

Questionnaire for Candidates for Mebane City Council (voters may select three)

Tim Bradley	Katie Burkholder	Montreena Hadley	Questions	Charles Lopez	Roger Parker	Jonathan White
1. About right 2. Based on Need, @ 46 – 49 3. About right (actually it dropped to around 44% this year)	1. About right. 2. .47. 3. About right.	1. About right. 2. Agree with current level. 3. About right.	Tax rate, fund balance 1. Is Mebane's tax rate too high, too low, or about right? 2. At what level (cents per \$100 valuation) should the city's tax rate be set? 3. State law requires at least 8 percent of a municipality's budget be set aside in savings, or its "fund balance"; Mebane has had about 66.35 percent, or enough to run the city for about 2/3's of the year. Is Mebane's level too high, about right, or too low? 3a. Are Mebane's taxpayers being "overtaxed" by the city's property tax rate in order to keep a large level of savings in the "fund balance"? 4. What area(s) of city spending do you feel should be increased or decreased? [50 word limit]	1. About right. 2. .4700. 3. About right.	1. About right. 2. — 3. About right.	1. About right. 2. .47. 3. About right.
3a. No.	3a. No.	3a. No.		3a. No.	3a. No.	3a. No.
4. Increased: Infrastructure needs are continuing to grow, primarily streets and paving, so there is a need for more there, but overall the balance is good. Decreased: Unnecessary land purchases	4. Increased: If the planned federal funding falls through for the water/sewer improvements, we'll need to increase spending here. This is unlikely since half of the funds have already been received. Decreased: n/a – This year's budget appears prudent and necessary regarding all spending allocations.	4. Increased: Planning for the new police station. Decreased: —		4. Increased: When we take ownership of our city and its finances, having savings allows us to save for things that may come up: i.e. man-or God-made disasters, support for current employees, showcases financial strength, and creates room for additional services. No one has ever said – "that's too much savings".	4. —	4. Increased: As the city grows, the needs of fire, police and other essential infrastructure will need to increase. We must keep a close eye on this. Decreased: —
5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	City council compensation/benefits; city employee benefits and policy 5. Mebane city councilmen now receive \$750.00 per month (\$9,000 annually), and the mayor \$791.67 per month (roughly \$9,500 annually) as compensation for their service on the city council. Are those amounts adequate and fair? 5a. Would you vote to increase this amounts during your term or keep them the same? 5b. If raise, by how much, or to what level? 6. Some local governments have begun providing, at taxpayer expense, health insurance to members of their elected city councils. Would you support or oppose any attempt to provide such a benefit to members of Mebane's city council? [25 word limit]	5. Yes.	5. Yes.	5. Yes.
5a. Keep the same.	5a. Keep the same.	5a. Keep the same.		5a. Keep the same.	5a. Keep the same.	5a. Keep the same.
5b. — 6. Oppose.	5b. n/a 6. Oppose. This is not a fulltime position.	5b. — 6. Oppose.		5b. n/a. 6. Oppose. Serving the city is not a primary function or employer for elected officials.	5b. — 6. Oppose.	5b. — 6. Oppose.
7. I've always recused myself anytime an issue directly affected me, so my years on Council would defend that. I have a home, other than that no investment in business or property in Mebane to profit from.	7. I welcome discussion with anyone concerned and give my word to be transparent with Mebane citizens. We also have excellent legal counsel, Lawson Brown, on staff who I will check in with if I have concerns that there may be a conflict of interest.	7. 100% Confidence.	7. What confidence can Mebane voters have that you will avoid any financial conflict of interest, or even the appearance of a conflict of interest, if you are serving on the council during the next four years? [50 word limit]	7. Transparency is key. Currently, I am transparent with my employer in my function as a candidate. As an HR Manager, I am to uphold ethical standards and have maintained and will continue to maintain their trust and confidence.	7. I am retired. I do not or will not have any conflict of interest.	7. I am committed to avoiding any conflict of interest and prioritizing the interests of the citizens of Mebane.
8. Partisan politics have no place in Mebane city council decisions, nor do partisan issues. Any involvement in party activities should be completely separate from council discussions and decisions, as well as campaign for council.	8. I do not intend to become involved in partisan elections or issues as an elected councilwoman. Like most people, I have my own opinions on partisan politics on the state and federal levels, however, city council is a non-partisan position and I intend to keep it that way.	8. As a council member, I will function independently from partisan politics.	8. As a non-partisan council member, how much should you become involved in partisan elections and/or partisan political issues? [50 word limit]	8. While this is a non-partisan race, it is public knowledge that I represent the NCGOP as the Chairman of the Hispanic Republican Coalition and Chairman for Republican National Hispanic Assembly of North Carolina. However, I would want residents to see me as a father, husband, entrepreneur, and resident of Mebane.	8. As long as it doesn't interfere with council. However, should not hold political office.	8. Council members are welcome to have their own personal political beliefs, but the city's interests should be the only priority while executing city council responsibilities.
