need for street maintenance. Keep the city staff employed, ensure their salaries stay adjusted. City shouldn't lose anybody because they're not being paid enough. City employees doing fine job. Must pay them high enough raises. Keep the tax rate down by watching the budget. Residents have been getting a great deal for their tax dollars. New development should help keep rate down because there's some valuable real estate going in.



What are the top three issues facing the city? How would you address them?

O'Neal

Irresponsible to suggest as vibrant and growing a community as Greenwood shouldn't have a city pool. Scope of that pool is the issue and should be the subject of review and debate. Efficient use of financial resources is key. City provides services residents would not otherwise have, such as roads to drive on, and police and firefighters to protect us. While not against use of our financial resources, would ensure we're getting adequate return for expenditure. Continuing approval of development of our land. Infrastructure to serve that development should be reviewed and promoted with responsibility.

Magna-Rees

Would like to see that roads are safe to travel on; see which ones need to be repaired and how to get that done. Consolidation of city services under one roof. Would save city a lot of money in rent. City government under one roof would make life a lot easier for everyone. City needs a new pool or aquatic park. A lot of people are sick and tired of hearing about it and want to get it done. City has to get aggressive to get things done. Would hit the ground running on these issues in January.

Sperka

Would follow Open Door Law. Believes it's best possible way to permit people the chance to speak and express themselves. Nothing should be shut out of discussion over policy. Would let anyone know private meeting is not permissible by law.

Gibson

Believes it's important to follow the letter of the law in open-door policy and not conduct closed meeting. Would inform them about the proper protocol of addressing the issue in a public forum.



Will you follow the letter and spirit of the Open Door Law? What if an attorney or other elected official makes a recommendation that goes against what you know the law is? What if someone requests to meet with the council in private?

O'Neal

Council meetings must be conducted in public except for personnel or litigation matters, the exceptions the statute provides. Would clarify anyone's misapprehension about the law. Believes in transparent government.

Magna-Rees

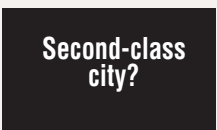
Backs the open door policy. Private meetings against the rules. If you want to discuss a matter, come to a city council meeting in public. Would follow the law.

Sperka

Yes. Believes a benefit to second-class status would be an increase in funding. Important to assess overall impact of second-class status, but important to pursue.

Gibson

City should do research and have discussion. Population division gives city the right to change status, but city financing would be governed by person appointed by the mayor. Would hate to give control up to someone not elected. People should have a referendum if possible, if we go that route.



Should Greenwood pursue second-class-city status? Why or why not?

O'Neal

No, aware of no benefits to pursue second-class city status other than creating additional cost. Achieving that designation would create unnecessary costs.

Magna-Rees

Yes, city should benefit us all in receiving more funding at state and local level. Would open more seats on the city council. Would mean more opinions brought forward on the council. Would be a win-win situation for all. Would propose early next year.

Sperka

Designed to help underdeveloped low-ent areas. Basically what you're doing is getting an advance on a loan, borrowing tax money while anticipating that getting projects done causes the real estate prices to go up. Funds projects for the future against higher assessments to establish and develop an area. Thinks that when the east side is properly developed the money can be returned to education and library.

Gibson

TIF is a defined area, where tax money is paid back into the TIF area so more people will buy and develop land. In five years, should have east side turned around after new roads. Already have some professional buildings, though many parcels that are not complete yet. Wait and see what gets developed. Good businesses in there, like those in the medical profession, will contribute more taxes, which will take the burden off schools and libraries. Need more growth with professional businesses and less with housing to put less of a strain on the schools with all the children.



What is a tax-increment financing district? At what point, if ever, should the city's eastside TIF district be phased out and tax money from the district returned to the general fund, schools and the library?

O'Neal

A geographical area for new improvements where property taxes are only used in that area for infrastructure improvements. Would support phasing out the TIF as quickly as possible as soon as obligations are fulfilled. Benefits of the district don't outweigh loss of tax revenue to schools and remainder of the community.

Magna-Rees

A separate entity where tax dollars stay there to improve infrastructure to surrounding areas. On the east side, it's slowly developed from a lot of fields. Recent acquisition of land by Cabela's should cause it to start to develop and grow. Over next 20 to 30 years, should fully develop. Would then be functional to where I believe the TIF would no longer needed. Then monies can be returned to libraries, schools and whatnot.

Sperka

Yes, thinks it would be worthwhile to have all city offices in one building. Consolidating the city administration would help communication among various departments. Maintaining open channels of communications would benefit city as a whole.

