



# Brunswick Council Election

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

## 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.

### Jerry Bonanno

For Council



Biography: My wife Hope and I moved to Brunswick in 2005. Since moving to Brunswick, I've been practicing nuclear energy law in both the government and private sectors, and Hope has been teaching in FCPS (she currently teaches at Brunswick elementary). I served on the City's Ethics Committee from 2007-2010 and, more recently, was involved in successfully advocating before the County Board of Education for approval to build a new high school here in Brunswick.

Statement: I'm running for City Council because I believe Brunswick has tremendous potential and that we're poised to step into a promising future. I would be humbled to serve the community as a member of the City Council and contribute to ensuring our continued success.

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 the first step is developing a common vision for downtown and avoiding a patchwork approach to revitalization. The downtown Small Area Plan finalized in 2019 provides that vision, as well as goals, objectives, and action items to move forward. Development of the Small Area Plan included a community participation process and I understand that the City's broader planning processes provide many opportunities for citizens to participate. So, I encourage people to get involved. I don't believe there are any magic bullets or solutions – we need to leverage the good work already done and implement our plan.

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

Answer: Our police department performs an invaluable service for our community (listen to the department reports at recent City Council meetings to get a feel for the good work our officers are doing). I'm very interested in ensuring that our department is properly staffed, and has the equipment and training necessary to be successful – particularly as we continue to grow. I also believe in the principles of community policing, and that we should continue to look for community outreach/education opportunities to strengthen the bond with our officers (the planned Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) class is a good example.

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

Answer: Yes, but I believe that maintaining "one Brunswick" is an ongoing effort, rather than something that's ever truly done. One of the strongest ties that bind us together is our children. When our children share classrooms, or compete together on the field, mat, track, or court, adults pull together to support them. So, I believe that supporting our youth sports programs and improvements to the sports complex is important. I also noted the passionate public comments at recent Council meetings on exploring a new community/recreation center, which could provide a space and programs to pull the community closer together.

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

Answer: Water. It sounds like Yourtee Springs, which has supplied roughly 20% of our drinking water, is about to come back online. But additional work is necessary to repair the supply lines, as well as to improve and update our water/wastewater treatment plants. The City has done a great job obtaining funding for repairs and innovating to control cost through leak detection/prevention, as well as efforts to address infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system. But we need to stay the course on these issues, and avoid allowing them to fade into the background until they become an emergency.