

Incumbent Mayor, Aldermen Face Opposition In Shallotte

Shallotte voters will choose between two mayoral candidates and elect four town board members when they go to the polls next week.

Incumbent Sarah Tripp and former mayor Beamon Hewett are running for the mayor's seat, while nine candidates are running for the four seats on the town board.

While there are only two candidates for mayor, the town board race is more confusing.

Seven candidates are seeking election to the three available seats that have four-year terms, and two others are vying for a town board seat with a two-year term.

Incumbents David Gause, Jody Simmons and Joe Hewett and challengers Roney Cheers, Sam Inman, Gene Frink and Morris Hall are running for the four-year seats.

Voters will choose incumbent Alderman Wilton Harrelson or Odell "Odie" Johnson to serve the two-year term.

The *Brunswick Beacon* sent questionnaires to each of the candidates in August. Mrs. Tripp and Joe Hewett were the only ones who did not respond.

BEAMON HEWETT

Hewett, who served as mayor from 1968 to 1985, listed road repairs, drainage work and sidewalks on Main Street as three of the most important issues the town will face in the next four years.

Other top priorities are building a sewer treatment plant on the south end of town, lowering impact and acreage fees to stimulate growth, codifying ordinances, enforcing sign regulations and managing the budget better.

Hewett, who served as alderman from 1964 to 1968, said his familiarity with the town makes him the most qualified candidate for mayor.

"I know the Town of Shallotte in and out, helped write most of the ordinances, worked with most of the board members and town employees," he said.

Hewett said he is seeking the mayor's post because he believes he can "bring unity back to the town board and get the town moving forward again."

The former mayor served on the Cape Fear Council of Governments board for 10 years, from 1975 to 1985.

Hewett owns Ace Hardware in Shallotte and is an automotive instructor at West Brunswick High School.

He has been an instructor at both Cape Fear Community College and Brunswick Community College, and owned a garage from 1959 to 1970.

Hewett is a high school graduate. He received a certificate in vocational education from N.C. State University in 1968, which has been renewed four times.

WILTON HARRELSON

Wilton Harrelson said expansion of utilities, particularly the sewer system, is the most important issue the town board should address in the next four years.

Harrelson said he favors impact and acreage fees that make the users

pay for water and sewer service. "I continue to favor that any growth should be financed by those coming on to the system."

The two-term incumbent also said the town board should start looking at establishing a form of government that uses a town manager "I would be in favor of this at the right time," he said.

Harrelson, a retired owner of a farm and garden supply store, was elected to the town board in 1983 and re-elected in 1987.

"I want to see Shallotte to continue growth in an orderly and controlled manner so that the quality of life as we know it may be preserved," he said.

Harrelson said it is best left to the good judgment and discretion of the voters to decide what makes him the most qualified candidate for the post.

"I feel that the intangible qualities of a candidate such as character, integrity and motives behind the decisions should carry more weight than education or experience," he said.

Harrelson graduated from N.C. State University with a bachelor of science degree in agronomy.

He has served as president of the Shallotte Lions Club, master of the Shallotte Masonic Lodge and held various church offices.

ODELL JOHNSON

Odell "Odie" Johnson said working to provide better service with the money available is the most important issue the town board should address in the coming term.

He also said the board of aldermen should work to maintain and improve Shallotte as a great place to live, work, play, raise a family, shop and trade, operate a business and retire.

Johnson, a retired retail executive with Sears, Roebuck and Co., has served on the board of directors of a chamber of commerce and two country clubs. He has also held offices in Kiwanis and volunteered for United Way campaigns.

"After doing business with many city, county and state purchasing departments, I have been amazed at the wasteful and unprofessional manner taxpayer money is spent," he said.

As a retiree, Johnson said he has no "axe to grind" except to represent the people of Shallotte.

"Having operated multi-million dollar operations in every phase of management for 23 years I feel I can be helpful to the board of aldermen of Shallotte," he said.

Johnson graduated from Anderson High School in Indiana and studied marketing at the University of Cincinnati and engineering at Colorado State University.

He served in World War II with the Army's 387th Intelligence and Reconnaissance Unit in Europe and Asia.

MORRIS J. HALL

A retired teacher from Fairfax, Va., Morris Hall said he is running for office because he wants to see a litter-free and revitalized Shallotte.