Gibson

Yes, would like to see everyone all in one building. City would function better if all the departments were together, didn't have to call across town to get things done. Attempted earlier to get the bank and remodel it and was told should think about a newer building. Doesn't know what land would be available in the downtown area. No money would be paid to rent once the building would be paid off. City nearly running into a storage problem again. Basement full of ledger books, cases of files. An actively growing and expanding city needs space for government.



Do you support the construction or purchase of a new city building? How would taxpayers benefit from a new city building?

O'Neal

Generally amenable to reviewing construction of a new building. Current building no longer serves our needs; it has gotten very old and has space limitations. Would be many positive aspects to redeveloping an area of our city by gathering more of the government services and government personnel into one location. Subject to review and analysis, the project would benefit taxpayers by the reduction in administration costs for the city.

Magna-Rees

Yes, believes city services should be consolidated into one building instead of leasing. Owning would cost less than renting. Doesn't know how much it would take to build new building. City would save money and that would be a good thing.

Sperka

Yes, believes city government influences quality of life. Role in that area could include seeing what will be done with the city pool. Safety and roads are important. New residents can be attracted if we have good roads and good police protection. Good quality of businesses coming to the community. Good developments will continue to take place if roads and police are adequately funded.

Gibson

Yes, city should ensure sidewalks and trails. Should have parks projects like soccer, baseball. Should encourage community service projects, projects in the schools. All these things contribute to the quality of life. People come here because it's an outstanding place to walk, run, jog. City fortunate to have the money to develop these things while keeping tax rate down. Sometimes the city has bond for things like the park. To get business to come here, city needs to foster good quality of life.



Is it city government's job to do more than just provide roads and police and fire protection but also to improve the quality of life so that the city can attract new residents and businesses? How does city government do this? What is your role?

O'Neal

City should be vibrant, growing entity that should encourage youth to continue living in the city for many years to come. Can do this by promoting quality-of-life features, such as parks, playgrounds, community bands, festivals, amphitheaters. Creating a lifestyle that's fulfilling and not restrictive. Role is to be a cheerleader in that respect; support efforts of the members of our community seeking methods of enhancing and enlarging quality of life of our residents.

Magna-Rees

Yes. City is primarily responsible so that residents can get around the city, so that attractive and pleasant businesses and establishments can thrive. City is responsible for good services and park system. The proposed aquatic center would be an improvement. City should do more than make us safe with police and fire department. Role as council person would be weighing pros and cons. Would make sure it would benefit the city, benefit quality of life. A good mix of goods and services would be beneficial to the city.

Sperka

Yes, primarily for the police department. Additional police officers are needed. Been going around the neighborhood, and residents said they need their calls responded to in a timely fashion. Only five officers covering the entire city at night. Ideally would be able to hire all the appropriate officers at one time, but that's not necessarily feasible. First would fill the currently funded positions, and then incrementally increase the police force.

Gibson

Department head makes that determination. Department heads provide advice and guidance if they see it as a need. At this point, feels they've requested what they need while keeping costs down with salaries. Need more staff as city grows. Street department, for instance, has 22 men and will eventually need to get bigger as city gets bigger. Maybe shift around personnel in some departments like code enforcement so better able to track down people with rental properties so they'll cut their weeds. Sees no need for cuts.










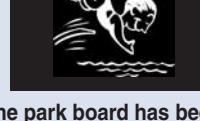

Should the city hire any more employees? If so, for what department? Should any positions be cut?


O'Neal


Unaware of any staff shortages at this time. Not familiar with current staffing levels of each department at this time.


Magna-Rees


Leave that up to each department head. Level of efficiency would be up to them. They are doing the job and doing it well. If it's not broken, don't fix it. No positions need to be cut that I'm aware of.