8a. I think no direct involvement. The positions are non-partisan for a good reason. I do not take contributions or assistant from Party.	8a. That is up to each candidate to decide for themselves.	8a. That is a question for the political parties.	8a. Conversely, how involved should political parties be in supporting or working for city council candidates in what are, at least ostensibly, non-partisan races? [50 word limit]	8a. Naturally, people have ideals that, at times, coincide with a certain party. The democratic process maintains its validity by supporting diversity in thought and supporting the election process, including the campaign process.	8a. —	8a. Political party involvement should focus on local issues that are pertinent to the City of Mebane.
8b. Oppose.	8b. Oppose.	8b. No opinion.	8b. In some N.C. cities, city council and mayoral candidates run for office on a partisan basis, rather than, as in Mebane, on a non-partisan basis. Would you support or oppose a move toward elections in Mebane based on political party?	8b. Oppose.	8b. Support.	8b. Oppose.
9. A quality work force is critical to quality service. While I think benefits have to be monitored over the years, right now I do not believe there is a need to curb Mebane employee benefits.	9. Cutting benefits leads to higher employee turnover and wastes tax dollars onboarding/training new hires who don't stick around. Further, higher turnover hurts morale and the organizational culture. I fully support our current benefits and retirement structure, especially during a time of employee shortages everywhere.	9. No, because that is one way to attract quality employees.	9. Some cities have begun to look at ways of curbing future municipal employee and retiree expenses. Mebane not only has not taken action to do so, but during 2019 added an additional retirement benefit for some firemen. What, if any, changes should be made in the city's benefits or retirement packages in order to curb expenditures over the coming years? [50 word limit]	9. While I can understand the desire to make adjustments in benefits, current job market requires the City to maintain its attractiveness and maintain its desirability as an employer. Additionally, as an HR professional, it is common practice to continue to add benefits and perks in order to attract quality and long-standing employees.	9. Need more study.	9. We need to have the right benefits package to attract the very best talent, while being financially responsible.
10. Support.	10. Support.	10. Support, but there are exceptions due to medical or religious reasons.	10. Some jurisdictions have begun considering whether their employees should be required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Would you support or oppose such a requirement for municipal employees in Mebane?	10. Oppose.	10. Oppose.	10. Oppose.
10a. Support.	10a. Support.	10a. Oppose.	10a. Other areas have begun to consider "incentives" (cash bonuses, time off, etc.) to entice their city employees to get vaccinated. Would you support or oppose such "incentives"?	10a. Oppose.	10a. Oppose.	10a. No response.
10b. An additional Vacation Day or sick leave day.	10b. I favor a day off after the second shot and a nominal cash bonus (approx. \$100). I prefer incentives over mandates as a first step.	10b. No.	10b. Do you have a particular incentives approach you favor? [25 word limit]	10b. Make the vaccine available, if desired. However, not mandated by the City.	10b. —	10b. No response.
10c. Yes.	10c. Yes.	10c. Yes.	10c. Are you, yourself, vaccinated against COVID-19?	10c. No response.	10c. Yes.	10c. Yes.
11. I think Mebane should support the use of these services by providing or partnering with existing parking lots, advertising, etc., but I feel justification for funding of mass transit needs more study in terms of fairness and equity before any commitment.	11. My position largely depends on the projected needs to be addressed and the community support for increased transit options.	11. No response.	City policies/spending priorities 11. Explain your position on the feasibility and potential taxpayer cost for Mebane's participation in bus service, park-and-ride lots, regional mass transit, etc. [50 word limit]	11. Public transportation has an unfair stigma attached to it. However, when the City of Mebane residents find access to other areas without using their vehicles and enjoying the day out in the town, it will continue to promote mass transit in a positive light.	11. No response.	11. We need to weigh the costs and the benefits, with consideration for those for whom transportation is a huge challenge for work and health.
11a. No. 11b. No. 11c. No. 11d. No. 11e. No.	11a. Yes. 11b. Yes. 11c. Yes. 11d. No. Would have to be very compelling need. 11e. Yes – If community support was great.	11 a-e - I'll need further information before taking a position on this issue.	11a. \$176,000 11b. \$88,600 11c. Some amount in between \$88,600 to \$176,000 11d. More than \$176,000, if necessary. 11e. Are you prepared to vote for property tax increases, or institute a license tag fee or other fee, in order to initiate public transportation, such as a bus service, in Mebane?	11. a-d No response.	11a. No. 11b. No. 11c. No. 11d. No. 11e. No.	11. a-e - I am willing to consider a proposal and study its impact and benefits and whether it is a viable program that will add value to the City as a whole and especially to any underserved communities.
12. A trolley or similar service that could be supported by fares or business partnerships, but not tax dollars without some sort of referendum.	12. It would depend on a number of factors. Which needs would be addressed? How does the community feel about implementing such a system? I would support a program, for example, that enables our aging citizens safe transit and, hopefully, more time to live independently if desired.	12. Van service might be a more affordable option to consider.	12. There has also been discussion about whether Mebane should initiate its own intra-city bus service. What are your views on that possibility and your and willingness to finance it with city tax dollars? [50 word limit]	12. I would request a feasibility study. We are not that big of a city to host our own intra-city bus service. However, I would hope that we can look at how we can support the elderly in getting around the City.	12. Mebane cannot afford a bus service.	12. This is a worthwhile topic of discussion and evaluation.

