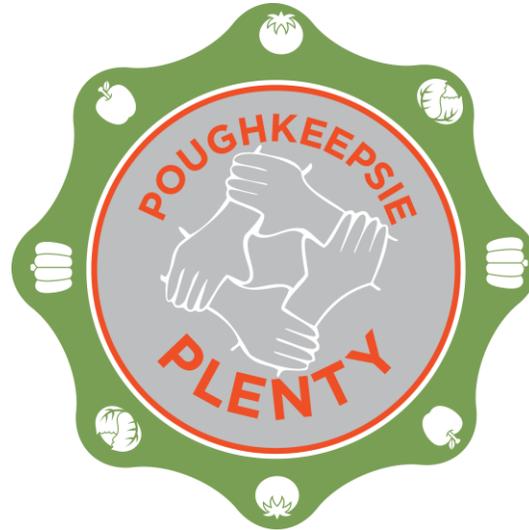


# Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition

2015 Election – Candidates Questionnaire



## SUMMARY

The following report presents the unedited responses each Mayoral and Common Council candidate submitted to the Poughkeepsie Plenty Candidates' Questionnaire. Candidate contact information was collected from the Dutchess County Board of Elections. Each candidate received the survey by email on August 5th, with a deadline to respond by August 24th. Attempts were made to reach out to candidates who had not responded by August 20th and alternate methods to provide responses (on paper or by phone) were offered. This document contains the responses of the Mayoral candidates.

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# Mayoral Candidates

## Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Jere Tierney	Rep.	Yes	Fresh fruits and vegetables on a cart. I am sure that you have researched and are aware of grants that the City can write to help support this program. Another reason why the City of Poughkeepsie needs a professional grant writer.	As mayor I would support community gardens there is room for this in almost every ward. Growing plants and vegetables, helping anyone find their green thumb.
Ken Levinson	Dem.	Yes	Bringing farm to table vegetables and fruit to our community in the City of Poughkeepsie allows residents who do not have cars to have access to nutritious and delicious local food.	The city should promote the mobile food vehicle on it website. Offering planned field trip to the farms participating would help educate and promote farm food to the community. Personally purchasing food from the mobile food vehicle, sets a good example for the community.
Lance Hardy	Dem.	Yes	This is an excellent idea. Affordability is key for many residents in the city of Poughkeepsie. Accepting SNAP benefits will afford residents to feed their families healthy foods at an affordable price and having access to a mobile unit will benefit those without transportation. This is a project the residents been waiting on; therefore; I will support the program to the best of my ability.	Other than financial assistance, I would promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market by spreading the word to all businesses, schools, churches, and residents. I would do my best to delegate a committee that will assist in publicizing the information in English and Spanish, and to serve all communities.
Randall Johnson	Dem.	Yes	Without the reform of the current budgeting system, the city is currently operating at a deficit. There is no money to give to worthy group like you.	My first priority as mayor will be to change the budget process so we can free up monies to give to worthy causes like yours. One role of the mayor is to ensure



Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
				<p>that people who need particular information receives that information. One possibility would be to enlist volunteers to go door to door among city residents and make sure they receive information about the Plenty Fresh Market program. In addition, I would ask members of the sanitation department to distribute flyers as they make their rounds, and ask police officers to carry flyers as they patrol to be handed out when appropriate. But it must be recognized that because the sanitation workers and the police are unionized, the matter would need to be discussed with their union representatives.</p>
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Dem.	Yes	<p>I support the City of Poughkeepsie providing assistance for the Fresh Market.</p> <p>The City of Poughkeepsie is in a tough financial situation and will be for sometime. Financial assistance might have to fluctuate annual depending on our budgetary expenses and revenues</p>	<p>I pledge to offer my administration's assistance to collaborate on grants and other funding sources for the Fresh Market.</p> <p>My administration will also assist in promoting all events and activities, in regards to the Fresh Market, on the City of Poughkeepsie's Website</p>
Robert Rolison	Rep.	Yes	<p>Food insecurity is at least partly a problem of resource allocation: in other words, we have the food, but there are gaps in its distribution. Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market has a proven track record of addressing these gaps and increasing the access of at-risk communities to nutritionally satisfying food. Furthermore, they do so at the local level, reducing long-term administrative</p>	<p>The mayor has a megaphone. As mayor I would use my office to promote the efforts of nonprofits and community groups performing valuable services that benefit residents of the City of Poughkeepsie. I would place the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market's schedule on the city website and advertise their efforts across social media platforms, including my own. For example, my Facebook page has 5,000</p>



Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
			costs on taxpayers.	followers and would provide a large platform to emphasize the good works performed by Poughkeepsie Plenty and others.

**Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie**

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Jere Tierney	No	This is the responsibility of the federal and state governments to architect a new living wage or minimum wage. I do believe that an across the board 15 dollar living wage will impact groups that do not need a living wage. So the high school student that cuts the ends off flowers 4 hours a week who lives with their parents should be paid the same as a person who is the head of a household? I believe that the minimum wage is a starting point much like the mail room. You have to promote yourself and be motivate.	Know all the facts before you make you decision on a living wage or a new minimum wage. What has the impact been on small businesses that are now paying a living wage. Are there less employees? As a waitress who used to make on average 27 dollars an hour with tips and now makes a living wage of 15 dollars in a better position? Because restaurants had to raise prices and have told their customers that tipping is not required! How will this impact my employer? "I guess people will have to get used to spending more for everything". So said Bill Clinton a millionaire.	I would not, once the Federal and State governments pass a living wage I'm sure the Common Council will ceremonially support the new living wage.



Ken Levinson	Yes	Sub standard wages make it difficult or impossible for adults to live, eat and raise a family. Living wages would encourage residents to work and help reduce their reliance on government subsidies. It would also give local residents a better sense of pride and self worth. All this in translated into raising a more stable family.	It should be fairly easy to do in our city. Forums, meetings and discussion of examples on wages paid today would shock most people into understanding living wages need to be met.	I believe in meeting individually with common council members listening to their views and finding common ground. After understanding their concerns (if for some reason they opposed living wages) then make the case for living wages. After each person has been individually approached then group meetings to help convince the undecided to join the majority to support living ages could proceed.
Lance Hardy	Yes	One of my key strategies is to combat poverty; therefore, I also believe low wages are a major contributor to this problem and by supporting a living wage ordinance will be a great start in families being able to support their families on a greater level.	By educating and enforcing businesses to see the vision of the living wage issue. In doing so, paying their staff, accordingly will be a great impact on the residents of Poughkeepsie. So many parents are working more than one job to equal one decent pay, which takes them away from their families, cause exhaustion and other health issues. We want our residents to live a healthy and poverty free life.	Part of the job of the Council is to look at the city's goals, major projects and improvements and infrastructures if any. In addition to finances and strategic planning; I will present and keep the living wage ordinance at the forefront in making decisions to better Poughkeepsie in the war against hunger. Together we can do this.
Randall Johnson	No	I do support a living wage ordinance, and I would advocate for it, but at the county level. To do this at the city level under our current circumstances would drive out of the city what few businesses we have. There needs to be a balance between we wish we could do and what we can actually do. As mayor I will advocate for a county	See my earlier response.	I would ask the Common Council to support a resolution asking the County to enact a countywide living wage ordinance and asking the State to enact a statewide living wage ordinance. The city of Poughkeepsie simply does not have the economic base or strength to act on its own.



		wide and a statewide living wage ordinance. Unfortunately, Poughkeepsie's economic circumstances and demographics do not mimic those of the large metropolitan areas like New York, San Francisco, and Seattle, which have such a large population and economic base that they can pass such ordinances fear of mass exits of businesses; Poughkeepsie is not in such a position.		
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Yes	I believe all City residents should be provided an opportunity to secure employment with affordable wages and benefits.	<p>I would have members from my administration, with assistance from others, to reach out separately to community organizations, business community, places of worship, etc, and engage in conversation on living wages, impact on the community, pros/cons, &amp; foster ideas on how to achieve the goal.</p> <p>I would appoint a Task Force to review information collected and develop legislation.</p>	<p>I would first discuss with Council Leadership on my intentions and hopefully garner their support.</p> <p>I would collaborate with all Council members on having meetings in their wards. I would also utilize their contacts with community organizations, places of worships, businesses, etc, to ensure all that should be part of the process are given every chance to participate.</p> <p>I would have a member of the Council on my task force as well.</p>
Robert Rolison	No	First, I am not conceptually opposed to paying workers more: This is a state and federal issue, and state and federal lawmakers should continue to aggressively address it. Second, dramatic hikes in the cost of labor reduce the	I would continue my discussions with state and federal officials as well as the community at large, emphasizing my track record of economic development and quality job growth.	While I do not actively support a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie, I would be open to discussion along these lines with members of the council.