<p>Sperka</p> <p>Could range from involvement in a business to a family member involved in a business, basically involvement beyond the appropriate level for an issue the council is discussing. First, must be honest and upfront about what you're involved in outside the council.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Anything that would let a council member gain monetarily. When first came to council, council members got gifts at Christmas time and that was wrong. Would remove himself from the committee if had a conflict of interest.</p>	 <p>What is a conflict of interest for a city council member? How would you avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Direct or indirect financial interest with any business that comes before the council would present a conflict of interest. Would have no financial business with anyone coming before the council. Would recuse himself if he did.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Conflict of interest would be one of my immediate family bringing an issue before me on the council. Would handle by excusing myself from the vote.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Would support sales or income tax to allow for property tax decrease. Important to do something about property tax situation. Favors sales tax or general luxury tax for hotels and restaurants. Would have to be so it would make a substantial decrease in what folks paying in property taxes. Police department needs to increase staff, which in turn will require a spending increase in their budget. Hopes city could pay for that by generating enough through sales and luxury taxes on food and beverages.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Favors additional tax on meals. County's road tax should help with street maintenance. Probably 120 miles of roads in the city, and maintenance has been getting further behind every year. Tax rate has only increased 30-odd cents in the past 28 years, which is a credit to the city for keeping budget under control. Would like to see a 10-cent levy put in a rainy day fund that could be used on in the event of emergencies. Right now, city has no funds in case an emergency hit Madison Avenue or elsewhere. Cut pretty thin this year because council chose not to bond for projects, and have no reserve in the case of emergencies.</p>	 <p>Do you support the adoption of new taxes, such as a sales or income tax, and how much additional money should be generated? What city services should have increased spending? Would you raise any tax, including property, sales or income taxes?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Generally in favor of a method to shift dependency from property taxes. During review, would put emphasis on broadening the city's tax base to include an income or value-added or sales or user-type tax. In considering the issue, should look for equity in each proposal. Those who most use the service should be the primary financial supporters of that service. Thinks it would be inappropriate for a council candidate to go in with a preconceived position for any particular funding levels. City department managers should justify increased spending requests to the council and me. Raising taxes not a task he would relish participating in. Certainly has no plans to do so.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Sales could offset property taxes. Would increase sales tax 1 or 2 percentage points to offset or eliminate property taxes. Everybody buys things. Would generate more income to buy things than property taxes. The 2008 budget has been passed. Don't believe there's much of an increase compared with the 2007 budget. Would probably not raise any tax at this time. Sometimes it's unavoidable to raise taxes to get what the city needs.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Taxes did go up largely because of education spending, did not go up much in comparison to other cities the size of the Greenwood. Would be beneficial to the community if city could lower taxes. Views taxes as a necessary evil. Supports luxury hotel and restaurant taxes to reduce reliance on property taxes. Must be frugal with budgets.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Would try to make best use of money city had available. Can't raise the rate more than 3 or 4 percent each year. New houses will continue to offset it. Additional police, firefighters, park employees will be needed as the city grows. City should have a rainy-day fund so money can be budgeted in reserve.</p>	 <p>The city's property tax rate went up this year. What are you going to do about property taxes?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Wants to explore financing city services more with user fees or income-based taxes. Has been major discussion on wheel tax lately. That's a fairly equitable tax, and so is the county income tax distributed among the incorporated municipalities. Favors investigating that alternative. Taxing authority is controlled by the state legislature. Local levels operate by providing necessary services that create the welfare of the community. Everyone wants to live in a community that promotes health and safety at the least cost.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Go over budget with fine-tooth comb without hindering the current level of service. Perhaps state representative could help with property taxes in some manner. Council controls only spending.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Has supported David Payne because he brings new vitality and fresh ideas as well as a collaborative nature. Has not received nor given any campaign funds. Has attended events for Payne.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Knows both real well. Goes back many years with both. Doesn't matter. Has worked with four mayors. In 28 years in office, has only received one campaign donation, in 1979. Has not given donations nor attended events.</p>	 <p>Which candidate for mayor do you support and why? Have you accepted campaign donations, given campaign donations or attended campaign events for either candidate?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Would work with either of them. Inappropriate for council member to participate in campaigns of executive candidates. Members of our government are in separate branches, and their candidacies should be separate. Candidacy is independent, and would only serve the neighbors who elected him. Has not accepted or given donations to either candidate.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Support Mayor Charles Henderson. Believes he's done a good job running the city. Doesn't necessarily see eye-to-eye on everything, but who does? Believes he's done a good job running the city. In best relationship, conflict arises from time to time. Look at the pros and cons and decide for one's self.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Honesty and integrity. Leader must be a motivator, must have a collaborative spirit. Gets informed and makes sure others get informed if they don't understand your position on an issue. Favors collaborative effort and communication. Discussion is how you bring people along. Issues can't always be resolved with everyone pleased with the outcome.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Dealing with people personally, whether on the street or at church. A hands-on approach. Ability to listen helps solve many problems. Need to get out and talk to people to have a bank of information to draw on. Tries to talk through differences.</p>	 <p>What are the attributes of leadership? How would you work to bring people along and build consensus on an issue? What about people who disagree with you?