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13. Support. If a local government gets out of the incentive business, they limit their attractiveness to industry that produces jobs. While we can and have attracted some industry without incentives, it removes you from consideration on most.	13. Support.	13. Support.	13. In general, do you support or oppose using taxpayer money as an incentive to attract industry to Mebane? [50 word limit]	13.No response.	13. Support.	13. Support.
13a. I only support incentives that produce full pay-back within a reasonable time (3 – 5 years routinely), and in-kind incentives such as waiving fees are preferable to cash payments.	13a. The incentives would heavily depend on the benefits to the City's citizens for bringing that industry to our area. Fee waivers and assistance with the costs of construction may make sense if benchmarks are implemented and met during the process.	13a. I agree with the incentives we're currently using including the waiving of fees.	13a. If support, what types of incentive(s) would you advocate? [50 words or less]	13a. Additional data is needed to support that type of infrastructure growth.	13a. Taxes – reduced for a period of time.	13a. The state and federal government establish the incentives playing field and the City of Mebane has no ability to change that. We are in a competitive market against other cities for industry. Incentives should make our offering compelling while still providing a significant positive impact on our finances.
13b. Mebane's incentives show a financial return during a 3 – 5 year time frame consistently. The success of jobs which have been created makes shutting incentives unwise, as long as the return is in just a few years. In addition industry tax benefit versus cost long-term outweighs residential.	13b. This is something that needs to be considered on a case by case basis. If the proposed industry doesn't offer much benefit to the community or if agreed upon benchmarks aren't being met, then we'd need to explore a reduction of incentives.	13b. This decision will be one of the most difficult challenges in the coming years for the Mebane City Council and will require a great deal of study.	13b. Mebane is currently spending more than \$1 million annually on incentives payments to various industries. At what point, if any, will Mebane reach a point of needing to curtail, or even eliminate, offering tax-paid incentives in order to attract industry to one of the city's industrial parks/ areas? [50 word limit]	13b. The ideal situation for a municipality is for its residents to live and work in the city. This allows funds collected to stay within its boundaries. I would be interested in seeing if there has been a return of investment that validates and justifies this.	13b. When it becomes financially disadvantageous.	13b. As long as these incentives are bringing in significantly more money than we are spending, they are a win for the city.
14. No. Maybe I would support Mebane partnering with the YMCA, existing fitness companies and gyms, or pools, for services the City does not provide or cannot provide at a reasonable cost, if MEbane Citizens get the benefit of its use free or at equitably reduced prices.	14. Yes.	14. (This has been an issue for a long time, and one that we should revisit.)	14. There has been discussion at various points about whether Mebane should encourage, or even help finance, the YMCA to locate a facility in Mebane. Are you willing to vote for city tax dollars to be used for this purpose?	14. Yes.	14. Yes.	14. Yes.
14a. I think the philosophy of the YMCA should and could be carried forward in discussion to any privately-owned fitness company, and any decision should be fair. I do not think the city should put itself into a competition with any privately owned business by partnership or not, unless the business is not open to anyone.	14a. The YMCA offers a variety of community programs, beyond fitness equipment, that are needed in Mebane. This includes aquatics, childcare/summer camps, and programming for older adults. I don't foresee it negatively impacting private businesses as Mebane grows, just as similar private businesses thrive in Burlington with a YMCA there.	14a. The impact on the local fitness industry should be considered when this issue is revisited.	14a. How do you assess the impact on privately-owned fitness companies, gyms, etc. that may provide similar services? [50 word limit]	14a. As the City continues the grow, there will be enough fitness consumers for all. The YMCA offers family-centered programs and brings residents together through their community outreach. This would be a community partnership that would support Mebane's community and its residents. This would also bring on healthy competition which is good in a free market.	14a. Minimal impact.	14a. There should be careful research and investigation on the impact on private business and on the city's financial goals before considering this option.
