

# WARD 2

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## AMY SHERMAN

I am a native of Hopkins County, a graduate of Madisonville-North Hopkins High School, and a member of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where I sing in the choir. I have been employed by Hopkins County Schools since 2014, currently in the role of Transportation Data Assistant for the Board of Education. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Special Education. I was recently crowned Ms. Sweetheart Woman and will compete for Ms. Kentucky Woman in November. Above all my accomplishments, I am most proud to be the mother of four.

## JIMMY YOUNG

My name is Jimmy Young and I am a lifelong resident of Hopkins County and a 14 year resident of Madisonville. In July, I will be celebrating my 37th anniversary of marriage to my wife. We have two children and three grandchildren. I am co-owner/operator of Young's Septic Service, LLC. I have served on various volunteer fire departments and worked as an EMT for several years. I was also employed for 25 years with a local distribution center, where I held multiple positions. I enjoy spending time with family, classic cars, and auctions. My greatest joy is helping others.

## QUESTIONS

*What are the three key issues you believe are most pressing for the City of Madisonville?*

**Hightower:** I believe the economy and economic growth is and will always be important to our city and vitally important for our children and graduates. Thankfully I've been blessed to be on the board of the MHCED at a time when we are seeing a surge in economic growth. I live in Ward 2 where the Madisonville Community College is, and I feel we need to work hard to retain our graduates who will be entering the workforce. We need to work to have enough attractive, good paying jobs so we don't lose some of our best, most talented and educated workers. I see some positive things happening with the new businesses such as Aldin, StarBucks, Zaxbys, Marshall's and Hobby Lobby. I also think the Sports Complex and Regional Police Training Centers are big positives. As we work to grow our local economy we must have the infrastructure to support growth.

**Sherman:** Three key issues I believe are pressing are taxes, public transportation, and affordable housing.

**Young:** The first and foremost is our aging infrastructure. We have city streets that are in dire need of resurfacing, water and sewer lines that are well past due for upgrading. The second is retaining the greatest asset the city has and that is the men and women who keep this city running. The third issue is the occupational tax and the insurance tax and what is the money being used for in the city.

*What does the city need to do to address these issues?*

**Hightower:** I think my answer to the first question answers this question: We must work to retain our best and brightest by working to provide attractive good paying jobs. Also we have to make sure the

infrastructure is able to handle any new growth. Our city's population is around 20,000 citizens, but on a typical work day/week that swells to over 60,000, a number we have to think about trying to harness for restaurants and shopping. I think we're on point to add 600 multi-housing units, which is important for new business and a viable workforce.

**Sherman:** I believe to address these issues the city must first take a deep dive into the budget. We need to pay close attention to what we are spending on and work harder to find a way to lower taxes instead of raising them. Everyone doesn't have reliable transportation. It is needed, and I think the city should find a way in the budget to provide transportation. It all comes down to properly maintaining the budget, and thinking of ALL the citizens of Madisonville.

**Young:** Aging infrastructure: This is one area that has been neglected for so long by previous administrations that it is not going to be an overnight fix, but funds need to be allocated and the work done every year until everything is completed. These upgrades will help attract more business and industry to our area.

**Greatest asset:** This is not just an issue with The City of Madisonville; it's an issue all over the country. First put a team together that is made up of administrators and associates where issues are determined. Secondly, a plan is developed by this team that will address the issues. The plan is implemented.

**Taxes:** this one is tricky but if the citizens were seeing where the money is being allocated and work being completed then people might not be so upset about these taxes.

*What do you believe the city is doing well, and what can it do better?*

**Hightower:** As a board member on the Joint Planning Commission and MHCED, I have a unique perspective: To see how hard our citizens are working to bring businesses to Madisonville and Hopkins County. I believe we are doing some right things to be able to handle new businesses and growth. I am honored to be connected to these entities during this surge of economic growth. As a lifelong citizen I always feel that there should be areas where cost can possibly be cut.

**Sherman:** One thing that the city does well is they offer the 4th Fest every year. I think it would be better if they asked for input or feedback from the people they are hoping will come out and enjoy it, and they are the citizens of Madisonville. Make them feel included, even if it's something as simple as a survey.

