

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Charlie Martin
Belmont City Council**

1. **What are the top three issues your community needs to address? How would you propose to tackle these issues?**

1) Growth of population in Eastern Gaston County (Belmont)
2) Underground infrastructure (old pipes and sewer lines need to be replaced)
3) Recreation facilities for our populace (especially youth) need to be expanded

2. **Because of present economic realities, what changes do you propose to your town's policies and regulations?**

We have completed our budget and have done some trimming of items that had been requested. We managed to hold the line on taxes and made some adjustments to water and sewer rates.

3. **Do you believe your town should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for your town? Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire town? Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?**

Our town has to rely on power fund money for certain projects. However, I believe the state should fund schools and roads. We provide police and fire protection costs in our budget but we do rely on grants for special projects for police and fire.

4. **How would you encourage your town's/community's economic growth while including a variety of housing types and prices?**

We completed a comprehensive development plan to prepare for future growth which allowed representatives from a broad spectrum to input their desires as to how we wanted Belmont to grow. This also took lower economic housing into consideration.

5. **Recently adopted ordinances and policies have increased development costs and as a result will increase prices for office, industrial and retail space, as well as housing. What could be done to lower development costs in order to prevent families and businesses from relocating across county lines?**

Using common sense when it comes to ordinances benefits everyone. We have tried to be fair to developers in Belmont although sometimes they feel that may not be the case. However, they have a right to request variances and sometimes we make concessions.

6. **Would you support a cost/benefit analysis for existing and proposed land use regulations in order to ensure that the purported benefits outweigh their negative impact on economic development and housing affordability?**

I think supporting cost/benefit analysis is an important part of the overall picture when it comes to land development. We are aware that there are families on the lower socio-economic ladder that need housing opportunities as well.