15. Support. But not at the original cost proposed of \$4 million.	15. Support.	15. Support.	15. One issue that has divided the council in recent years is the idea of building a walking trail between the Arts and Community Center and the Holt Street Park. In general, do you support or oppose this concept?	15. Oppose.	15. Support.	15. Support.
15a. No.	15a. Yes – Only if all other options have been exhausted.	15a. No.	15a. Are you willing to impose "eminent domain," if necessary, in order to acquire the necessary land for the trail?	15a. No.	15a. No.	15a. No response.
16a. Adequately funded. 16b. Adequately funded. 16c. Adequately funded. 16d. Adequately funded.	16a. Adequately funded. 16b. Adequately funded. 16c. Adequately funded. 16d. Adequately funded.	16a. Adequately funded. 16b. Adequately funded. 16c. Adequately funded. 16d. Adequately funded.	16. With regard to each of the departments below, do you believe they are adequately funded, need more funding, or need less funding? a. Police b. Fire c. Public Works d. Recreation & Parks	16a. More. 16b. More. 16c. Adequately funded. 16d. Adequately funded.	16a. Adequately funded. 16b. Adequately funded. 16c. Adequately funded. 16d. Adequately funded.	16. a-d - Departmental funding issues are more complex than can be adequately answered here.
17. a-d. No For all - Only if funding could not be found from other sources and cuts.	17a. Yes. 17b. Yes. 17c. Yes. 17d. Yes. * Due to growth, it would be shortsighted to say "no" if needs were necessary.	17a. No response. 17b. No response. 17c. No response. 17d. No response.	17. If more, would you be willing to raise property taxes, if necessary to provide additional spending for the department(s)? a. Police b. Fire c. Public Works d. Recreation & Parks	17a. Yes. 17b. Yes. 17c. No. 17d. No.	17a. No. 17b. No. 17c. No. 17d. No.	17. a-d - I support the recent budget and will carefully evaluate each department's needs as the city continues to grow.
18.	18.	18.	18. Among the following programs or areas of city services (including other priorities you would include), please rank the top 5 priorities you would place on the following potential expenses: a. Implementing walking trail plan for Mebane b. Additional sidewalks c. Implementing a bike and pedestrian plan d. Paying for certain road improvements e. Increasing size of police department f. Increasing size of fire department g. Additional incentives payments to attract new industry h. Funding for expansion of Burlington's bus service to include stops in Mebane i. Other bus service within Mebane (either regional or city-funded) j. Additional park space k. Contributing money and/or city property for a YMCA l. Building a new police station m. Other (please specify)	18.	18.	18.
1. d.	1. m. Water & Sewer Expansion & Maintenance (currently in progress, grant funded)	1. d.	1. _____	1. e.	1. e.	1-5 - Programs and services funding issues are more complex than can be adequately answered here.
2. l.	2. f – 1 or 2 new fire stations Needed.	2. l.	2. _____	2. f.	2. f. .	
3. e.	3. l. – New Police Station Needed.	3. e.	3. _____	3. l.	3. l. .	
4. f.	4. d.	4. f.	4. _____	4. j.	4.m. Water/Sewer	
5. b.	5. c.	5. g.	5. _____	5. d.	5. - d.	
19.	19.	19.	19. Of those top five priorities, which, if any, are you willing to vote a property tax increase for, if necessary, in order to finance?	19. No response.	19. 1-5 - None.	19. No response.
1. – 2. l. 3. e. 4. f. 5. –	1 - f. 2 - l. 3 - d.	1. l.				
20. Support.	20. Support.	20. Support.	20. Would you support, or oppose, seeking legislative authority to impose a 3 percent occupancy tax on hotels within Mebane's city limits?	20. Support.	20. Oppose.	20. No response.
20a. Our citizens pay it wherever they go. Use it for Community Arts and Tourism.	20a. Road and traffic calming improvements around the City. Would consider for pedestrian/sidewalk improvements as well.	20a. To maintain and improve infrastructure.	20a. If so, for what purpose(s) should the revenues raised be used? [25 word limit]	20a. Instead of raising resident taxes, this occupational tax can help divert costs related to police/fire growing needs of personnel, training, equipment, and facilities.	20a. No response.	20a. No response.

