

CANDIDATES: file for city offices



BILL ELLIS
GROVER MAYOR

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three from Kings Mountain, have filed for one of five seats open on the Cleveland County Board of Education. The Kings Mountain candidates are incumbents Shearra Miller and Jerry Hoyle. Howard Elliott McLeod, 1217 North Piedmont Avenue, has also filed.

Five people filed for four seats open on the Cleveland County Water Board. They are Dewey Cook, Pete Pedersen, Bill Cameron, Thomas H. Lewis and Tony M. Brooks.

Filing statements this week came from the following candidates:

Retired building contractor Dean Spears served 16 years on city council, Ward 4 and At-Large, and says he's back in the race because he wants to see city projects that are in the works as well as those in the planning stages completed. "I want to be part of the progress underway," he said. Dean and his wife, Betty Watterson Spears, have been married 56 years and have two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They are members of First Baptist Church.

At-Large candidate Bobby Pearson Jr. said that as he has served on the Planning & Zoning Board for three years he has become more involved in city activities and wants to do more. A graduate of Kings Mountain High School and Western Carolina University, he is the son of Lafayette Pearson and the late Mary Roper Pearson. He and his wife, Traci Deaver Pearson have one daughter, Alayna and are members of First Baptist Church. He is employed as Facilities Manager at Daimler Trucks, formerly Freightliner, in Gastonia for 16 years. He is also a board member of A.N.D.Y. Card Foundation, a 501-C non-profit which encourages the writing of emergency contact numbers on the back of a card and placed in purse or wallet.

Sherlock Holmes, candidate for mayor, served in the US Army and he and his wife of 53 years, Sue McAbee Holmes, have two children. He is a former insurance and Electrolux salesman and operated a cloth store in Kings Mountain some years ago. His father was a Church of God minister and he is active in Sons of Confederacy.

Jerry Mullinax, candidate for At-Large city council member, said "It has been my honor in the past to serve you. My record will show that I have served Ward 2 for four years, Ward 3 for six years and in those terms of service I have always endeavored to put the best interest of the citizens of Kings Mountain first and foremost in all community matters.

"This election year



ANGELA EARLY
GROVER COUNCIL

allows me to serve all citizens in an at-large capacity. If elected, my goals are: eliminate wasteful spending, bring more business to Kings Mountain to support new jobs, monitor utility rates, define tax increases, monitor financial burdens on senior citizens and disabled residents with fixed income.

"My priority going forward and in the past has been my love for the people of Kings Mountain as they work and play in this great community. As a veteran, I believe in representing everyone equally to create harmony and to solidify oneness in our community.

"If you choose to support me with your vote in November in the upcoming election, you can be assured that I will serve with honesty and integrity as in the past. It will be an honor to serve and represent the citizens of Kings Mountain once again."

Patty Powell Hall, 111 Stowe Acres, is challenging incumbent Keith Miller for his At-Large seat on city council. "I have worked in city government for 32 years, 22 years as superintendent of the water plant in Cherryville and before that as lab technician and operator at the Bessemer City water plant for 10 years," said Hall. She added "I love city government, am familiar with preparing budgets and working with people," she said. Hall responds to every call and gives her job 100% and more, pledging to do the same for citizens if elected. "I'm a people person and love serving the public," she added.

Hall is married to Stanley Hall and they are active in Cornerstone Church of God in Kings Mountain.

Kay Hambricht, 307 Maner Road, who served from 2003-2005 on city council, is seeking the Ward 4 seat now held by Rodney Gordon. A semi-retired nurse, Hambricht has been employed for 26 years at Gaston Memorial Hospital. Kings Mountain native, she is the widow of Freddy Hambricht and a graduate of Gardner-Webb University with an Associate degree in nursing. Before returning to school and then to the nursing profession, she worked at First Citizens Bank and First Union National Bank and was financial officer at Hank Fink Inc. She is a member First Baptist church and choir and previously was director of Moms in Prayer weekly meeting. She has one son, Chip and daughter-in-law, Lori, and granddaughter Hunter Bell and grandson Cole Hambricht. "We need a woman's voice on council and I want to be that woman," said Hambricht, who said that during her service on council she always responded to concerns of citizens and not only from the ward from which she was elected.



PATRICK SHANNON
GROVER COUNCIL

Lamar Fletcher, Kings Mountain native, is challenging incumbent Howard Shipp in Ward I.

A member of the Planning and Zoning Board five years, he is working for change and wants to see completion of the water projects and other economic development projects that come via the planning board. "I'd like to see more parks, a walking track off King Street or at Davidson Park and more mini parks around town," he said. He says he'd like to see the back lots cleaned up and the city crack down on derelict buildings and beef up the city's appearance.

Fletcher said he would like to see all city employees get salary hikes that would bring them up to the wages paid similar jobs in other towns. Fletcher retired from Pharr Yarns, McAdenville, after 15 years. He and his wife, Nannie, have been married 52 years and have three children: James and wife Mary of Ellenboro; Tim and wife Wendy of Kings Mountain and Mike Fletcher who will marry Deborah Hicks on August 28 in Kings Mountain. The Fletchers are active in Penley's Chapel Church.

Beauford Burton's filing statement follows:

"I have filed as a candidate for the office of Mayor of Kings Mountain because I believe we need a change in ideas and ideals.

