

Mayor CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls – March 4, 2018

Answers to Mayoral Leadership Questions

From: Kim Knaak

I first of all encourage all to come and talk with me as your Mayor and hear in-person a public presentation of answers to essential questions about Mayoral leadership. I will be answering myself publicly and openly.

Attend open forum Q&A sessions I have scheduled: Sunday, March 4th from 2p.m.-4p.m. and Thursday, March 8th from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. Both Forums will take place at 42 Ale House, 3807 S. Packard Ave. (Packard and Sivyer)

What are your Plans for the City?

St. Francis is a community of good hardworking people who want our City's best foot forward. Working together, we should focus our collective passion and energy on the common good and celebrating all that is good in our community as the number one priority with keeping citizens first as the driver along our path. My experience and qualifications include working 18 years in local government before becoming the Mayor of St. Francis. Please read my "Plan for the City" summary below; I humbly ask for your support as a qualified and capable leader at work for you in St. Francis

Taxes in line: As our City leader I will continue to keep our City highly functioning and use its resources wisely. This commitment as your Mayor resulted in lower taxes in 2017 and it is my intention to continue to hold the line on taxes while keeping services at a level we can all be proud of.

Financial Accountability: This is an area that I am passionate about and have taken initiative to pursue needs that our auditor Baker Tilly identified to be addressed. I have and will continue to review contractual services and expenses, asking for detailed TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) Budgets, and pointing out the need to implement the important financial oversight recommendations of our independent auditor. We are moving forward and getting things done in this area under my leadership. The better our internal controls are with our financial accountability the better position the City will be in financially to serve the needs of the citizens.

Development Success: Citizens are frustrated about lack of development on the triangle and the energy that has been expended that could have been directed toward other development, marketing, and addressing citizens actual frustrations. This is what I am committed to working on. To sustain and attract business to St. Francis I will continue to grow and promote a "business friendly" environment by expanding on projects I have started such as 53235 Lakeside Pride business directory website, Shop St. Francis week, and community connections events. These projects have moved forward at no cost to taxpayers and I put in the extra time and effort in personally so they can happen.

I am committed to a proactive "anti-snubbing" position on developing our City and I helped work with officials to bring the FBI Offices to St. Francis as well as the Bear Mariner luxury apartment development on Lake Drive. In an effort to bring State and Federal resources to our local business, I have also organized tours and meetings with WEDC officials and Congresswoman Moore in St. Francis.

Also, I will maximize my involvement with Milwaukee Aerotropolis, where I am currently the Vice President, to promote St. Francis in the Milwaukee Metro Area and beyond through my leadership in the area development planning as well as other initiatives of the group. Through Aerotropolis I met the director of the Commercial Realtors Association and have made connections there and recently the City joined the organization and I will lead the way to take advantage of contacts and networking. I also will continue to attend Milwaukee 7 and MMAC meetings and represent our City for networking opportunities.

I am ready to move on even farther as to what we need to do today for our future development success. I have the know how to get things done especially with my past experience of running a large Chamber of Commerce, however we need more “boots on the ground” telling our story and I believe our new members of Economic Development Committee are the missing piece we need for marketing success. I have taken the important step of re-vitalization of the City Economic Development Committee and I found new volunteers who are bringing forward ideas to attract new business to St. Francis because citizens have asked for more retail shopping and businesses.

Citizen First: To support a local government culture of keeping citizens first I plan to continue expand and enhance opportunities for citizen engagement in local government and the community. This includes continuing the new events, promotions, awards, connections, open houses and Ad Hoc advisory groups I have worked to create. Currently, our citizen involvement on City Boards, committees and Commissions is at an all-time high. My efforts collaborating with subject matter experts and staff have provided opportunities for citizen input at a strategic plan “charrette” as well as a forum on Fire protection services. In addition, I sought engagement in developing a mission and vision statement for the City. I will continue to concentrate on feedback from our citizens because I feel it is the best way to get great things done for our City.

As Mayor I am elected by the people and for the people as the leader of the executive branch of our local government. I don’t work for the other City Council members, I work for you. Every day I serve you keeping in mind that Citizens need to be involved in important decisions of the City all of the time not just some of the time!

Quality of Life: In collaborating for our Council Goals in 2018, we added a Public Improvements and/or initiatives area; and my intention in this area is to concentrate on quality of life and health and safety issues more intensely. We need to continue to bring forward the concerns of health and safety of our citizens including a hard look into Mid America Steel Drum; which I helped to initiate to get on the Council agenda in November 2017. Other needs I will be diligent on include a Quiet Zone designation from the railroad to cut down on noise for residents. Currently my activity as a member of the City/ County Heroin Opioid Cocaine Task force for Milwaukee County has allowed me to also focus on this epidemic and awareness and prevention in St. Francis for our positive future.

I intend to continue to grow this new area of focus. For example: I have been an active part of projects like the UTV, Utility Terrain Vehicle, recently donated to the Police Department, this vehicle specifically adds to our capacity to provide enhanced services that add to our quality of life. In the past, I was able to acquire a donation of funds to build a new patio and playground in Veteran Park and increase the quality of the environment there.

I work for you: Since 2012, I have worked hard to create momentum for you, the citizens moving us into a new era of progress for our City. I know there is more work to do and the work ethic instilled in me by my mom and dad, Delbert and Barbara St. Marie, motivate me to continue to “selflessly” serve the good people of St. Francis.

I can’t control the political opinions that are out there to discredit me; but in the midst of it all I have done a good job and worked hard for St. Francis. Our City is moving forward.

How will you be different after the election?

The recent political situation has shown me that there are more people who I need to reach out to so they find out really who I am and what I stand for and what I am doing for them as their Mayor. My approach has been, and still is, to serve the people; not the political environment. To remain an independent thinker that steps up to the job of Mayor for St. Francis and takes responsibility for accountability and progress and not “status quo” or business as usual. There will always be those that are critical of a leader with this stance. That is what the citizens who asked me to run back in 2012 were looking for and still want today. As my good friend George P. George, past Alderman likes to say about me. “She knows what she’s doing. She got guts!”.

Those who know me know I ask tough questions to get answers needed to respond to citizen concerns and take action on their behalf. I will continue to ask and answer the tough questions not only of me but for the citizens as well. Since this recall started I have not stopped working tirelessly to report and address the needs of the citizens and taxpayers of St. Francis and be accountable for results.

How will you continue to get along after the election is over?

Citizens First: I will place “citizens first” as a principal of doing my job and put my personal opinions and issues of political disagreement behind as secondary. As a City Council, of which the Mayor is a part, it is our duty and obligation to get the work of the City done and that means working to solve our differences. I am an elected official who solves political disagreements civilly toward collaboration to do good work for the City. This is the type of collaboration I strive for as Mayor and is what I believe citizens deserve and expect.

Our Council along with me as Mayor, voted to collaborate as a group on the “State of the City” presentation outlining our goals for 2018. I’m already working hard to help us achieve our 2018 goals and have begun reporting on progress of these goals at our City Council meetings in February. We also have a spring election in April for several Alderman spots and I look forward to continuing to get to know the new candidates participating in campaigns.

Not all personalities blend with each other, but I know as your Mayor through experience and a track record of positive citizen engagement for our City, that our political differences can be put aside to get things done to move St. Francis forward to a positive future.