(See **MEbane QUESTIONNAIRE, PAGE 7**)

EARLY VOTING	BEGINS TODAY, OCTOBER 14. ONE LOCATION: COUNTY OFFICE ANNEX BUILDING, 201 WEST ELM STREET, GRAHAM.	WEEKDAYS THROUGH OCTOBER 29: 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24: 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30: 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
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21. Mebane has always had an open meeting format with citizen involvement. However, yes, I think we need to be even more attentive to what is considered an announced public hearing, and continue to exceed State law in regards to public hearings even more. Each of those should have been advertised as public hearings.	21. This highlights a great opportunity to leverage our incoming Public Information Officer for deeper community involvement and communication. I want to note, some of these items referenced in the question had significant discussion with state-level actions, like alcohol sales on Sundays – supported by a State Senator from Alamance County.	21. When issues of significance are to be discussed or decided upon, there should be advance notice so that Mebane's residents have an opportunity for public input.	21. In recent years, Mebane's city council has sometimes taken action without a public hearing, or advance notice that a significant issue or item was to be on the council's meeting agenda – among them to modify the city's charter to allow more extraterritorial area than statewide guidelines provide, to consider certain land purchase(s), to approve funding for a rail spur to an industrial plant beside a residential area, to approve earlier Sunday sales of alcohol, or to consider asking the General Assembly for authority to levy a 3% hotel occupancy tax. In your view, how can citizens be involved or voice their views/concerns when issues of significance are discussed and decided without advance notice or an opportunity for public input from Mebane's residents? [50 word limit]	21. Wherever, permitted by law, meetings should be open to the public for discussion and discourse. There are times when the council needs to meet in closed sessions to discuss personnel matters, however.	21. No response.	21. Transparency and open communication is a key responsibility of city leadership. We must avoid any actions that could appear otherwise and learn from mistakes when they occur.
22. I think Mebane racial climate is better than many, but can always be improved.	22. I am proud of our community in this respect. The creation of REAC is an excellent step in checking any blind spots that we may have in our City policies. Further, our Chief of Police and MPD is consistently proactive and approachable while strengthening community relationships with all citizens.	22. Like many cities, Mebane has some issues with race relations, for example, there are restrictions on the properties of ETJ citizens, but they cannot vote in municipal elections.	22. How do you assess Mebane's racial climate/race relations? [50-word limit]	22. I have experienced racism and discrimination in Mebane. There continues to be room for growth in this area. However, the City is overwhelmingly diverse in thought and ideas. This is the beauty of our city. Letting a few bad apples determine my perception of this city would be naive and immature.	22. I believe Mebane has a good racial climate.	22. From the beginning of my campaign, I have stated my desire for Mebane to be a welcoming and inclusive community. There is room for growth in this area and I will listen, learn, and work to that end.
22a. Provide racial equity training for employees.	22a. I want to hear the findings of the REAC listening sessions first before I attempt to think through possible recommendations.	22a. A committee could be established consisting of ETJ representatives that could meet, discuss issues, vote on the issues, then have a representative to present to the Planning Board and to the City Council their findings prior to the City Council's final vote.	22a. What, if any, city policies should be changed or adopted to improve the racial climate/race relations in the city? [50 word limit]	22a. As your next Councilman, I will continue to support non-discriminatory policies, including what could be seen as reverse discrimination. This city should continue to abide by its non-discriminatory policies of equal opportunity employer and city – for all.	22a. None.	22a. That is a topic of ongoing discussion in which I am eager to be involved.
