

Home Builders Association of Fayetteville

Questions for Johnny Dawkins, Candidate, Council District 5

Qualifications and Background: I have over 35 years of experience in operating small businesses. I've served on the City Council, I've led the Chamber of Commerce, and I've led the Military Affairs Council. I've served on numerous civic club boards, non-profit charitable boards, college foundation boards, a church deacon board, and I've raised two children, with the help of my bride of 35 years! More information about my qualifications and my background can be viewed at jldawkins.com.

Economic development and job growth: Small business is the engine of our economy, and Ft. Bragg is a big part of what powers our economy. We must diversify by working with the Fayetteville Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation, the NC Department of Commerce, the county of Cumberland, the Home Builders, and all other stakeholders to get new industry to take a look at Fayetteville. We have all the parts (river, infrastructure, PWC water/electricity/sewer, community college and universities, and proximity to I-95) to create more jobs and to build a more prosperous city. Plus, we must hold the line on taxes and fees, and not make it tougher for our existing businesses to grow and expand.

UDO: We need to take another look at our UDO. Many builders have curtailed or stopped building in Fayetteville, because of the UDO. The ordinance needs to be, at least tweaked, in which all stakeholders are allowed to participate, including the Home Builders, the city council, the city staff, the Chamber, the FCEDC, and other interested small business owners.

Current Stormwater Ordinance: We need to take another look at the Stormwater Ordinance, because I am told it is more restrictive than the state of NC's ordinance. We don't want to become the retention pond capital of the state. We are charging fees to the city taxpayers, and that money needs to be spent building more capacity into the Stormwater infrastructure. We do not need to be adding more costs onto the home buyers, the home builder, and the commercial property developers and buyers. Before I commit to make the ordinance the same as the state's ordinance, I want to first study the state's ordinance. I will commit to voting to make our ordinance less restrictive, than it exists today.

Metro government: I support merging as many services as possible with the county of Cumberland, when it will create efficiencies, and save the city and county money. I supported the merging of the city and county parks and recreation departments. Keep in mind that the property taxes collected from Fayetteville residents and property owners, account for over 80% of the county's collected property taxes. Yet, the citizens of Fayetteville make up less than 65% of the population of the county. Whenever we can consolidate services with the county, it benefits the city, and it leads to savings for the citizens of the city and the county.