Hall said he wants to find out why there are so many empty commercial buildings in town and find a way to make use of them.

"I would like to see a town council that has more unity that can work together to make the town of Shallotte a cleaner and safe place that we as residents can be proud of," he said.

Hall, a former platoon leader in the U.S. Marine Corps, has served as president of the Brierwood Men's Golf Association and secretary of the United Methodist Men's Club at Camp UMC Church.

He received an undergraduate degree from Guilford College and a master's degree in education from the University of Virginia.

Hall was a teacher for 27 years in elementary and junior high schools and worked two years with the Fairfax County Health Department.

SAM INMAN

Sam Inman said traffic control and fiscal responsibility are two of the most important issues the town board will face over the next four years.

Inman said town officials must consider prohibiting parking and widening the turn lane on Main Street.

He also said the town should begin a purchase order system to keep better track of how much money the town is spending.

Inman said he thinks town employees should receive pay raises based on job performance instead of across-the-board increases.

The first-time candidate said almost 40 years of business experience make him the most qualified person running for town board.

Prior to becoming assistant manager at Brunswick Building Supplies, Inman managed Shallotte Lumber Company for eight years.

"I have worked for many years in other building supply companies where I have been in the decision-making process," he said.

Inman graduated from Waccamaw High School in 1952. He served on a local school committee one year, and was a charter member and former president of the Shallotte Jaycees.

RONY W. CHEERS

Roney Cheers, a former mayor and town board member, said planning for organized growth and financial responsibility are two of the most important issues the town must address in the coming term.

Cheers said the town will have to do some "belt-tightening" in the next four years due to cutbacks in state and federal funds that are given to towns.

He also thinks the town board needs to map out where future streets will be located.

Cheers, who served 10 years on the town board and 12 years as mayor, has been out of the Shallotte political scene since 1968.

He said he is running for office "to lend my experience and ideas for future growth to the governing body and the citizens of Shallotte."

A native of Shallotte, Cheers said he has watched the town grow. "I have the utmost desire to see it develop and grow to be the trading center of Brunswick County," he said.

Cheers, a 1939 graduate of Shallotte High School, retired after more than 22 years as a local magistrate and six years as justice of the peace.

GENE FRINK

Gene Frink, a retired postal service employee, said street improvement and removing friction from town government are among the most important issues facing the town board.

Frink also said he wants to help get Shallotte growing again. "It is now dying," he said.

"Being that I am retired, I now have the time that this office would require to make a proper decision to improve the Town of Shallotte," he

said. Frink, a high school graduate, said he has no ties to any businesses or people in Shallotte. He said he doesn't want to hire or fire any of the town employees.

"I can make an impartial decision which would be in the best interest of Shallotte," he said.

DAVID L. GAUSE

David Gause said preparing for future expansion of the sewer system and keeping the tax rate low are two of the most important issues the town board will face in the next four years.

"At this time, our sewage system is in fairly good shape, but at the same time we must prepare ourselves to handle the growth that will be placed on it in the future," Gause said.

Gause, who was elected as an alderman in 1983 and re-elected in 1987, said he is seeking the post again for several reasons.

"I want to continue to see this town grow as it has in the past and to also see that our tax dollars are spent wisely."

Gause, a retired enforcement offi-

cer with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, said he is the most qualified candidate for the position because he has time to spend on town business.

Besides his two straight terms on the town board, Gause also serves on The Brunswick Hospital Board of Trustees and is past president of the Brunswick County Law Enforcement Association.

Gause graduated from Elizabethtown High School and has taken courses at the N.C. Institute of Government at Chapel Hill.

J.G. "JODY" SIMMONS

Jody Simmons says lowering acreage fees to encourage growth, establishing a commercial sewer rate and improving streets and sidewalks are the top issues facing the town board.

Simmons said existing acreage fees are too high and discourage growth. He thinks they will cost taxpayers unless they are lowered to promote growth.

Lowering the fees and setting up a commercial sewer rate to charge the major users of the sewer system are two areas Simmons says the town board has to address in the coming term.

Simmons was elected to his first term as alderman in 1987 and said he is seeking re-election for another

four years to help keep Shallotte growing as the commercial hub of the South Brunswick Islands.