23. To listen and provide an opportunity for everyone to be heard in a manner that provides openness and trust.	23. I hope they will identify any unintentionally biased or discriminatory policies.	23. I would like to see their recommendations move from words to actions.	23. What, if anything, do you hope to see accomplished by the Racial Equity Advisory Committee established by the city council? [50 word limit]	23. I would hope to see diversity in thoughts and ideals, not just those that are ideologically progressive. I look forward to playing an active role in this committee.	23. Gives minority community a stronger voice.	23. The Racial Equity Advisory Committee will be an excellent resource as we move forward in the area of race relations. It will help with better communication, greater awareness, and broader involvement among our residents.
23a. Indefinite/Permanent.	23a. Indefinite/permanent- This committee will likely evolve with time.	23a. Indefinite/permanent.	23a. How long do you anticipate the need for such a committee? a. 1-2 years. b. 3-5 years. c. Indefinite/permanent.	23a. 1-2 years.	23a. Indefinite/permanent.	23a. Indefinite/permanent, As long as it is useful to the community.
23b. Yes.	23b. Yes.	23b. Yes. It is more diverse than the actual City Council that is making decisions for the whole city.	23b. Five out of seven committee members named by the council are black. Do you believe the committee has an adequately diverse membership for making recommendations to the city council?	23b. No.	23b. Yes.	23b. Yes.
24.	24.	24.	Development 24. In your opinion, is Mebane's rate of growth too slow, too fast, or about right? Commercial: Residential: Industrial:	24.	24.	24.
About right. Too high. About right.	About right. Too high. About right.	About right. About right. About right.	24. According to Mebane's planning department, there are over 2,000 single-family houses that have been approved (or rezoned) for construction, but that are not yet built in the city. Should Mebane adopt a moratorium, or any other kind of slowdown, in its approval of new subdivisions? [50 word limit]	About right. Too high. Too low.	About right. About right. About right.	About right. About right. About right.
25. Not a moratorium, but a slow down. This will be accomplished somewhat by new requirements for calculating waste water issues.	25. It already has, to some extent, with the changes to the water & sewer approval process. These new application processes will enable the City to manage the demands on our infrastructure significantly better.	25. Mebane should not have a moratorium on building. We should concentrate on providing adequate infrastructure to support the growth.	25. What about a moratorium, or any other kind of slowdown, for apartment complex construction? [25 word limit]	25. While I'm not opposed to the growth, I believe that we take the time to study the impact of it and how we need to proactively be ready for such services, i.e. police, fire, waste... Building our police and fire stations in preparation for growth showcases community readiness and strength.	25. Need to make sure we have adequate water/sewer before approving.	25. The rate of growth and the ability of our infrastructure to handle it needs to be in the forefront of our planning decisions.
25a. Not a moratorium, but a position of limited approval unless something is special about the apartment request.	25a. The new water & sewer approval process applies to apartment complexes as well.	25a. Mebane should not have a moratorium on building. We should concentrate on providing adequate infrastructure to support the growth.	25a. What about a moratorium, or any other kind of slowdown, for apartment complex construction? [25 word limit]	25a. No response.	25a. Mebane tries to maintain around 20% apts – that's a good target.	25a. We need to keep all types of housing in balance and assess whether the number of apartments is aligned with our future goals.
26. Yes, the density of the first residential developments off Oakwood Street. I voted against it and felt we were setting up expectations of too high a density in that area.	26. No.	26. No. I agree with the City Council's decisions in those areas.	26. Are there any particular projects – commercial, residential, or industrial – to which you particularly object, or question the wisdom of the city council having granted approval? [50 word limit]	26. No response.	26. Not really, but I think we may have enough distribution centers.	26. None that I wish to highlight here.
27. I think they fall into the discussion for any residential growth, but that is not limited to Mebane, but County areas as well.	27. Schools are one of the primary factors, if not the top factor.	27. Quality public schools are an important factor in attracting new families and new businesses.	Mebane Area Schools 27. How much of a factor are schools for the future of Mebane's growth? [25 word limit]	27. Schools should be considered as needed. The relationship with ABSS and Mebane should continue to be one of diligence and shared responsibility.	27. A lot, we have a new high school being built.	27. Schools are very important factor in our growth and I am committed to do all I can to support the education of our children.