**Young:** The city is doing a great job in attracting new retail and dining establishments to locate in Madisonville. This along with the parks and the many activities the city hosts are some of the features industries look for when choosing to locate in a new area. The city puts on events all over Madisonville except for the downtown area; I would like to see some events started again in downtown to showcase what this area has to offer.

*What will you bring to the office of city council member that you believe is necessary to conduct the city's business?*

**Hightower:** What I will bring to the council is

passion to serve this community and to see us win. When I decided to run for city council I didn't have to start showing up or have to become more visible. I've served this community for over 40 years serving on boards such as Habitat for Humanity, Door of Hope, and Teen Challenge. I'm currently serving on the YMCA board, Joint Planning Commission and MHCED. I've been involved with the Great Banquet and Chrysalis Communities. I've been on mission trips over 20 times. It's an honor to serve this community I love.

**Sherman:** I will bring a fresh perspective on things. I will bring my problem-solving skills, and my knowledge to see the bigger picture. I will bring my voice, which will be the voice of the people who elected me to every meeting making sure their interests are always a top priority.

**Young:** The knowledge I have gained over the years, from EMT, Supervisor, IT Technician and a business owner, have given me the ability to listen and solve problems. Even with the diversity of each job's responsibilities, I learned how to problem solve, analyze the data, and execute a plan of action. My positive demeanor, along with being trustworthy, are a couple of traits in which I feel will help bring synergy when conducting business for Madisonville.

*What is one thing you*

*would like to say to the voters of your ward?*

**Hightower:** I think my experience, my character and my passion to serve Madisonville makes me the best choice for your vote for city council. My experience working with people and my commitment to our city are probably second to none. My running for city council is merely an extension of my service to my home town that I love and I humbly ask for your vote on May 21. Thank you.

**Sherman:** One thing I would like to say to the voters of my ward is, I have your back. I am here for you, to be your eyes, ears, and your voice on the council. Your concerns are my concerns. Your issues are my issues. Your triumphs are my triumphs. I will walk with you even in the trenches. I will serve you to the best of my ability. You will never have to wonder where I am, I'll always be there because I have your back.

**Young:** I will strive to be the best council member I can be while providing transparent governance that I believe all citizens of Madisonville deserve. If this is the type of person you want, vote Jimmy Young on May 21.

The candidate profiles for Ward 1 was in Tuesday's edition of *The Messenger*. Look for our story on the Ward 4 race Saturday.

# RATES

FROM PAGE A1

may be lower than 10% for individuals based on their usage.

The minimum bill for water will now cover the first 2,000 gallons of water usage, with the price of that bill varying based on the diameter of the pipes at the water meters. Each 1,000 gallons of water used after that will be an additional \$12. Base prices for water are not finalized.

The minimum sewer rate will be a flat \$32, covering the first 2,000 gallons. Each additional thousand gallons of usage will be a charge of \$13.50. "Our fixed income and our low income people are protected more, so they see less of an increase because it's a flat rate for 2,000 gallons." Jackson said about the city's plans to adjust the base gallons of water from the previous plan.

All members of the council present at the time unanimously agreed to this price raising. Council members Robert Cottoner and Jessica Pharris were absent.

The second reading for these increased water and sewer rates will be during the June 11 meeting.

Other business

included the acceptance of bids for several lots of land in the city's possession. The sealed bids for each property were read and the highest bidders in each case were accepted.

Reverend Terrence Minor's bid for 302 West Main St was accepted. Mr. Russel of D&D Investments won the bids for 702 and 704 Lee Trover Todd Hwy. All three winning bids were for \$1,000. Both men intend to develop the properties.

"I trust their integrity as men and businessmen as well," said Jackson about the winning bidders.

The council also unanimously agreed to apply for several grants.

The floor was opened for council members and members of the public to discuss various issues. It seemed that the care and maintenance of the city cemetery was in focus as Memorial Day approaches. Some issues, such as fallen headstones, and a family rose bush being damaged in maintenance, will be handled by city workers. Subjects such as road signs in and near cemeteries will require a further exploration of regulations.

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