

Question 4: How would you improve the relationship between Council and the citizens it represents? How would you achieve a more collaborative relationship with the University?

Eunice Lehmacher: I will respond to voters who contact me and welcome their opinions on the issues council will be voting on. I would welcome invitations to neighborhood associations and community meetings so I can hear from voters and answer questions.

My experience of living in Clemson has always been integration with the university. Our family enjoys the seasonal farm share from the student organic farm, attending events at the university, and interacting with students at work, at church, on campus, and in our neighborhood. Both my husband and I have worked at CU, and recently my 19 year old son had a summer job at CU. I know students and faculty will continue to contribute their ideas and energy to this community. I've watched students teach persons with dementia at Oconee Memorial Hospital and I've seen professors and community residents mentoring students. I hope more residents, whether or not they have a family member employed at Clemson, will learn about how to be involved with all the university has to offer. As a council member, I will be listening to students, professors, and residents to learn about ways they want to collaborate to make Clemson a better place.

Drake McNeary: The Clemson Police Department has provided a good example of increasing communication and awareness with members of the community through their social media presence. The City and the Council could implement a more robust social media platform. In addition, the council could schedule informal meetings quarterly in the community at local businesses, possibly a "Coffee with the Council," to visit with community members and share information.

Clemson University is a very important part of our community.

Having worked at the University in the Minor Projects Department, I know first hand the challenges they face with overwhelming workloads and tight deadlines. It is very hard to hear outside voices when the pace is this intense. The key to working with Clemson

University is to think long term and engage in the process at its earliest stages. Find the win / win opportunities. How can the cities involvement benefit Clemson University and vice versa. Going back to traffic issues, Clemson University's recent acquisition of Perimeter Road and Highway 93 adjacent to downtown offer a unique opportunity to collaborate with the City, particularly related to the downtown area, to create creative and long term solutions that benefit both entities and their constituents.

Crossie Cox: I believe the relationship to be very pleasant and productive. Often, Council only hears from residents who are agitated about traffic, construction, zoning, noise. Rarely do we hear about the goodness that abounds in our City -- 12 parks and recreations facilities, clean streets, trash/refuse/leaf pickup, ongoing improved facilities, total logistical support of the non-profits in town, immediate response to emergency calls

from downed trees, sewer problems, cleanup of city after football games, safety and security throughout our City. My vote that is opposite of that of residents does not mean that I don't represent them well -- we just disagree on a particular issue.

Our collaborative relationship with the University is strong and improving -- the JCUAB (Joint City University Advisory Board which has met monthly for the last 20+ years) is working even harder this year to promote a 'future vision' between both entities, one that will allow full knowledge of future student enrollment, projected construction projects, and understanding the need for collaboration from both sides to reach that vision. Our mayor and city administrator have recently met with President Clements and his staff and all agreed that collaborating together is a priority - I support these sessions on a regular basis.

John Ducworth: Relationships are built on personal communication. I have enjoyed the many conversations I have had with various citizens over the past four years. We may not agree on an issue, but that doesn't mean the opinion is not taken into consideration. As council members, we should always avail ourselves to citizens through the channels available. And we should seek out new forums for communication where there is a need.

Collaboration with the University is important as well. Our Joint City University Advisory Board and Clemson Area Transit are two examples of communication and collaboration. Ideas and plans shared during JCUAB meetings are a building block for City and University communication. The current CAT reimaging project will provide an opportunity for additional discussions. The citizens, Council and the University should continuously work to maintain open communication so that all ideas are heard

Jim Oswald: I was fortunate to be on the Board of the International Town & Gown Association for 6 years. CU and C of C were the founding organizations of the ITGA, now nearly 400 institutions strong. It's a huge resource for studying the dynamics of Town and Gown relations and the resulting challenges and triumphs around the country. Good News: Things are pretty doggone good here despite some of the concerns of growth, construction, and the encroachment of students into the town. But, the concerns are real, they are justifiably founded, and we need to take some predictive actions. Larry Abernathy and Walter Cox established the foundation for the Joint City-University Advisory Council. The cooperative discussions between our Mayor/Administration with their University Counterparts will continue to improve relations. We are consistently recognized as one of the very best T&G environment in the country/world. Our struggles are largely due to the fact that Big Brother (CU) is succeeding in its quest for sustaining Top 20 Status. We have to hold on for the ride WHILE Paying Close Attention, Communicating Ideas, Planning, and Executing in order to keep up. We have no choice. If we can't keep up, we get left behind because we are living in the shadows of one of the biggest rising stars in the academic world.

Mark Cato: Again, it goes back to making Council members more available than ever before and empower our citizens like never before. The university has their own agenda

when it comes to many things but I do think that they are just as concerned about traffic flow and safety of all individuals within the City of Clemson.

Christine Minor: Communicate, communicate, and communicate. That means City Council doesn't talk a whole lot, we listen. We have to listen to the variety of needs, all the gray areas of being a community and then we have to do no harm. Choices aren't always easy, nor do they ever really make EVERYONE happy. We have to make choices that protect our residents, support our businesses, and retain the character of our community. The citizens of the community need to be the directional voices of the community. We have to listen to them, then make choices that best allow the success of the community.

The same goes with the University. We have to listen to one another and work together. We have to encourage being part of each other's communities in many ways. Residents help in the education of the students. The students help in the building of the greater community. The University needs to be more accessible to the greater community. Residents need to be able to get there, park and participate. The greater community needs to provide a great living place, not just for students, but one where faculty and staff live and do business.