



**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**FIFTH WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATE SELECTION**

**CITY HALL  
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
505 BUTLER PLACE PARK RIDGE, IL 60068**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**I. Call to order**

Chairman Reardon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The following committee members indicated their presence:

Chairman Reardon, Sue Knight, Judy Barclay, Sal Raspanti, and Joan Sandrik.

Deputy Clerk Peterson recorded the minutes.

(Note: An audio file of the meeting was provided with the meeting information online.)

**III. Interviews**

Interviews were conducted by the Committee on the following applicants:

6:30 p.m.	Gareth Kennedy
7:00 p.m.	Anthony Rigali
7:30 p.m.	Joe Baldi

Each applicant was scheduled for thirty (30) minutes. At the beginning of each interview, the candidate provided a three (3) minute summary about themselves, their interests, and the reason for which they applied. The Committee presented various questions to the applicants which included:

**FIFTH WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATE SUGGESTED QUESTIONS**

- 1) How often do you attend City Council or Committee of the Whole meetings? When was the last meeting you attended? Do you recall a topic of discussion at the last meeting you attended?
- 2) Are you familiar with the acronym HITA? Do you support this as a good guideline?
- 3) Explain your volunteer experience with the City, whether serving on a Board or Commission or other organization.
- 4) What is your motivation for wanting to serve as an Alderman? Define "successful Alderman."
- 5) What characteristics, qualifications and experiences do you have that support your candidacy?
- 6) What do you consider the five (5) most important City services, ranked in order of importance with the first being most important?
- 7) In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing the city? What are your proposed solutions?
- 8) What would your solution be to the Uptown parking problem?
- 9) How do you plan to keep residents of the 5th Ward informed on issues facing the city as a whole or specifically the Fifth Ward?
- 10) The City has a system in place to maintain transparency. Boards & Commissions are appointed by the Elected Officials. The Boards and Commission make recommendations to the City Council. However, some believe that staff may interject by inputting their own ideas, absent of those ideas or decisions presented by the Boards or Commissions. How would you address this issue to ensure openness, transparency and fairness to all? How will you support our Boards and Commissions and the jobs they do?

- 11) What do you believe are the time commitments of an alderman, and, will your professional and personal life allow you to fulfill them?
- 12) Identify your three (3) most significant contributions to the community in the past 10 years, ranking them in order of significance with the first being the most significant.
- 13) Identify the three (3) most pressing issues that are unique or of special significance to the Fifth Ward, ranked in order of importance with the first being most important.
- 14) What are your thoughts for tackling the City's budget issues?
- 15) What are the most important attributes of Park Ridge? What threatens these attributes most?
- 16) Would you support the creation of another TIF in Park Ridge; and, if so, where and why?
- 17) What would you do to assist existing businesses in Park Ridge?
- 18) In regards to business development and retention, provide your opinion how this should be handled by the City.
- 19) What would help Park Ridge be a better community in which to live?
- 20) What do you see as the important qualifications for a new City Manager?

**Gareth Kennedy**

Resident of Park Ridge since 2004; actuary specialist; believes in HITA philosophy; extensive background working with numbers; from UK; fiscal conservative; recognized problems with storm water / infrastructure; parking; assuring public safety important; maintain fire rating; travels 20-30 nights per year, never on Monday; communications through flyers, door knocking, newsletters; no vote for TIFs successful alderman keeps City functioning by providing essential services; never take guidance of boards and commission blindly; served on many professional committees

**Tony Rigali**

Full time student at Illinois State; leaves 1/30/17 for semester of study in Italy; parents will assist with responsibilities as Alderman; will communicate via Skype; Political Science/Finance double major; active volunteer at St. Paul Youth Group and for the disabled; unfamiliar with HITA but believes it is a good foundation for government; could represent a generation that has not been heard; introduce more family programs; offering more programs to handicapped or elderly; assisted with Rep. Moylan's campaign; strong debate and compromising skills

**Joseph Baldi**

Longtime resident of community; serving as Chairman to Planning and Zoning Commission and formerly served as Alderman of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward; important issues include O'Hare, budget and flooding; feels he left job of alderman unfinished- only served for 2 years; appointed to serve Budget Committee; served on School Board Budget Committee; staff demoralization a priority; possibly favor adding more Wards; unfamiliar with HITA; communicate with emails, calls, periodic meeting, town halls; skeptical about future TIFs; work out solution of problems to move forward

After the last interview which ended at approximately 7:55 p.m., the committee started to deliberate. Each member provided their top three choices. Among the committee, the choices (in no order) were Gareth Kennedy, Helen Barret Fanning, and Charlie Melidosian. After an hour of deliberation without achieving consensus, the committee decided it would be best to adjourn for the evening, allow some time to reflect on the candidates, and meet again at 4:15 on Sunday, January 29 to continue deliberations.

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.