

**St. Albans City Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, August 25, 2014  
City Hall, Council Chambers**

A special meeting of the St. Albans City Council was held on Monday, August 25, 2014, in council chambers at City Hall at 6:30 pm.

**Council Present:** Mayor Elizabeth Gamache; Aldermen: Scott Corrigan, Ryan Doyle, Chad Spooner, Tammi DiFranco & Jim Pelkey.

**Council Absent:** Alderman Tim Hawkins.

Alderman Spooner arrived at 7:01 pm.

**Staff Present:** Dominic Cloud, City Manager.

**Visitors:** See attached sign-in sheet.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.  
Mayor Gamache called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance at 6:30 pm.
2. Public Comment.  
No public comment was made.
3. Parks Commission Interviews.  
Mayor Gamache explained that each applicant would be asked the same interview questions which were provided prior to the meeting. Mayor Gamache added that two applicants, David Chambers and Alex Lehning have withdrawn their interest for the Parks Commission. Jackie Deslauriers added that she would also like to withdraw herself from the Parks Commission interviews.  
The following questions were asked of each applicant:
  1. Please introduce yourself and explain why this opportunity interests you.
  2. How do you use/interact with our City Parks?
  3. What is your vision for our City Parks?
  4. What are two priorities you have for the parks?
  5. How would people who have served on a committee with you describe what it's like to work with you?
  6. If you're not selected for this commission, would you be interested in another spot that might be available on a different board or commission?
  - a. Cindy Livingston
    1. Has been a resident of St. Albans for 7 years and was approached by someone who asked if she would be interested in serving on the Parks Commission. She fully believes in giving back to the community.
    2. She walks every day and spends a great deal of time walking through Taylor Park. She has been involved on a small scale and helped plant the garden on the west side of the park.
    3. She would like to see something that all ages can benefit from and would like visits to the park to be exciting for everyone.

4. Safety - important to have an environment where everyone feels safe. She believes maintaining the “wow factor” is also important and would like to see more events held in the park.
5. She does what she says she’s going to do and sees it through to completion. She likes to delegate and work with others toward reaching a common goal. She is a teacher by profession and excels at recruiting and training.
6. Would depend on what it is and would have to be something that interests her.

b. Angie Sturm

1. St. Albans appealed to her family when relocating several years ago. She enjoys the walkability of the City, sees great potential for progress and wants to serve her community.
2. She uses the parks with her 3 year old daily and has enjoyed the neighborhood gatherings at the Barlow Park for Ward 5. She also enjoys the Farmer’s Market at Taylor Park.
3. She would like to see a beautiful, safe, fun and shady environment that inspires people of all ages to play and be healthy together.
4. Progress - improving and repairing existing structures, adding new structures and thinking about what could make the parks better for current residents as well as what can make them attractive to commuters and future residents. She likes the idea of a community garden and a water feature in the City parks.
5. Oriented to the big picture. She is low-tech, creative, conservative with natural resources and socially liberal.
6. Yes.

c. Brianna Haenke

1. She is a nurse in St. Albans and relocated to the City 6 months ago. She has a young daughter and spends a lot of time in the City parks. She wants to be a part of making the City more vibrant and healthy. She is knowledgeable in the process of applying for grants and feels strongly about the health benefits of young children having outdoor, unstructured play.
2. She spends a lot of time at Barlow and Houghton Park with her daughter and enjoys the Farmer’s Market in Taylor Park.
3. She would like to see more community gatherings with a place to improve the connectivity amongst residents, access to health foods, community gardens, accessibility to pedestrians and cyclists.
4. She would like to hold a park audit which would allow the community to provide input as to what they would like to see in the City’s parks. She would like more community engaging events such as guided walks, yoga, etc. She would like to spread awareness by including more information about the City’s parks on the City website.
5. She is a good listener, follows through on commitments, likes working with others, has a positive attitude and enjoys research.
6. Yes.

d. Wendy Stous

1. She lives on Maple Street and has been a resident since age 18. She recently graduated college and her children are grown and would like to be a part of the growth in the City’s parks.
2. She is family oriented and wants to see the parks be the best that they can be.
3. She would like to see an ever changing environment, new improvements and the use of technology.
4. She would like to see the fountain fully restored in Taylor Park. At Houghton Park, she would like to see the use of water fountains for drinking. She would also like to have an Autumn Event in one of the parks, a child statue at Houghton Park and modern updates to Barlow.
5. She is very forward, likes to problem solve and is resourceful.