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>An attribute of leadership is the servant attitude. He who seeks to lead must listen and attend to others and provide for the answers and needs his electorate seeks. Engaging in a dialogue with the different viewpoints being expressed. Finding common ground that necessarily exists in any issue. Seeks to explore reasons for disagreement since he knows he's not infallible. Position has been amended on many issues in the past as a result of exploring disagreements with others.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Attributes of leadership are confidence, honesty, openness, ability to handle criticism. Try to invite as many people as I could to invite their opinion. We all vote our opinion. Would like to use city Web site to draw more people into the meetings. Listen to other side. Every issue has two sides. Weigh the pros and cons before I made my decision. Pretty open to things. Don't have an agenda as far as the city's concerned. Good common-sense approach to the council. Favor talking about the issue until we come to some sort of agreement.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Yes, thinks downtown Greenwood should be a major priority. Many cities in the Indianapolis area still have vibrant downtowns. Downtown still key, still a good number of residents living there. A revitalized downtown would let residents walk to businesses, activities and events. First preference would be grant money. Should look into businesses that would attract a wider spectrum of the public. Some of the businesses within Greenwood might be persuaded to relocate a branch to Old Towne area. Think city does a good job through events and festivities, but day-to-day vitality needed for businesses operating there, not just during special events. Should ensure good use of city pool area.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Would like for it to be a top priority. Has some ideas and plan to draw some development there. Tax dollars would be appropriate, as other communities like Waynetown and Madison have used them. Beautification like light poles would be one option, would also like to see walking paths in the park downtown. City should carefully micromanage revitalization plans but do what the people want.</p>	 <p>Is revitalization of downtown Greenwood a top priority? Why? Should taxpayer dollars be used? What do you propose be done?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Downtown Greenwood is privately owned real estate. Favors incentives for private owners to promote a historic theme of redevelopment. It's an issue that deserves attention. If the city provides incentives, it would involve taxpayer dollars. Could support the concept of the use of taxpayers dollars, but issue would be scope or degree. Would not be significant funds to develop privately owned real estate. Recently, the city has completed the revision of comprehensive plan, which includes Old Towne revitalization component that should be considered for implementation if resources and circumstances permit. Thinks parking is an area that needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Revitalization has been discussed for many years. The Old Towne is landlocked. Some sort of major overhauling would be needed to get that done. Many historical buildings that shouldn't be destroyed. Road must be widened without getting into the historic building. Needs a lot of further discussion. No one easy answer. Would hope revitalization could be done mostly through private funding and perhaps grants. Should try to see if there's an architectural firm that would take a stab at creating the revitalization pictures. Start with ideas or thoughts and just go from there. Then see what kind of public funding we could obtain, grants we could apply for and build upon that.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Yes, thinks trails and sidewalks are important and should be included as land is developed.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Planning commission has been good about it, but would go along with ordinance change to ensure city continues to look good.</p>	 <p>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?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Don't know that we need to change ordinances. City does a good job requiring sidewalks to be built in new subdivisions. Trails always looked upon favorably as an enhancement. Plan commission is vigilant in seeking those amenities, which neighbors expect to have.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Builders, if they would like to put in a subdivision, should be responsible for improving the infrastructure around that site. That should include trails. Sometimes that's not possible where they want to build.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>Has a few concerns. One is what current plan for the pool is with all the talk about revitalizing downtown and keeping area vibrant for the people who live in that area. Now youth walk to that pool, which they won't be able to do when it's relocated to the southwest side of Greenwood. Hearing people both in favor and opposed to pool. Important that city doesn't move briskly on this issue before the people are educated on what plans are in place. Mechanisms for communication should be used so everyone is aware. Shouldn't be rushed through.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Favor it. Decisions shouldn't be made by 50 people at a meeting. With the pool, doesn't know that all the frills like a lazy river are needed. Need more than a lap pool and a diving board though. Had only a creek when he was a kid.</p>	 <p>The park board has been planning development of a 72-acre \$17.4 million park, to include softball fields, trails, a dog park and a pool. Do you support the park's construction, including the proposed pool and the cost?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Believes it is irresponsible to suggest a vibrant, growing city such as Greenwood should not have a proposed pool, but the scope and cost could be an issue. Parks department did a wonderful job with the proposal. This particular project should receive further public comment, but it's not out of the question to pursue that proposal. Favors additional review and hearing comments on cost, but supports concept of a public pool. Is proponent of increased public recreational resources.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Have yet to sit down and look at facts and figures very closely. Should try to make an indoor pool when an outdoor pool is used three to four months of the year. Seems very irresponsible. Where else can you go in the city? You can join a health club. You can go to the high school pool in the evenings for a few hours on certain days of the week. Swimming is good exercise, would be good year-round. Could recoup some of the building cost with fees. Additional funds may be needed to make it indoor. Like the idea of the aquatic park, but perhaps take another look at the numbers. Maybe we don't need everything. Maybe we need some things. Should look to lessen the cost.</p>
<p>Sperka</p> <p>City has seen the development of trails. Has seen many people using those walking trails, which are already moving along. Hotter topic would be the pool and the park that needs developing.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>New pool. Putting money into a rundown pool, and that needs to be changed. Dollar for dollar, the city deserves better than what it's getting.</p>	 <p>What's more important: Trails or a new pool?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>New pool, without a doubt. Our trail system should expand and has matured significantly. We need a new pool more than we need additional trails. Thinks Greenwood is well-served with the extensive trail system we have.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Have a lot of trails around town. Current city pool is a money-soaker that always needs repairs. City needs the new pool.</p>