28. I think we continue to be supportive, and partner when we can on issues such as school resource officers. I think we continue to let people know schools are a County and State function, and while we can support them in many partnerships, it is not the cities responsibility to fund or manage schools.	28. It is important that City Council maintain an open dialogue with our School Board(s) and our local schools to understand their needs and challenges. Further, I have interacted with our schools on varying levels as a community volunteer and fully intend on continuing that involvement.	28. As a citizen and a parent, I can support our local schools; however, the schools fall under the purview of the ABSS Board of Education.	28. What, if anything, can you, if elected as a municipal official, do toward supporting an improvement in the academic performance of the local ABSS schools, specifically those within the city limits of Mebane? [50-word limit]	28. As a former school administrator, I can understand the operational systems of the charter, private, and public schools. The City should always be open to facilitating improvement in academic areas, even if it just means opening up our facilities to tutoring services, or after-school programs.	28. Take an interest and promote our schools.	28. We must continually emphasize to ABSS the importance of high quality schools for the success of our city and our county.
29. That is a possibility that has been discussed, for example providing them land through some type of partnership, but providing financial support is unfair to Mebane tax payers, who also pay county taxes for that purpose. It's a form of double taxation. I think that is a dark area to walk into.	29. Possibly, however I'd like to consider the specifics of such a request and hear feedback from our local school officials first. Robust and thriving schools meeting the needs of our most precious community members, our children, is a priority of mine.	29. No. Funding for the school system is provided by the county and the state.	29. Should the city of Mebane consider providing some level of financial support to assist either the Alamance or Orange school systems? If so, how much, or in what form? [50 word limit]	29. The City should always be open to a strong partnership with county school districts. However, we should ensure there is a mutual partnership and the programs supported are those supported by our city residents and families.	29. No.	29. I hope the state and the county can find ways to improve funding for our schools. In the current system setup by the state legislature, this is not a city issue.
29a. Yes Maybe, see above.	29a. Yes, if necessary.	29a. Yes.	29a. Should the city consider providing land for any additional school(s) that may be needed on either side of the county line?	29a. Yes.	29a. Needs study.	29a. No. I could see being open to this possibility.
30. As a current council member, it would be unfair to criticize, even on issues I voted against. I do believe we need to start paying closer attention to density, and overall spending, as well as race relations within the community.	30. I don't have one at this time.	30. I have not strongly disagreed with actions taken by the City Council over the past five years.	General comments 30. What is your area of strongest disagreement with action(s) taken by the city council in the past 2-5 years? [50 word limit]	30. No response.	30. No response.	30. Overall, our city has been well run. I am not prepared to publicly criticize decisions to which I may not have all the relevant facts.
31. Keeping infrastructure and services in pace with growth, which means partnering with agencies such as DOT and ABSS we do not control. Managing finances and keeping tax rates low. Maintaining a small City charm while handling continued inevitable growth.	31. 1) Growth 2) Traffic 3) Infrastructure Needs – All of these are interconnected but have their own individual challenges. It is imperative that we, as a City, stay alert to the needs communicated to us by the City staff and engineers.	31. Smart growth, improving infrastructure, and affordable housing.	31. In your view, what are the three main issues facing Mebane during the next five years? [50 word limit]	31. Controlled Growth Management, Infrastructure needs, and Police/Fire facilities/equipment needs.	31. Growth. Infrastructure. Downtown parking.	31. Strategically managing our growth, supporting an increasingly vibrant downtown and promoting an atmosphere of community amidst our great diversity.

