

**MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
6:00 PM MONDAY MARCH 25, 2019
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NO. MAIN STREET**

Approved May 13, 2019

City Council Members Present: Mayor Tim Smith; Chad Spooner, Ward VI; Marie Bessette, Ward III; Kate Laddison, Ward V

Staff Members Present: Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development; Wendy Coy, Minute Taker

Public Present: Wayne Elliott, Pat Finn, Michelle Monroe

- 1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm**
 - a. **Consider any additions or deletions to the agenda** – There was none.

- 2. Public Hearing Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan** – Chip Sawyer explained that the City received grant funding for the long term planning needed to do more to prevent overflow events . The Council doesn't need to take action but the City and Mr. Elliott are interested in the Council's opinions and questions. The public hearing is a requirement of the grant.
 - a. **Presentation of LTCP** – Wayne Elliott and Pat Finn represented Aldrich and Elliott. The Combined Sewer Overflow plan needs to be submitted to the State. Mr. Elliott reviewed the Long Term Control Plan. In general, the overflow is stormwater washed off of impervious surfaces. There is only one CSO location in the City of St. Albans. It is at Lower Welden and So. Elm St. It requires that a Long Term Control Plan be submitted within 18 months of the date of the State's Order or March 31, 2019. Councilman Spooner asked if this CSO on Lower Welden has always been there. Mr. Elliott stated that it had. Mayor Smith asked if the LTCP's rain event totals were not uniform with the other parts of the state. Mr. Elliott stated that it wasn't. It was based on a typical extreme rain event in this part of the State. The City has been monitoring the CSO since 2012. Regular maintenance, which the City does, helps to control the overflows. The goal is to maximize the flow that goes to the waste water facility and prevent overflows during dry periods. Councilman Spooner asked if the City has an event, do they need to inform the State. Mr. Elliott stated that the City did need to inform the State but that there was a process and the flow needs to be monitored. The City has been doing that. The information is available on-line. There were originally seven overflow CSOs in the City, but the City did work throughout the 1970's and 1980's and reduced the overflow areas down to one. Mr. Elliott stated that they were really going after the impervious surfaces; 145 acres that are still connected to the combined sewer system. Councilman Spooner asked if a detention pond would be able to treat stormwater. Mr. Elliott responded that it could or a gravel wetland. An open pond is not the best solution due to aesthetics. This is the time of year when the overflow usually occurs. He reviewed the past overflow events. Councilman Spooner have we ever looked into how the City compares to other communities. Mr. Elliott stated that it would be comparing apples to oranges. Each community is different so the solutions are different. There have been

completed CSO control improvements. The City has invested approximately \$1,500,000 in the past five years. They have put pipes into downtown buildings so that there is an option to separate the drainage. The work has been done but the flow hasn't been removed from the system yet. Mayor Smith How many catch basins in the system. Mr. Elliott stated that there are well over 1,000. The City is well into Phase II of the CSO rule plan. There are several projects (Federal Street, Kingman Street, Stebbins Street, Main Street Roof Drain Separation and Hungerford Stormwater project) that are in various stages of planning that could reduce the flow even more. Mr. Elliott reviewed each of the projects and how each project would affect the flows. Mr. Sawyer clarified that the sanitary and separated stormwater interceptor lines run next to each other to the wastewater treatment plant. The plant is handling the stormwater in the sanitary interceptor but then pipe is getting backed up with the amount of water and overflowing at the lowest point which is Lower Welden. Mr. Elliott reviewed the practices that are considered Green Stormwater, but many of these practices would not be helpful for the City, as the overflows occur when the ground is frozen and the water table is high. He presented the option of CSO storage and/or treatment alternatives. Councilman Spooner stated that the location in a Houghton Park concept for CSO storage was a park and a baseball field. Mr. Elliott stated that the park was not the ideal spot for the CSO storage but he wanted to present the option. The CSO storage can be put anywhere on the interceptor line. Mr. Sawyer stated that there are several options for detention in the areas around Houghton Park. He directed Wayne Elliott to seek other areas for storage and treatment in the LTCP. Councilman Spooner asked about the GMP cooling ponds. Mr. Elliott stated that the storage could be put in a cooling pond. Mr. Elliott stated that the other option would be to do treatment and disinfection at Lower Welden Street. The phasing of the projects allows the City to continue to monitor the overflow so that there is documentation of the amount and frequency of overflows and the impact each project has on the overflows. Councilman Spooner asked about various lots that could be used. Mr. Sawyer stated that the properties need to be looked at strategically. Councilwoman Laddison asked that the Long Term Control Plan be posted to the website. Mr. Sawyer stated that he would post it.

- b. **Public Questions and Comments** – See above.
 - c. **Close Hearing** – Mayor Tim Smith closed the hearing.
3. **Discuss Acceptance of Long Term Control Plan** – Sawyer and Elliott stated that no formal acceptance was needed at this point.
4. **Public Comment not on the agenda** – There was none.

Motion by Chad Spooner to Adjourn the meeting. Second by Kate Laddison, and approved with all in favor at 7:06 PM.