<p>Sperka</p> <p>Would like to see more employers in electronics, medical precision-measurement devices and other industries that would bring more good jobs. City should invest in ability and education. Should work with higher education. Should focus on high-caliber housing.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Would like to bring down the student population in Greenwood. We're already good at housing. City has enough trucking companies. Those guys are on the road and not spending money here. Need more professional jobs. City will never lack in commercial, but we need to help mom and pop who are struggling to take care of what they need. City needs better jobs. People need more professional opportunities, more opportunities than a waiter job. There are people who can only afford to take care of the day-to-day expenses and people who can buy stock. Need to build housing for more of the latter. Have enough moderate-income housing.</p>	 <p>The city is in the process of revising its comprehensive plan, which 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 2020 and beyond?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Should seek residential growth that will generate sufficient tax revenue to pay for the resources dedicated to them. Seek businesses to create jobs that comfortably support families. Have strong incentives in desirable area on the east side of Interstate 65 for manufacturing, distribution and retail businesses, and would support continuing economic development efforts in that area. Vision for Greenwood is that: moving closer to achieving the mix of commercial retail and residential that will adequately support the services residents require without unduly being a burden on their personal resources.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Think city should have an even mix of housing. Have way too much lower-income housing. Need to up the bar to median- and high-income houses. Any business would be acceptable just as long as it doesn't add pollution or be detrimental to the city in any way. Would like to see the east-side built up, which is well on its way. Would like Greenwood to be a safe community. Shouldn't be afraid to walk around at night on the lovely trails. Would like Greenwood be a place where the quality of life is pleasing to everyone and unemployment is low. City has enough restaurants. Being a small business owner, would like more small businesses to thrive in the area.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>The number of officers needs to be increased. Police officers are stretched to the point where they're not available enough to respond as quickly to incidents.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Would say back to the number of officers need to be increased. More officers should take the exam for promotion. Merit board should make recommendation for who's qualified to make the assignment. Have some officers getting close to retirement, and people should move up the ranks.</p>	 <p>What changes do you think need to be made in the police department?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Police department like any other major city department needs continuing review and oversight. A significant portion of the city's resources are dedicated to it. There aren't any specific changes I would want to suggest.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Chief Joe Pitcher is in charge of that department, and must rely on his expertise in the field to see if anything is needed or not. Would listen to his recommendations for his department.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Wishes the council would have stuck to the original proposal that was publicized, that would have prevented Cabela's from building another store within a 100-mile radius. Was lowered to 50. Other issue is that it will be 20 years before the city of Greenwood sees repayment. City was too generous. Fortunately, bond created so city won't lose out no matter how it plays out. Development should come to area even if not destination site the company claims.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Fortunately, the way the bond is created, the city will not lose out, no matter how it plays out. Cabela's is only 20 percent of the land. How that develops will depend if it's the destination the company claims. Cabela's deal will not go sour. City will always get a tax and will benefit from increased property values. Believes the city got a good deal.</p>	 <p>Was the economic incentive for Cabela's too generous? Why or why not? What if it doesn't turn out to be the destination the company claims? How could the city have gotten a better deal?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Not at all. If one understands that incentive, city really did not "give" any financial resources to Cabela's. They bought the bonds the city is going to issue for the improvements at that location, and Cabela's taxes will pay those bonds. Risk is solely that of Cabela's. The agreement's profitability is not dependent upon obligations of the city. No dispute with the Cabela's deal.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Does not think it was too generous. With anything in life, there is give and take. Thinks a good compromise was made and now city is going to have a good draw to community. Will bring jobs and people to city. Only increase city's revenue and give people a wonderful place to visit. Other cities have prospered with Cabela's. Win-win for the city. Parent company responsible for the repayment of the bond, so doesn't see how Greenwood could lose.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Important to confirm it happened and make sure it's not a rumor or speculation. If true, would bring it to attention of proper authorities or head of that department.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Legal action should be taken immediately. Right and wrong are essential to dignity of public position.