

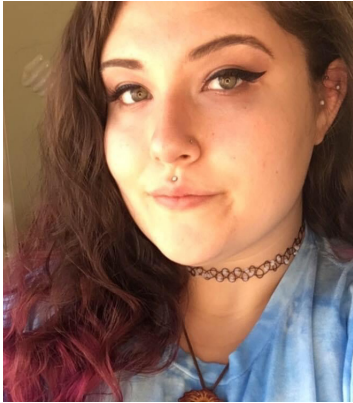


# Brunswick Mayor and Council Election

## Tuesday, August 4, 2020

### Candidate Information Page

In order to help voters make an informed decision the Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce is publishing these information pages about all the candidates. The Brunswick Board of elections will mail ballots to all registered voters in July. **Ballots must be received at City Hall no later than Tuesday, August 4, 2020!**



# Ginger Belmonte

## For Council

My name is Ginger Belmonte, I am 23 years old and a 18 year resident of Brunswick. I have a business associates degree, and work as a child care provider, makeup artist, and in communications and promotions for nightlife events.

## Why I Am Running

I am running for Brunswick City Council because I believe we won't see the changes we need unless we actually put in the work for them. It is time for young, fresh faces, to represent the growing population and diversity in Brunswick. Brunswick has so much untapped potential because our current and past council members have been afraid to make any changes. Because of this, we see damaged buildings and failing infrastructure. How much longer can we wait? Our citizens deserve better. We all deserve better.

These 6 questions were presented to all candidates who were asked to limit their answers to 100 words:

1) *We have been working on downtown revitalization for over thirty years. Some progress has been made. What steps would you suggest to continue or improve the process?*

*Answer:* I think a huge reason that downtown isn't living up to its potential, is a lack of communication and transparency within our local government, Main Street, and other organizations working towards the same goal. With so many ideas, if we don't collaboratively come together, those ideas will just stay as that.

All of these organizations need to show more love to the businesses we already have. Let's not make it harder for them to be successful, or act like they do not exist. If businesses continue to pull out because we do not support them, that will turn away any/all potential investors.



2) *What is your opinion of our local police department? Do you have any suggestions for improvement?*

*Answer:* Brunswick is very lucky to have the amazing

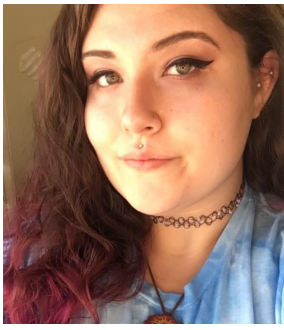
police department that it does. Every personal interaction that I've had with BPD has been positive, and I know I can count on them if I need to call them.

As Brunswick continues to grow and our population diversifies, we need to make sure we have a police department that everyone in Brunswick can count on and trust. Our officers need body cameras. Not only do they help keep our officers safe and held accountable, but also keep our citizens safe and held accountable.



3) *Water and sewer service and costs: do you have any suggestion about improvements?*

*Answer:* Let's not keep pushing this problem off for the next council to figure out. We need to reevaluate how our enterprise funds are being managed and spent. Over half of the yearly budget is being spent on water treatment, which doesn't leave much room for infrastructure improvements.



for Council  
**Ginger Belmonte**  
(continued)

We need to collaboratively work together to get Yourtee Springs back online, NOW, which will help decrease the amount of money we spend on water treatment, and leave more money for repairs to the water lines.



4) *Do you feel that Galyn Manor and Brunswick Crossing are fully neighborhoods of greater Brunswick? If not, how would you suggest accomplishing that?*

**Answer:** Absolutely. I know for me personally, the new developments were a complete culture shock at first. But these developments and the people who reside in them have brought so many wonderful and positive things to our community!

I have spoken with a member of the lifestyle committee in Brunswick Crossing, and I believe having this dialogue will help us fully become one community. Open communication, and getting to really know our neighbors, goes a long way.



5) *If a motion comes before the new Council to repeal or modify the current ordinance that forbids the keeping of chickens in Brunswick, will you support or oppose it?*

**Answer:** Brunswick is an agricultural town. Just because we don't have as many farms as we used to, doesn't mean it isn't still apparent. We have an amazing agricultural program at the high school, as well as FFA and local 4H chapters.

There is no reason our citizens can't have chickens. With ordinances in place that would benefit the

chickens, while also respecting neighbors, we can find a happy medium in which citizens can own chickens.



6) *What other question or topic do you think should have the Mayor and Council's attention in the next two years?*

**Answer:** Transparency without our local government. Information and access to it needs to be easier for all of our residents to navigate. The government is for the people, let's actually be there for them, and not just for ourselves and our own personal agendas.



**Remember!**  
**Your vote must be received**  
**NO LATER THAN TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 4, 2020!!**