The incumbent also said he wants residents to have someone they can call at any time to find out why they pay taxes or why he voted a certain way.

Simmons said he is the most qualified candidate because he will represent the people of Shallotte and see they have a voice on the town board.

"I believe the best government is one for the people and by the people and one that will listen to the people," he said.

Simmons, a real estate broker with Village Pines Properties & Associates, graduated from West Brunswick High School.

He has attended Southeastern and Brunswick community colleges, completed courses in plumbing and is a licensed real estate broker.

Simmons has served as president of the Brunswick Islands Jaycees, vice chairman of the N.C. Oyster Festival and has held offices with the Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors.



JOHNSON



HEWETT



GAUSE



INMAN

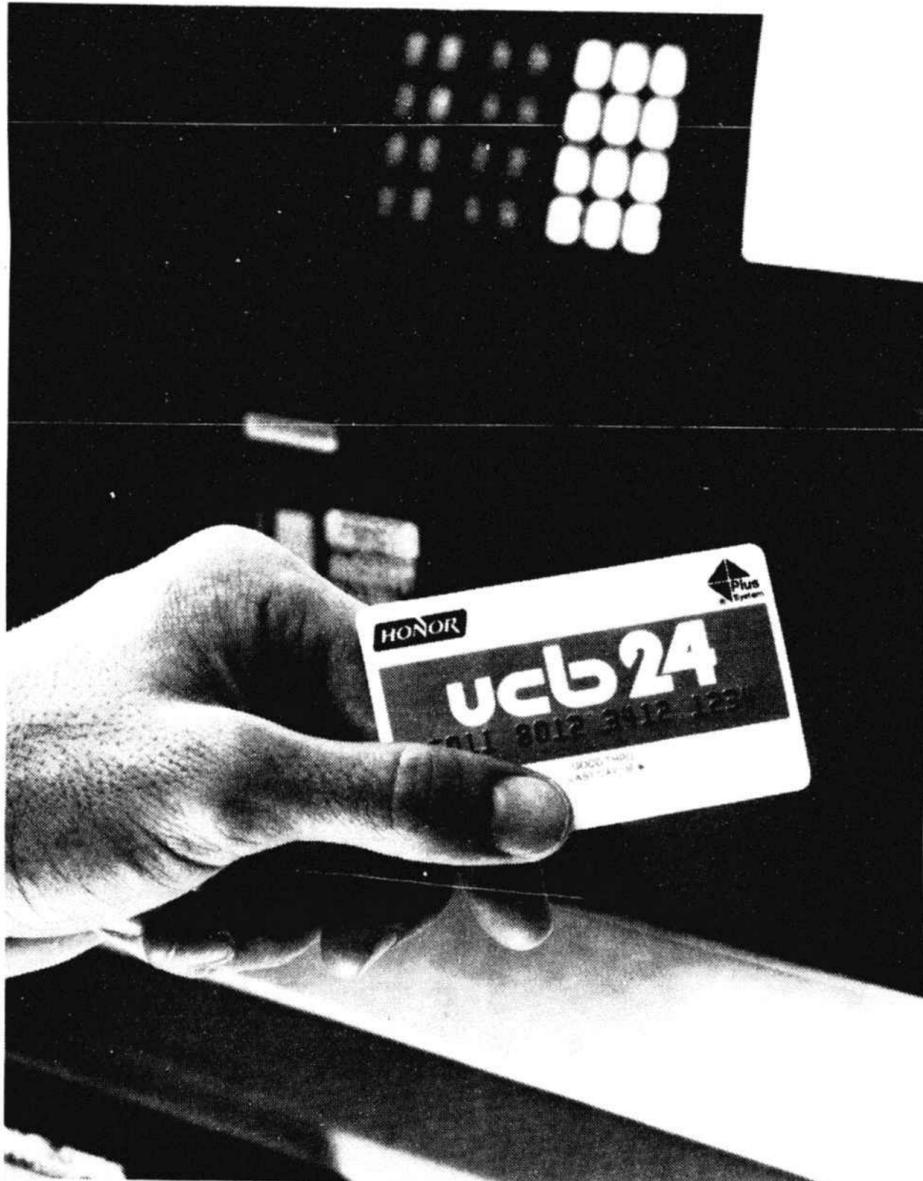


HARRELSON



CHEERS

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