6. Yes, if it was of interest to her.

e. Jeff Young

1. He is the former Chairman of the Taylor Park Commission and believes all of the City's parks have some similarities and differences. He believes Houghton has an enormous amount of potential.
2. He volunteered 700 hours last year in Taylor Park, has done a great deal of work with Allen Robtoy planting trees in Houghton Park and helped do improvements at Barlow when the Tennis and Basketball courts were updated. He has worked with Public Works on mowing, playgrounds, boundary issues, fencing, and restoration of the Taylor Park fountain as well as tree efforts throughout the parks.
3. He believes the parks are a thermometer for the health of the City's neighborhoods. He would like to see them to continue to thrive and be safe and would like to see them continue to evolve and find innovative ways to make the parks work better.
4. He is looking forward to seeing the fountain restoration completed and maintain what's already there. He believes Houghton has great potential and would like to draw more to that park.
5. He enjoys getting things done and working in a collaborative environment, believes in progress, structure and enjoys a creative atmosphere.
6. Yes.

f. Joan McGinn

1. She has lived in St. Albans all her life and was approached by Marty Manahan to interview. She spent a lot of time at the City parks with her children as they grew up.
2. She attends the Farmer's Market and other events in Taylor Park and attends sporting events in Houghton and Barlow Parks.
3. She doesn't have an overall vision but stated that the three parks have never looked better than they do now. She would like to see the parks continue to be well maintained and continue to be a safe environment.
4. She would like to see upgraded trash containers and lighting and restoration of the fountain to follow the Streetscape scheme. She agrees that playground at Barlow could use some energy and feels there is a great deal of unused land at Houghton.
5. She is honest, straight forward, has common sense, likes movement toward a goal and doesn't like the idea of having meetings just for the sake of having a meeting. She has opinions and is a good listener.
6. Yes if it was of interest to her.

4. St. Albans City Representatives to Northwest Regional Planning Commission Interviews.

Mayor Gamache stated that both applicants, Jeff Young and Laz Scangas, currently sit on the Northwest Regional Planning Commission and their terms have expired.

The following questions were asked of each applicant:

1. What has motivated you to apply and serve as a City representative on the Northwest Regional Planning Commission?
2. What experiences in your background have influenced your desire to serve on this commission?
3. What contributions do you think you will make to the commission?
4. What are the qualities of a successful Regional Planning Commission?
5. What is your vision for the Northwest Regional Planning Commission?

a. Jeff Young

1. Mr. Young stated that the Regional Planning Commission is the one real vehicle that encompasses all of Franklin County and has been very encouraged by their staff. He has enjoyed

seeing how the group works together through the grant process. The commission is very large and many of the members have served for a very long time. He believes longevity is important for moving into a leadership position and has enjoyed the leadership style of Chairman, Laz Scangas. He served on the Finance Committee and attends Act 250 meetings when appropriate.

2. He is interested in Act 250 issues; sat on the Natural Resource Committee when he was on the legislature and has dealt with Solid Waste Management and stormwater runoff issues. He has attended Regional/State Land Use conferences and believes Regional Planning will be the key player in dealing with these issues once the State releases its TMDL numbers.
3. He reports to the full board every month on designation, changes in laws and rules for Downtown. He has sat in on all of the new hires that have come onto the board and has participated on the Budget Committee.
4. Omitted.
5. Would like to continue tackling issues regarding energy, solar and gas. He believes it's important to bring what's happening with Designated Downtowns and growth areas to the commission to ensure the City is represented in issues such as land use.

b. Laz Scangas

1. Mr. Scangas stated that the Regional Planning Commission is a great way to see everything that is going on in Franklin and Grand Isle County. He enjoys seeing how well the communities work together and commended the staff of the Regional Planning Commission who has been able to find grant money for Brownfield Cleanup and other important issues.
2. He is an architect by trade and likes planning. He is passionate about issues surrounding traffic and Brownfield Cleanup.
3. He has sat on the Personnel Committee, Financial Committee and Brownfield Committee and has helped find funding for properties that otherwise would not be developable.
4. Omitted.
5. He has seen an increase in services that have been brought to the communities and would like to see that number expand. He added that the commission is one of three communities in the United States who received grant money for Healthy Communities and would like to continue in that direction.

5. St. Albans Housing Authority Interviews.

Mayor Gamache asked Ms. Bortz the following interview questions:

1. What has motivated you to apply and serve on the St. Albans Housing Authority?
2. What experiences in your background have influenced your desire to serve on this board?
3. What contributions do you think you will make to the board?
4. What are the qualities of a successful Housing Authority?
5. What is your vision for the St. Albans Housing Authority?

a. Sally Bortz.

1. She has interest in equity, justice and the care of folks in need of affordable housing.
2. She is currently the Executive Director of Franklin Grand Isle United Way which focuses on income/affordable housing. She believes it is important to understand the conditions in the City to ensure that the population needing affordable housing will be met.
3. She is extremely compassionate and driven and expects results with purpose and direction.
4. A successful Housing Authority needs to be equitable, sustainable, strategic and forward thinking.

