

Candidates talk priorities

Written by
Sunday, 16 September 2007 19:00

Last Thursday's forum shed light on Boone municipal candidate's opinions on the issues.

Candidates were asked to prioritize what they would do for Boone in their next term. Incumbent Councilman Lynne Mason wants to continue the current council's efforts with "Smart Growth."

"'Smart Growth' is about certain principles that make communities more livable," she said. "Smart Growth," she says, addresses everything from affordable housing concerns to how Boone uses its water supply.

Council candidate Kevin Freeman's top issue was along the same lines.

He would like to see downtown Boone as a historic district, with plenty of greenspace.

Incumbent Councilman Dempsey Wilcox has a different issue as his top priority.

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He wants to improve the Town's relationship with Appalachian State University, the Hospital, the County and the State.

Over the past few years, those relationships have deteriorated, he said. Mayoral candidate Tim Wilson would agree- he's made the Town's relationship with the university his top issue.

Incumbent Councilman Bunk Spann said he too wants to look at the inter-relationship between the university, the town and the business community. He pledges to help those entities communicate better, should he be reelected.

Council candidate Jeremy Blocker shared incumbent Mayor Loretta Clawson's top priority.

"I believe one of the most important issues is the water issue," he said.

Council candidate Liz Aycock promised to review the current UDO if elected.

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"I think we need a more streamlined building process so it is easier for builders to know exactly what is needed upfront rather than later," she said.

Council candidate Ethan Dodson had several issues he wants to address- and, like many other candidates, had a hard time narrowing down a top priority.

He wants to increase affordable housing and implement a Zero Waste policy, as well as improve the Town's relationship with ASU administration.

Council candidate Stephen Phillips said traffic was his top priority.

We'll have continued candidate coverage. The municipal elections are on October 9.