I believe that the sharing of authority between the mayor and the council will facilitate better decision-making.

In the past year, we have been able to redefine the role of the mayor as the CEO of a General Law city away from our current mayor’s personal definition that included her engaging in “deal making” to the exclusion of council to a definition in which the council has taken its rightful place as the legislative branch of the city government. This shift in the sharing of responsibilities has substantially improved the due diligence and the quality of decisions.

I have a substantially different view of the role of the mayor. I see the mayor as the facilitator of the decision-making that defines and drives city priorities. It is my belief that the aldermen positions should do real work in the form of driving projects to effectively manage growth and protect our quality of life. I am also a proponent of drawing on the incredible talent we have in our city and getting citizens engaged.

We need leadership that is skilled in delivering projects and managing change.

Much of my business career revolved around driving projects and managing change. Our city is currently in a disadvantaged position in regard to having tools in place to manage growth due to years of neglect from the leadership.

- Our city should have and could have gone to a Home Rule Charter years ago. We are one of only a handful of cities over 5,000 in population in Texas that are not working under a Home Rule Charter. Home Rule Charters give citizens much more control and have tools like pro-active annexation that can be used to control growth. Our current mayor actively resisted making this change until she saw the train leaving the station with all the aldermen on it. She has had 16 years in elected office to sort this out.

- We do not have zoning in place. Our city attorney’s firm represents 25 Texas cities. We are the only city among his client base that does not have zoning. We made an attempt at this several years ago but lacked the leadership to deliver it.
• We do not have inter-local agreements in place with all of the counties that overlap our Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). State law requires us to have these agreements in place. These agreements create certainty around whose subdivision regulations apply in the ETJ. Our agreement with Kendall County lapsed seven and a half years ago and our current leadership never got it back in place. Our new council, beginning with a visit to the Kendall County Attorney by two citizens, and myself worked with staff and our city attorney and recently got this agreement restored.

• Overriding all of these needs is an incredible lack of strategic direction. Anyone who has done professional quality strategic planning in his or her business life would call our strategic plan a joke. We need to develop a real strategic plan with specific goals and objectives that are quantified, measured on a regular basis and used on a consistent basis to drive progress. In business we know that which gets measured, gets done. That which does not get measured, never happens.

• Our city staff’s performance should be evaluated on accomplishing the goals of a real strategic plan. I want to make having a strategic plan from which to drive our city’s progress a top priority.

**Growth is overrunning us and we have to take action now.**

Our old city governance model of running everything through the mayor is not adequate to address our needs. This model has served only to cause us to be very far behind other cities in having the tools in place to manage growth responsibly. My inclusive leadership style and my experience at managing projects and change are the perfect combination for what we need.

In my world, aldermen become project managers and thought leaders. Citizens become subject matter experts who help drive project teams. Our staff becomes implementers of change with performance driven by a real strategic plan that we actually use.