

JEFF BARNES

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Hello, Thanks for taking the time to read what suggestions I have for the city to consider as we move forward. I have lived in Smithfield for 43 years. I am passionate about this city and have enjoyed serving as a volunteer to the city as a longtime member of the city tree committee and the city historical society. I look forward to serving the residents of Smithfield as a member of the city council. My concerns are as follows:

- **Parks Department Head.** Currently, Smithfield does not have a department head for city parks. Employees who work in our parks work under the direction of the Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. They take their orders from these two departments instead of having their own agenda. Parks typically get ignored due to other priorities by the other departments. City property is not weeded regularly, trees are not trimmed or cut down when dead. Yes, the lawns get mowed, but that's about it. Decisions about parks need to be made by a Parks Department Head.
- **City Building Inspectors.** Currently, Smithfield does not have building inspectors. Our city is inspected by Cache County inspectors. Approximately \$300,000 dollars are collected by Cache County each year for inspections done in Smithfield. Smithfield could hire two building inspectors, supply them with a vehicle, office space and computers easily for \$300,000. Permits could be issued at the city office which would be advantageous to residents and those building in Smithfield. Our inspectors could handle the case load more readily than the county. The county inspectors are not here when they need to be.
- **Smithfield city needs to complete projects.** The city has started projects and not followed through to complete them. One example is the roads in the cemetery. Two years ago half the roads were resurfaced. There are no plans to complete the project. The roads not resurfaced are in terrible condition, even the cemetery sign fell and broke into pieces. Now, we don't even have a nice sign.

- **Water**. I have heard a rumor around the city that our culinary water system is not adequate for the city, not to mention the future developments. This is disinformation and not true. The city has two wells, one at Forrester Acres and one at our golf course. Both are in excellent condition and we are pumping less this year due to the spring flows in Smithfield Canyon which are higher than normal for this time of year. Our new well drilled two years ago will be connected to our system this Fall. It will produce 3,000 gallons per minute. Our city has been progressive in water development and we are good for many years to come. We do have plenty of water for future development.
- **Growth**. This seems to be the big issue with many candidates and residents in the city. Contrary to the belief of some, Smithfield city has been planning smartly. Growth is found throughout the city. A lot of us live in subdivisions, old and new. New developments are scrutinized by the city planning commission and the city council. Developers don't always get everything they want. The city is the party in control. My hope is we continue to provide our families a place to live in this beautiful city.
- **City Employee Benefits**. The 7% pay increase across the board for all city employees this year was an abnormally high increase for one year. I believe in pay increases but not 7%. Holding the tax rate at the current level will provide the funds needed for the pay increase but not provide funds for other city budget items.
- If you have questions concerning the city, please reach out to me.
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