5. She believes that the City's lowest income residents are the greatest indicator of how the City is doing and would encourage that to be a part of the development plan for the St. Albans Housing Authority.

Ms. Bortz noted that she is a resident of Georgia and asked council if she had to be a St. Albans resident to join the Housing Authority. Mayor Gamache responded negatively. Mr. Doyle asked if there are other boards that do require you to be a St. Albans resident. Mr. Cloud responded that every board is different. Mr. Doyle asked why there is such high turnover in the Housing Authority. Mayor Gamache responded that this opening was in between terms and normally has a 5 year term.

6. Planning Commission Interviews.

The following questions were asked of each applicant:

1. What has motivated you to apply and serve on the Planning Commission?
2. What experiences in your background have influenced your desire to serve on this board?
3. What contributions do you think you will make to the board?
4. What are the qualities of a successful Planning Commission?
5. What is your vision for the Planning Commission?

a. Michael Gawne

1. Mr. Gawne explained that he volunteered on the Oakland County Planning Commission in Michigan, did a thesis at Middlebury College about open space planning in Montreal, attended law school and has experience legally representing various municipalities. He has seen some areas where he believes there is room for improvement and would like to participate.
2. Same as above answer.
3. He can help write Planning Commission rules and regulations with his legal background.
4. Respect for the past and a vision for the future.
5. His vision is to come up with a plan for the future, listen to people and follow the regulations.

Mr. Gawne added that he is also interested in serving on the Development Review Board but felt it was a conflict of interest since his co-worker, Megan Manahan is Chair.

b. Jackie Deslauriers

1. She is looking for something to involve herself in the community and give back. She has lived in St. Albans for the past 13 years.
2. She has spent the last 10 years as an interior designer and is experienced in space planning. She works with architects and engineers daily in her current position.
3. She is committed and will give 100% while keeping the best interest of the City at hand. She does a lot of project management at her day-to-day job and works great in a team setting.
4. She also believes it is important to plan for the future while keeping the past in mind.
5. Her vision for the Planning Commission is to be a part of a team that works together for the right reasons and sees its goals through to their end.

7. Development Review Board Interviews (Alternates).

Mayor Gamache asked Ms. Deslauriers the following questions:

1. What has motivated you to apply and serve on the DRB?
2. What experiences in your background have influenced your desire to serve on this board?
3. What contributions do you think you will make to the board?
4. What are the qualities of a successful Development Review Board and what vision do you have for the board?
5. If you personally disagree with a regulation, could you still vote to uphold it?

a. Jackie Deslauriers

1. With her background in space planning, she believes she would be able to contribute toward bettering the City landscape and its appearance. She would like to be a part of the future growth in the City.
2. She has experience drawing 3D renderings and CAD drawings.
3. Same as answer 2.
4. A group that creates a vision and works together to bring that vision to life.
5. Yes.

8. Consider Adoption of City Board & Commissions Application (D&V).

Mayor Gamache explained that the use of an application template would be helpful to streamline board vacancy process and make it more consistent. She is looking for a motion to approve the application presented.

**A motion was made by Alderman Doyle; seconded by Alderman Spooner to approve City Board & Commissions Application as presented. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.**

9. Other Business.

Mr. Corrigan commended Allen Robtoy and his crew for their tremendous job on Saturday with the water main break.

-Mayor Gamache added that it was an exciting evening for the opening of Local Fare. She also mentioned that the St. Albans Raid event is getting closer; Sept. 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>.

10. Executive Session.

a. To consider appointments of a public officer.

**After holding an Executive Session on the second floor, the Council reconvened in the Council Chambers.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Pelkey; seconded by Alderman Spooner to enter Executive Session at 7:37 pm to consider appointments of public officers. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Spooner; seconded by Alderman Pelkey to exit Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.**

**A motion was made by Alderman Pelkey; seconded by Alderman Doyle to make the following appointments. All votes were unanimous, 6-0.:**

- Jeff Young, Angie Sturm, Brianna Haenke, Wendy Stous, Joan McGinn & Cindy Livingston (Alternate) to the Parks Commission.
- Jeff Young (term expiration 8/31/16) & Laz Scangas (term expiration 8/31/17) as St. Albans City Representatives to the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.
- Sally Bortz to the St. Albans Housing Authority (term expiration 12/31/18).
- Michael Gawne (term expiration 12/31/16) & Jackie Deslauriers (term expiration 12/31/15) to Planning Commission.
- Jackie Deslauriers (term expiration 12/31/15) as Development Review Board Alternate.

11. Adjourn.

**A motion was made by Alderman Spooner; seconded by Alderman Pelkey to adjourn meeting at 8:26 pm. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Smith  
Administrative Coordinator

Approved by Council