

St. Albans City Council
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2013
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

A special meeting of the St. Albans City Council was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, in the second floor conference room at City Hall at 12:00 pm.

Council Present: Mayor Elizabeth Gamache (by phone); Aldermen: Ryan Doyle, Tim Hawkins (by phone), Aaron O'Grady (by phone), Chad Spooner (by phone) and Jeff Young (by phone).

Council Absent: Alderman Jim Pelkey.

Staff Present: Dominic Cloud, City Manager.

Visitors: Michelle Monroe, St. Albans Messenger.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gamache called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance at 12:03 pm.

2. Public Comment.

No public comment was made.

3. Consider proposal from St. Albans Rotary Club (D&V).

Mr. Cloud explained that council was recently approached by board members of the St. Albans Rotary Club with a request to adopt the fountain restoration project. Mr. Cloud reiterated that the proposal was well received by council. If approved, the City would submit a bond vote to the voters to likely be held in March with the debt on the bond to be serviced annually by the St. Albans Rotary Club. The Rotary Club indicated that they would make a substantial down payment of \$100,000 with the balance to be borrowed and serviced annually by the Rotary Club. Mr. Cloud thanked Mr. Young for all his work and effort in the restoration project thus far. Mr. Cloud further explained that he is seeking a motion from council accepting the St. Albans Rotary's request to allow them to become chiefly responsible for leading the fundraising and restoration project for the fountain. Mr. Doyle asked if council would be approving a conceptual proposal at this point or whether the \$100,000 down payment from Rotary and a future bond vote is set. Mr. Cloud responded that the City is responding to a relationship request rather than the bond, and the question raised to council is whether the City wants to allow the Rotary Club to assume the leadership position with the fountain restoration efforts. He added that there will be a series of subsequent decisions for council along the way such as the color paint used and the final amount put out to the voters. Mr. Cloud stated that with council's approval, the restoration of the fountain could be a full philanthropic endeavor and wouldn't affect the tax payers.

A motion was made by Alderman Doyle; seconded by Alderman Young to approve proposal from the St. Albans Rotary Club. Mayor Gamache extended her gratitude to Mr. Young for his dedication and hard work and recognized all community efforts that were involved. Mr. Spooner asked if at some point a committee would be established to make some of the necessary decisions as the restoration moved forward. Mr. Cloud responded that the two principle actors are the Rotary and the City and if council would like to have a discussion to clearly define roles and responsibilities with Rotary that should be done at the onset. Mr. Young commented that many of the decisions to be made such as paint color would be more intelligently answered by the restoration company and doesn't believe there will be a lot of decision making needed at the council level. He added that the goal of the restoration company will be to restore the fountain back to its original condition. Mr. Young stated that he would not object to holding a public hearing to allow for public input and all of the logistic issues such as the pond are very

technical. Mr. Spooner asked if the depth of the pool and landscaping around the pool has been determined. Mr. Young stated that the only decision left to be made is what the walkway will look like around the outside of the pool. He stated that moving forward with the restoration work will not affect the work that will need to be done to the pool and walkway. Mayor Gamache asked whether council would have the opportunity to see more finalized plans before any work is done or any money is spent. Mr. Young responded affirmatively and stated that he spoke to Mr. Sawyer last night who is working on obtaining the final drawings. Mr. Young stated that before the end of the year there will be a plan laid out. Mayor Gamache stated that council will still hold the responsibility and overall accountability for the project and expressed that there will be public discussions. She added that she is confident that council will have the opportunity to see plans and receive information before decisions are made. **Vote was unanimous, 6-0.**

4. Development Review Board Appointments (D&V).

Mr. Cloud explained that late this morning a Resolution for appointments to the Development Review Board was circulated which reflects council's direction during Executive Session at Monday's regular council meeting. He stated that the Resolution reads, "Whereas, the City Council seeks to appoint Megan Manahan, Gerald Muehl and Michael Walsh to the City of St. Albans Development Review Board with terms expiring on December 31, 2016."

A motion was made by Alderman Spooner; seconded by Alderman Hawkins to appoint Megan Manahan, Michael Walsh & Gerald Muehl to the Development Review Board with terms expiring December 31, 2016. Mr. Doyle expressed that he does not feel comfortable moving forward with the appointments until council has reviewed a recent allegation regarding a conflict of interest concerning one of the members being proposed. Mr. Hawkins asked why council couldn't vote on the slate presented now and if the conflict of interest is resolved, that person could then be appointed as an alternate. Mr. Cloud clarified that the person in question that Mr. Doyle is speaking of is different from the one in Mr. Hawkins' mind. Mr. Cloud suggested entering Executive Session to discuss further.

A motion was made by Alderman Doyle; seconded by Alderman Hawkins to enter into Executive Session at 12:20 pm to discuss the appointment or evaluation of a public officer. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.

A motion was made by Alderman Doyle; seconded by Alderman Hawkins to exit Executive Session at 12:33 pm and reenter open session. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.

Vote was unanimous, 6-0 to appoint Megan Manahan, Michael Walsh & Gerald Muehl to the Development Review Board with terms expiring December 31, 2016.

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by Alderman Doyle; seconded by Alderman Hawkins to adjourn meeting at 12:34 pm. Vote was unanimous, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Smith, Admin. Coordinator