

Good evening.

One of the issues cited in the recent affidavit to recall the Mayor states his failure to re-appoint members of the Parks & Recreation Board as required by the Charter. The Mayor has dismissed this issue, claiming ongoing litigation prevents him from fulfilling his Charter-mandated duties. So, let's go back one year to see how the Mayor fulfills his Charter-mandated duties when there is no ongoing litigation.

Last year, this Council passed Bill 13807 on April 9, 2024. This Bill "amends Section 125.060 to add a requirement that half of all Committee members on each Committee be required to have served on that Committee for at least a year in order to preserve institutional knowledge." The Mayor vetoed this Bill on May 2, 2024. This Council then overrode the Mayor's veto on May 14, 2024.

During this meeting, which was publicly recorded and available on the city's website, members of the Council say the following in response to the Mayor's veto:

- "You didn't fill the positions of a particular board for three years."
- "If the office of the Mayor refuses to take action and appoint people upon expiration, we'll find ourselves in a situation where every member could be up for replacement at one time...the Council would have to find a way to organize without breaking Sunshine Law...I don't think it's possible to do that."
- "Voting against this [veto] override would give the appearance of knowingly participating in an attempt to work around current ordinances and the Charter."

During this meeting, the Mayor says the following regarding his own actions:

- "With regards to appointments...I can let them expire or I can remove them with your approval. That gives me the opportunity administratively and managerially to manipulate those particular things."
- "There is no consequential result of my not appointing. There's no punishment for that."
- "I use it [the Charter] as an administrative tool."

One of the Mayor's objections to Bill 13807 was that it "restricts the Charter-mandated powers of the Office of the Mayor." But, based on the quotes I've just read, it seems that 1) the Mayor does not see an urgent need to adhere to the Charter when managing boards and 2) this Council is well aware of this issue, and has been for some time.

If the Mayor is comfortable stating that he does not need to adhere to parts of the Charter in a public meeting, what does he say in private? Are you, Council members, comfortable with that? Does this mentality and approach allow you to faithfully follow the Charter while making decisions for the betterment of the City of St. Charles?

All we ask for is transparency, integrity, and accountability. Have a good evening.