		supply of those with the least skills. These include teenagers, immigrants, minority communities, and those without a college diploma. Protections for these groups should accompany any discussion of mandatory wage increases for all workers. Third, a municipality-by-municipality increase could set off price competition among cities such as Poughkeepsie and Beacon that would lead to greater out-migration and damage to local businesses unable to pay for increased labor costs.		
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**Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie**

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Jere Tierney	You only have to ride Main Street and see the proliferation of bodega's/mini marts. Their shelves are stocked with processed foods. Beer, soda, chips and candy, not much of a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. There may be other items being sold that seriously undermines revitalization.	Very High	Very high in the sense that I will zone out the proliferation of bodega's/minimarts. 4 or 5 on one block is poor development and poor planning.
Ken Levinson	Without sufficient food, children under perform in schools, and workers cannot achieve their best in jobs. When I am hungry, I have trouble focusing and working until my appetite is satiated. Imagine how difficult it would be for someone with food insecurity to function.	High	Finances, balancing the budget and creating additional tax revenue are paramount to having money to support projects such as the Poughkeepsie Plenty and food insecurity programs.



Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Lance Hardy	As mayor, it is my desire to revitalize the City of Poughkeepsie to the beautiful city it can be; however, it is more important to me to have a beautiful city that is not suffering from food insecurities. The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food is a primary concern.	High	Food security is of great concern to me as Mayor, more so as a leader in the community, parent, husband, minister and concerned resident. I would like to see the city revitalize from crime, drugs, abandonment and a few other issues; but, food security and better income is a step in reducing those issues as well.
Randall Johnson	Solving food insecurity and economic revitalization of the City do not necessarily go hand-in-hand. Food insecurity per se does not impact revitalization plans. Other cities that have undergone revitalization or that are experiencing an economic boom still have a food-insecure population. That does not mean that food-insecure residents are unaffected by a revitalization. Economic revitalization will help some food-insecure families by providing opportunities for those who are not currently well-employed. Unfortunately, many of the people who are food insecure would still be food insecure because their food insecurity is not related to a lack of economic opportunities, but is related to other causes such as mental and physical health and age-related issues, which economic revitalization will not resolve. However, what economic revitalization would do is provide the City with revenue that could be directed toward helping those food-insecure people who are not able to take advantage of an economic revitalization. It is also worth noting that part of economic revitalization, at least in my vision, includes improved public transportation and removal of or surmounting of access barriers such as the arterial that	Medium	On a personal level it is a very high priority because I care about people. But your question asks how I would prioritize food insecurity as mayor. I have to be honest; as mayor I cannot make food insecurity a high priority. I need to first address other root problems that exist, namely a budget deficit, insufficient revenue, and economic revitalization. Solving these problems will have a ripple effect. It will provide revenue that can be directed toward solving many of the issues that affect our food-insecure population. But it does no good to say that addressing food insecurity is a very high priority knowing that other than speaking about it, there is little to nothing that the city can currently afford to do to address that problem. The city cannot even afford to hire the firefighters and police it needs to protect our residents, including the food insecure.



Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
	divides the city and makes it difficult for many people to walk. We need to find innovative ways to make the city an obstacle-free city that would permit greater access to all residents.		
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Hunger or the lack of having the ability to purchase affordable nutritional food impacts the growth and health of our children and seniors, which in turns undermines the revitalization of our city.	High	Two times per year, for 16 years, I have provided donated nutritional foods to seniors in the 6th Ward, families living in multi-family dwellings in the 5th Ward, and a non-profit in the 3rd Ward.  As your Mayor, my commitment will continue.
Robert Rolison	A lack of access to nutritionally satisfying food affects everyone, regardless of age, class or gender. Where it impacts us most acutely is in the areas of education, human capital, family formation, and economic development and productivity. Food insecurity is a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon with implications citywide.	Very High	I would make food security a priority in my first term as mayor, and convene a working group, including members of Poughkeepsie Plenty, with my administration to tackle the problem.

Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Jere Tierney	Yes	compost, composting, consumption, culture, distribution, environmentally sustainable, equitable, fair, food celebration, food composting, food consumption, food distribution, food policy council, food processing, food production, food promotion, health promoting, healthy,	Education thru outreach centers. Support local, grow local and buy local.



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
		healthy food, inclusive, local, local food, locally grown food, processing, production, promotion, resilient, sustainability, sustainable food, transparent. That says it all.	
Ken Levinson	Yes	It is important that all our residents have ready access to healthy foods regardless of owning a vehicle, where they live or economic background.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Availability of fresh food.</li> <li>2. Locations where food may be purchased.</li> <li>3. Availability of food pantries where free food can be provided to those who cannot afford to purchase food.</li> <li>4. Education regarding balanced diet and benefits of healthy eating. these should be part of school curriculum and forums for adult residents.</li> </ol>
Lance Hardy	Yes	Every problem has a solution. I plan to combat hunger to the best of my ability, therefore the City of Poughkeepsie residents and their children can live and learn in a healthier manner.	Fair income, awareness and stability.
Randall Johnson	Yes	If groups like yours believe such a resolution would be helpful, then, depending on the wording, I would support it... However, I would not support any resolution that committed the city to taking any affirmative action that would require the expenditure of city revenue at this time. Once our revenue situation has been resolved and if we have money available, I would reconsider.	I would leave the setting of goals to be included in a resolution to groups like yours whose sole focus is food security.
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Yes	I would support a food security resolution as long as language is in place that the City of Poughkeepsie isn't the sole provider of resources. Language needs to be in	In addition to what I shared above: What is the year to achieve a hunger free-city? In San Francisco it's 2020.



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
		<p>place that fosters partnerships &amp; collaboration with the business community, non-profits, County Government as well as the school district.</p> <p>Language needs to be in place on budgetary support, the use of federal and state nutritional programs, and who will provide the proper oversight and submission of the necessary documents to the various entities who require them.</p>	<p>What mechanisms will be in place to determine progress or failure? Who will review the data? How will it be shared to the community and stakeholders?</p>
Robert Rolison	Yes	It would bring much-needed attention to the issue in the City of Poughkeepsie and marshal additional resources to fix the problem. More public dialogue leads to better public-policy outcomes.	I would emphasize a two-track approach to the problem, allocating resources at the local level and lobbying the federal government to take action where it can. First, additional partnerships to promote and support Poughkeepsie Plenty's efforts to reduce food insecurity are necessary to include more at-risk communities that may be falling through the cracks. (Take, for instance, the statistic that more than one in four Poughkeepsie households experiences food insecurity.) Second, food-stamp rules need to be modified at the federal level to address gaps in allocation -- policy should reflect the realities of how many people actually live. This would include working with members of Congress and others to change SNAP benefits to semi-monthly instead of simply a one-time transfer. Third, full employment increases the available supply of better food choices, and I would emphasize economic growth as an overall



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
			strategy to reduce a phenomenon that is at least partly induced through poverty.

**Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options**

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Jere Tierney	Yes	Too many Bodega's that only sell process food.	I would support a Healthy Corner Store Initiative.	Create a network of healthier cleaner corner stores. Education and promote healthier choices. Create an advisory board to facilitate the program.
Ken Levinson	Yes	Not enough stores within walking distances to residents without transportation.	Licensing fees fro grocery stores could be reduced if they offered healthier food options. More generous promotion of stores with increase signage could also be offered (currently signage is limited to a % on store windows).	Post options on the City website. Have maps at bus shelters prompting the healthy food markets. Increase food vouchers if used for healthy food purchases.
Lance Hardy	Yes	When residents cannot afford to buy healthy foods according to their budget, they are more likely to buy unhealthy foods for lower prices to feed their families.	If the neighborhood stores would sell affordable healthy foods and accept SNAP as payment, more likely the residents will shop there. If the neighborhood stores continue to charge high prices, residents will more likely buy cheaper less healthy foods. Sometimes, coupons and value points are a great incentive to buy healthy.	Make those stores known throughout the community that they have a great program for residents who want to buy healthier foods.



