

Home Builders Association of Fayetteville, Inc
Forum Questions for the City of Fayetteville Candidates

Mayoral Candidate Bob White

1. What do you think is the economic impact of the home building industry in our community?

Answer: It has a tremendous impact by creating additional sources of revenue and taxes from sales. It increases employment and production in various industries. Household expenditures increase due to population increases.

2. How do you see the home building industry fitting in as a stakeholder in the city decision making process?

Answer: I see them as a great source of information and a team player in the future development of the Fayetteville/Cumberland county area.

3. Please explain how you favor PWC to be operated.
 - a. Being an independent utility authority
 - b. Making it a department of the city.
 - c. Selling it
 - d. No change in the current status.

Answer: I would have to review the current data and see what is most beneficial to the city, before I make any definite decision. My general feeling on the subject, if the government should not be engaged in private enterprise, so PWC should be an entity of its own design and not managed by a government entity.

- 3b. Do you agree with taking of money from PWC to support and fund the city budget?

Answer: From my way of thinking, this type of operation is a clear indication of mismanagement. If the government is taking funds from one entity to support city operations, it is indicative of inadequate cash flows (revenues) within the city and corrective actions should be seriously considered.

Question 3c Cont. Mayoral Candidate Bob White

3c. Do you believe PWC utilities should be extended to promote development?

Answer: From my understanding, because of PWC organizational structure, it is not designed to accommodate large operational expansions much beyond the borders of Fayetteville. However, I believe that there should be some consideration for expanded coverage. With the extended coverage comes the likelihood of improved quality of life, increased revenues, and employment.

4. Do you agree with the current proposed timeline and plan to provide services to newly annexed areas? What are the priority services and how do you proposed to pay for them?

Answer: I do not agree with how this was done from the very start. It appears to me that revenues which were already accounted for were used for other projects. So without being privileged to have on hand, any of the actual records of past disbursement for city expenditures, I can not make a rational decision at this point in time. In reference to priorities and funding of the projects, it seems like roads, potable water, waste disposal and sewage would be the very important services. As of now, to fund these programs, I would have to say fees, taxes, stimulus money, and government subsidies would be the most convenient way to go. Assuming current strategies are not altered. I did not mention bonds or Certificate of Participation (COP), because I need more data to make an effective case for these types of financing ventures. Recycling seems to have positive financial benefits.

5. What is your position on Joint Planning with the city and county and metro government?

Answer: It could be a positive thing, in that it could reduce operational cost, improve efficiency, lower taxes, and achieve some level of consistency in government. However, due to system designs, operation structures, and government bureaucracy, some have argue that it will not work and it would be very costly to implement. The possibilities should be investigated, and to get an unbiased report.

6. Do you consider it acceptable as a city standard to install strip asphalt paving with no concrete curbing on unpaved streets in the city? If yes. Explain, why is it acceptable for the city to have one set of standards for unpaved streets located in the city and a different set of standards for private industries?

Answer: I do not think it is acceptable, but to answer your question. To put in curbs is more expensive for the city and require more maintenance. I would suspect that this was done not for the sake of consistency, but to save money for the city. Makes me wonder! What's good for he goose should be good for the gander.

Question 7 Cont. Mayoral Candidate Bob White

7. What are the most critical new requirements being considered for inclusion in the Unified Development ordinance?

Answer: I not sure of what three are considered critical, but the ones I have seen are: The creation on a new R87 District for residential use only, non residential district will be considered planned districts, and creation of a Density Development Conditional Use District allowing development density of the underlying district on 60 percent of a tract. There are more that may apply, but these seem like the ones that may be most influential.

8. What is the city role in preparing for BRAC recommendations that will affect our community?

Answer: The city should be preparing the infrastructure to accommodate the large influx of military personnel and their families. It should also be making preparations to support the expanded military mission. This will mean working with the government to improved roads, increased security, coordinated family support systems, etc. In addition additional investment opportunities and appropriation of financing the recommendations should be coordinated.

9. What is your position on term limits for elected city officials? Would you favor maximum consecutive terms?

Answer: I would leave it to the people of the city to determine if they want or need a change in the term limits for public officials. Normally, the electorate can judge if an elected official is performing at an adequate level. I have made no decision one way or another in reference to maximum consecutive terms.

10. What experience do you have that qualifies you to evaluate and establish a city budget?

Answer: While in the army, I worked in and with civil affairs units to help establish foreign governments. I have 17 years of Special Operations under my belt. I work 8 years as a volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA Program). I work about 10 years on the Cumberland County Finance Corporation. I have a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and Business Education. I have a Master's Degree in Management with the concentration in finance and management. I was hired by the IRS as an Income Tax Specialist (managerial position), but refused the assignment, due to area location. I was hired because of my experience in accounting I have successfully operated three business operations in excess of 8 years.

11. If elected what are your top two priorities during your term?

Answer: There are a minimum of 27 issues that face the city in the coming years. Keeping in mind that current events may dictate which course of action is more or less relevant at any given point in time. For now there seems to be two issues that may greatly affect the overall welfare of this area.

1. Cash Flow Problems within government
2. Establishing an infrastructure to accommodate a growing municipality.

Question 12 Cont. Mayoral Candidate Bob White

12. List your accomplishments in the non political arena.
 - a. 20 Years Active Military Service
 - b. Graduate with four college degrees
 - c. Established and operated four businesses
 - d. Help the Egyptian Government implement irrigation programs near the Nile (at the time I spoke Arabic.)
 - e. Created a sanitary landfill operation in isolated area of the Philippines
 - f. Received cash incentive awards from the Us Postal service for streamlining operations
 - g. Performed MEDCAP Operations in the Far east