Questions Individualized or Specific to Candidates for Mebane City Council

Tim Bradley

QUESTION: You've been a city councilman for 28 years (since 1993), the longest-serving member other than the mayor (who's be on the council for 32 years). How much time is long enough, and how will you decide when it's time to step aside? [100 word limit]

TIM BRADLEY: I think long enough is when an individual begins to be served rather than serving. I still feel like my contribution is valuable to the city and it's citizens, and when I don't feel like I can contribute at a high level anymore, then the time to step down has occurred. Ultimately what I bring to the position currently is experience and an ability to compromise, which I think is a critical need in today's government. What I don't bring is personal profit or gain. Ultimately, it's the citizens decision, but my desire to serve is strong.

Katie Burkholder

QUESTION: You appear to be among three candidates endorsed by the Alamance Democratic Party in the Mebane city council race. Do you think it's appropriate for a political party to get involved in a non-partisan municipal election? How will you be independent from partisan preferences? [100 word limit]

KATIE BURKHOLDER: My understanding is that they are endorsing the 3 registered Democrats and I am a registered Democrat. Regardless of my registered party affiliation, I don't automatically agree with everything going on with either the Democratic or Republican parties. I'm transparent about that with folks who care to discuss it.

Regarding city council, I have been very intent on honoring the non-partisan structure of our city council. I'm adamant that the city government, including council and staff, strives to be unincumbered by party lines. On the whole, Mebane's city government does a great job of this already.

Montreena Hadley

QUESTION: In the past year, you have settled a case with the city of Mebane regarding your previous employment with the city. Please outline the financial settlement you and the city agreed to and explain how you will work with council members and staff against whom you had filed this litigation if you win a council seat. [100 word limit]

MONTREENA HADLEY: The parties concerned reached a confidential resolution to whatever issues were pending. As I always did during my 19-year tenure in the planning department, I will work professionally with all council members and city staff.

Charles Lopez

QUESTION: You appear to have been a Mebane resident for only about two years. Couldn't/shouldn't you have been involved in some other aspects of local government or in community involvement before running for city council? Isn't this too fast for attempting to serve on the council? [100 word limit]

CHARLES LOPEZ: My mother (a housekeeper) and father (a carpenter) – both deceased now - taught me to serve my family, my church, and my fellow man. When I look for someone that is ready to take on a leadership position, I look at qualifications – experience, education, and character. Based on this criterion, I am prepared to lead with insight, purpose, and integrity. Finally, with an onset of new residents, the city should also be open to receiving these residents with open arms into all facets of the City – including its City Council.

Roger Parker

QUESTION: You have run for and/or been appointed to local positions by the Alamance County Republican Party. Do you think it's appropriate for a political party to get involved in a non-partisan municipal election? How will you be independent from partisan preferences [100 word limit]

ROGER PARKER: No. It's non-partisan. Keep it that way!

Jonathan White

QUESTION: Perhaps because of your business-related employment, you are being viewed by some as a "pro-business" candidate. How can you assure voters that you will be even-handed in evaluating various business-related decisions, such as evaluating economic incentives proposals, zoning requests (particularly in the case of those bringing more density, such as townhouses and apartments), and other issues that frequently represent business interests? [100 word limit]

JONATHAN WHITE: I am committed to what is best for the citizens of Mebane. They are my neighbors, friends, and acquaintances from shopping, eating, and living local. I am pro-business when that business benefits the people of our city. Transparency and avoiding conflicts of interest (for myself and for the city) are key priorities to assure the citizens of no outside influence from special interests.