"If elected, my first priority will always be to our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe it is important for you to understand that commitment from me for a couple reasons. He is where I will go to get advice about any issues that come up. His people will be who I choose to work alongside me. Since I've said that, I want to be clear to everyone in Kings Mountain whether Christian or not can expect the same representation and respect from me; just don't expect me to waiver or go against His word, or expect me not to mention my dedication to Jesus. I will encourage you to be in prayer for the answer as to whom you give your vote.

"I further believe that the office of mayor is a service position as noted in the next paragraph.

To explain what I think the purpose of the Mayor's office should be I am going to word a not exact comparison between city government and publicly owned corporations. The general public and citizenry of Kings Mountain are the stock holders and the real bosses. The public elect the board of directors made up of the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor is the director of the board and Chief Operating Officer and the Council members are those to whom you've given your proxy (your voting rights.) Everyone working for the city are employees just like are in any business and they re-

port to those you elect. One major difference in the city government and a public corporation is that every voting age citizen owns an equal amount of stock regardless of their income and everyone has the right to talk to those who hold their proxies about any concern they have for their needs that the city can address. As elected servants, anyone in those positions work for you.

"My background is such that I've held management positions in manufacturing and sales for a 40 year career. I've managed many people in many different job categories and have been successful in all those endeavors.

"I don't believe you can find anyone that could say I did not treat them fairly. I also don't think you can find anyone that could say I didn't expect productivity from them. You won't find any owner of a business I've worked for that will tell you I didn't give their company full effort. I always treated their money and their assets higher than I did my own. I will, if elected, give the same unrelenting effort for this city.

"I can't promise anyone anything except that if elected I will be fair and I will use my God-given skills to make this city a quality place to live. I should tell you that I do not dream of Kings Mountain being a booming metropolis. I don't believe that is what you want either. My efforts, if elected, will be to strengthen the appeal of a small town feeling that will attract families who want to live in that type environment. I would accomplish this by making safety first priority, then doing everything possible to give small businesses opportunities to establish and grow. I would encourage new business of any size that would be productive, meaningful partners to this city I would do everything in my power to equally take care of the infrastructure needed to maintain total quality of life. I would encourage neighborhoods to be involved in cleaning and showing pride in the areas they live in. I would encourage volunteers to assist in projects where the people living in poor conditions may not be physically

able to help themselves. Thank you all for any consideration you might give."

The candidate list to date: MAYOR - Rick Murphy, incumbent; Sherlock Holmes, Scott Neisler, and Beauford Burton.

WARD I - Howard Shipp, incumbent; Lamar Fletcher.

WARD IV - Rodney Gordon, incumbent; Dean Spears, Kay Hambricht.

WARD V - Rick Moore, incumbent; Jay Rhodes.

AT LARGE COUNCILMAN - Keith Miller, incumbent; Bobby L. Pearson Jr., Jerry Mullinax, Patty

Hall. GROVER MAYOR - Bill Willis, Kristy Wyllys. GROVER TOWN BOARD - Todd Wyllys, Patrick Shannon, Angelia Tuft Early.

CLEVELAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION - Shearra Miller, Jerry D. Hoyle, Roger Harris, Richard Hooker, Jr., incumbents; Robert Queen, L.E. Henson, Howard McLeod, Nikki Ledford, Hal Hastings, Jeff Jones, William Gray, Yvette D. Grant, Ray Lockhart, Darius Griffin, Jo Boggs and Howard Benard Thompson Jr.

SPONSOR: a Vietnam Veteran?

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in the field—our MOS's and AFSC's, our armed forces specialties sustained all those in action; we worked in the medical units and tried to save the wounded as best we knew how.

We grew up quickly! When your buddy goes down beside of you; when you are asked to make a positive ID of your buddy and zip him up in a body bag and send him home; you grow up quickly. When you see and live the ravages of an unpopular war and its surroundings, both in Vietnam and in the USA; you grow up quickly!

We didn't know all the official medical terms, common now in our dialect, which could and would inflict life-changing measures that disturb and distress us now. We didn't know, at that time, Agent Orange—"Operation Ranch Hand" ordered by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, that foliage herbicide used to clear vegetation, would cause bodily harm and death in our later years—most all of us encountered it both directly and indirectly; not only did we wear it but it was in the water we drank; we bathed in it; it seemed to be everywhere; and we were there.

Over the next few years, we will celebrate Vietnam's 50th Anniversary since we came home. Some of us went there in 1960, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1972 and all in between. At this writing there are over 80 Vietnam Veterans in our

beloved Kings Mountain and surrounding communities. We came home to mend our minds and deal with our wounds that would forever be a reminder of our sacrifices during this period of our young lives; we came home to raise our families and to be good citizens.

Some of us have never seen the "Wall" in Washington, D.C.; that black stone monument that carries the names of over 58,000 of our buddies; some of us have visited the "Wall" many times and still want to return to visit, once more, those men on the wall who didn't come home.

Many of us will have difficulty in going to Washington due to physical health reasons and returning our minds to an era that most want to put away somewhere and forget; but, we want to go anyway. Our research reports that the trip will need to be a two-day undertaking with overnight accommodations necessary. One bus can handle 47 passengers, we just can't afford two buses--so all of us will not be able to go. It will require an estimated \$250 per veteran to cover the costs of the roundtrip bus ride and motel stay.

For me personally, the "Wall" is a national icon, exalting our dead in a very dutiful and respectful way, and showing us a history lesson to be studied and revered.

Would you want to sponsor a veteran and "send a Vietnam Veteran to the Wall?" It will make a difference.

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