</p>	 <p>What would you do if you knew there was corruption or unprofessional behavior among city officials or employees? How would you address it?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Broad spectrum between corruption and unprofessional behavior. Corruption suggests illegal behavior that should be turned over to the prosecutor or police for immediate investigation. Unprofessional behavior often is lack of judgment that should be addressed. Exhibiting such behavior requires department managers correcting that behavior on pain of dismissal.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Would let the mayor know and see what policies were in force to deal with the behavior.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Should put options out there to encourage people to become involved. Should educate people so they might want to become involved in boards or committees. Information technology department can help, but you have to be out there asking for that participation.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>More cultures and nationalities coming to the area, and city should accommodate all. Has met with some local Japanese engineers. Should make effort to meet with all and encourage to participate.</p>	 <p>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?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Residents who want to participate by attending meetings should have opportunities for public input. Strong proponent for any issues that deserve public debate. In any level of government, city should promote making meetings as easy and inviting as possible. Open to any suggestion that may come. A barrier to attend is inconvenient times during the working day. Thinks the responsibility is ultimately the individuals'.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Have them come to the city council meetings. That's where it all happens. Come give your opinion.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>As long as it's frugal, but would first seek other means, such as for appropriation or a grant. Should not haphazardly borrow money to move a project through, which goes back to not being in long-term debt.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Should go to city streets and roads in some cases, buildings and vehicles such as fire trucks. Thinks it's needed in many cases to pay for something over 20 years.</p>	 <p>When is it appropriate to borrow money?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Generally, when a capital investment has to be funded. Day-to-day expenses, payrolls and maintenance generally are inappropriate reasons to borrow money. Still, city can't let roads deteriorate to the point where the salvation requires borrowing.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Would be appropriate when all other sources are exhausted within the city. Look at it on a case-by-case basis. No examples that she can think of off the top of her head.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Hopefully, through the budgetary process. Should pay for that in budget, but there are situations where you can't set aside money for all the expenses you can't anticipate. Maybe you can't do it all in one year, but have a multi-year timeline to address the streets as needed.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Street repair is important, if only to beautify a neighborhood. Would hope city is doing that in budgetary process, but times when roads have fallen in greater disrepair than anticipated. Tax money needs to be set aside for roads and streets.</p>	 <p>How should the city pay for street repairs?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Prefer that city pay through the annual budgeting process. May not be able to wait for that process to occur. The Whispering Trails streets were completely delayed by this administration. Would review the issue, but the streets of that subdivision must be completed expeditiously.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>Believes they have that money budgeted in the yearly budget. If repairs go above the allotted monies, perhaps bonds or grants would be available, but not unless it was absolutely necessary.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Hopes it would be a collaborative relationship, the sort that would be best for city of Greenwood and best for the constituents, not a confrontational relationship.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>I see him at church. Should have a good enough relationship to trade information so the council can trust him and know what's going on.</p>	 <p>What type of relationship should a city council member have with the mayor?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Should be professional colleagues, each of whom was elected to serve their constituents with their best judgment.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>One of mutual respect.</p>
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<p>Sperka</p> <p>Thinks the city should try to maintain what is necessary to the safety of the residents. Have gotten questions from people if new fire engines are needed, but would rely on best discretion of the fire chief that replacements are needed. Department heads should be questioned to avoid overspending.</p>	<p>Gibson</p> <p>Does not see any waste in the city budget. Checking account needed to take care of the big emergency if it hit. Can make money for the city by reinvesting it.</p>	 <p>What waste is in the city budget? How would you cut the budget?</p>	<p>O'Neal</p> <p>Would be inappropriate to state a specific position in line item budget reductions.</p>	<p>Magna-Rees</p> <p>At present time, knows of none. Would have to thumb through page by page. Then make personal opinions known to the council. Without looking thoroughly at the budget, doesn't have an answer for that.</p>
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