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Randall Johnson	Yes	<p>My answer is “probably but I have not investigated the issue and have no facts from which to draw a conclusion of yes or no.”</p> <p>The city has many overwhelming issues, such as insufficient numbers of police and firefighters, that affect all residents, including the food insecure. As mayor, I need to prioritize based on what I think can actually be accomplished, which means I have to proceed on a fact basis. This is an issue that I need to investigate, rather than simply check a yes or no box.</p>	<p>It is not for the mayor to propose for private business to stock particular items, rather it is for groups like yours to bring social pressure on those businesses to bring about the change you desire. A fundamental “law” of our economic system is that businesses will carry those goods that its shoppers demand be carried. I think groups like yours should create the incentives, not the mayor. You keep comparing Poughkeepsie to cities like San Francisco that have a hundred times (or more) the population and an infinitely greater economic base than Poughkeepsie. Although it would be great if we could emulate those metropolitan areas, we cannot. The repercussions of what we enact legislatively, such as decreeing that a business must carry certain food items, can boomerang and cause even more businesses to flee the short distance to the surrounding town. What I would do is use the “bully pulpit” to encourage small businesses to address the problem, but I would not create specific “incentives.”</p>	<p>It is not the position of the mayor to promote one business over the other. As mayor I will promote all businesses. It is groups like yours that should do the promoting. This is particularly true considering the city’s current economic plight and lack of revenue.</p>



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Yes	Multitude of convenient stores and lack of a more frequent transit system with longer hours of operation have limited our community.	<p>Draft and pass legislation, that would require new ownership of convenient stores within 500-1000 ft of a school or housing complex to reduce their sale of tobacco/alcohol products and require healthier products to be sold.</p> <p>Work with the Chamber of Commerce to establish a consortium for convenient store owners who want to provide more healthy options for our community. They would be in direct contact to network with non-profits, farmers, and other stakeholders to achieve their goal. This consortium would also meet with members from my administration to address the needs and concerns on a quarterly basis.</p>	Establish a link on our City website to promote their efforts. Coordinate advertising on our transit service.
Robert Rolison	Yes	Lack of access to reliable transit for those without automobiles creates a disparity in food choices for many outside walking distance of a retailer. I have supported a Main Street planning initiative, for example, that ties together the segmented character of our city into a more coherent neighborhood grid through	A public relations campaign which encourages local stores to offer a greater array of fresh inventory in order to increase business and community involvement.	Highlight success stories via the city website and promote aggressively on social media.



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
		better public transportation.		

**Issue 5: Improving public transit**

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Jere Tierney	Medium	This is going to take many people experienced in public transportation to create a system that connects Poughkeepsie's neighborhoods and all points north, south, east, and west.	I would seek a out a partnership with anyone who would provide a rapid transportation system throughout Poughkeepsie. A complaint that I here is the maps and the routes are confusing. Are route maps and times posted at every bust stop? No. The Bus system has to run as a bus transportation delivery option and not taxi.	Yes	I've seen a County Loop and a City Bus turn down the same street going in the same direction. A citizen advisory group made up of riders should have a major stake in this process. The goal should be improving the service. If we save some tax payer dollars that's good too.
Ken Levinson	High	Transpiration is critical to the health of a thriving City. All the great cities of the Western	Re route bus routes to minimize overlap and make routes more productive. Institute a regular	Yes	I think a well though out and coordinated bus system would better serve the city residents.



