

## **Candidate for City Council: Luke Henry**

1. I have lived in Wellsville with my family for the last 10 years. The growth opportunities in our community can be exciting but they can also negatively effect the small town feel of Wellsville that brought me here in the first place if the growth is not managed properly. Instead of sitting back and letting whatever happens happen, I decided to join the city council a couple of years ago in order to be involved in the decision making process to keep Wellsville a great destination for those looking for that small town community, like my family.

2. My expertise is in the financial world. As a financial advisor I can bring skills to the table that can help with proper budgeting of city revenues vs. expenses. As revenues increase we can find the best uses of these funds to improve our community without putting our financial situation in jeopardy. My communication skills are also valuable in helping to bring understanding and explanation to situations of conflict or when important decisions need to be made.

3. The top issue is controlling the growth to maintain our small town feel at the same time. Second, I would like to control the development in our city to make sure that the residences and businesses coming in are a good fit for our community for the many years they will be a part of it. Third, I want to work to add more amenities to our town, such as walking trails or a community center, to draw in residents and give them a reason to want to stay for a long time.

4. We are set up well for growth geographically. We can grow commercially out by the highway to give our residents access to more businesses for consumption or employment without hurting our small town feel. Our beautiful downtown can still feel out of the way and continue to be a great space for unique shops and community events. With improvements and proper maintenance our downtown area will be a great asset to our community for many years.

5. We have a great staff in place currently. Our departments work together very well and all have the best interest of the city in mind. We have been adding staffing as needed to keep up with maintenance of the city and safety for our citizens. With growth coming we will need to likely add to our staff in the future though in order to keep 24 hour police protection, proper maintenance of our infrastructure, building inspection, zoning, planning, etc.. as we don't want to have current staff overworked.

6. With our current team working together so well, with the knowledge that they have, I do not see the need to add a City Manager at this time. As we continue to grow we need to monitor this situation as it may be necessary at some point but the expense of a City Manager salary would not be justified currently in my opinion. Until I feel like we are having trouble balancing all of the city's needs or don't have the proper expertise to continue our growth responsibly I would recommend using those funds elsewhere.