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
		world have great public transportation systems (NYC, Chicago, San Fransisco, Rome, London, Paris, etc).	main Street bus route to insure good movement from East to West our citizens along a crucial shopping corridor.		Having said this, new routes need to be implemented (such a s the Main Street line), hours need to be expanded, and more regularity need to be implemented. If combining the routes means decrease service to city residents, then this would not be a good idea. It depends on the implementation.
Lance Hardy	High	To improve every aspect of food insecurity is a high concern to the people of Poughkeepsie, therefore, it is a primary concern to me as Mayor.	First I would need to have a much needed meeting with the DOT to discuss issues that affect their work progress, especially those that affect the public directly.. A corporate plan for 15 years should be for the improvement in the areas EX; improving roads, vehicle, handicap accessible vehicles, fuel, updated technology, routine routes, etc.	Yes	Yes I think a combination will support more lines to reach more parts of the city available for everyone.
Randall Johnson	Very High	Good public transportation is fundamental to good economic revitalization, and is a	To answer this question, one needs to know precisely what the needs are and the city's finances	No	The citizens of Poughkeepsie have indicated that they do not want the County and City bus



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
		necessary part of any economic revitalization plan.	have to be straightened out. It is not enough to say we need more transportation or more frequent transportation or different routes. There has to be a balance between need and affordability. We simply do not have the revenue sources to do everything that needs doing. What I would do is create a taskforce to investigate the problem and make recommendations with the provisos that the recommendations must fit within a revitalization plan and must be fundable.		services merged, so for the moment, it is not a good idea to pursue the matter until we have investigated whether it is the best option for our residents. This would be part of the investigation to be done by my transportation taskforce.
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	Very High	As Chairman of the Common Council in 2014, I authorized a Bus Service Committee, Members of the committee consisted of Council members Ann Perry-5th Ward, ShaRon McClinton-6th Ward, Tracy Hermann-8th Ward, and myself, representing the 3rd	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Work with CSEA to have transit operate longer hours</li> <li>2) Improve scheduling, routes, and transfers between County and City transit systems</li> <li>3) More bus shelters,</li> <li>4) Proper signage designating bus routes and stops along bus routes.</li> </ol>	No	<p>I believe the City of Poughkeepsie should have it's own transit service, but we need to improve our relationship with the County.</p> <p>We should make every effort not to be redundant in our routes. Efficiency and safety</p>



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
		<p>Ward.</p> <p>As a committee we met once per month for a year. For four consecutive meetings we received input from selected frequent riders who rode both County and City Bus Service to hear their likes, dislike, and suggestions for improves on both services.</p> <p>The Bus Service Committee had a forum, in August '14, facilitated by Middle Main St. and Farmer's Market Project. We had roughly 25 people in attendance (riders and drivers) of the City Transit Service. Discussion focused on their likes, what needs improvement, and how to implement the improvements.</p> <p>Committee members, either individual or together, rode on</p>			<p>should be our objectives, this includes transferring from one service to another.</p>



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
		<p>all City buses during various times of the day and week. We gathered information on concerns, drafted ideas on making bus routes more efficient, and how to increase ridership.</p> <p>The Bus Service Committee twice met with Cynthia Ruiz, Transit Administrator for Dutchess County, to discuss ideas on how to improve ridership, reduce redundancy, and developing a more efficient way of transferring to either service.</p> <p>The Bus Service Committee was also active participants in the Main Street Economic Development Strategy. We provide input as well ideas on making the Main Street Bus more proficient.</p>			



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Robert Rolison	Very High	Neighborhoods separated by auto-centric thoroughfares favor those who own cars, resulting in diminished access to businesses and others for those without access to an automobile. Reliable, affordable public transit can fill some of this access gap.	Work with the county on an overall planning strategy that transforms Main Street into a complete street connecting the town and city of Poughkeepsie.	Yes	I would support integrating the two transit systems provided more frequent access to buses was available to residents in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Jere Tierney	-
Ken Levinson	It is a shame that in 2015 in America this is a real problem and something we must address.
Lance Hardy	Lastly, there is never an acceptable reason for anyone to live with food insecurity. To know better is to do better and a city we must pull together and look out for each other as a family.
Randall Johnson	I hope the information I have submitted is helpful.
Robert L. Mallory Jr.	-



Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Robert Rolison	Food insecurity is not just about poverty, though poverty is a contributing factor. It is not just about access and resource allocation, though it can be heavily impacted by these. And it is not simply a local matter, including as it must changes at the federal level to social-services and agricultural policy. I would therefore like to see an all-of-the-above approach that emphasizes the good policies and initiatives already in place, such as Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market, and rethinks public policy at a state and federal level to more accurately reflect how residents in the City of Poughkeepsie actually live.

