

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan

October 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Thomas L. Reed, Roger L. Collison, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer, Elizabeth A. Upton.

Council Members Absent: None

City Manager: Kurt Giles
City Clerk: Jamie Long
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz, Jr.

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Public Services Director, Ralph Echtenaw-St. Louis Sentinel, and Adam Musselman.

Member Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Collison, supported by Upton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 3, 2023. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Collison, supported by Upton, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,339,602.99. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

Members discussed the September 2023 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to receive the September 2023 Monthly Reports and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Reed requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items “a” through “e” as shown below:

- a. Change order #5 from Crawford Contracting for M-46 Watermain Upgrades.
- b. Payment to Crawford Contracting for M-46 Watermain Upgrades.
- c. Payment to Malley Construction for Orchard Hills water main extension.
- d. Payment The Isabella Corporation for the Well #12 Project.
- e. Payment to Alma Abstract & Title for purchase of 410 S. East Street and 216 S. East Street.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard to approve Consent Agenda items “a” through “e.” All ayes carried the motion.

New Business.

Airport Advisory Committee Appointment.

City Manager Giles presented the option of appointing him or someone from the city to the Airport Advisory Committee.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison supported by Upton to recommend the appointment of City Manager, Kurt Giles, to the Airport Advisory Committee. All Ayes carried the motion.

Pine River Water Quality and 2024 Fishing Derby Discussion.

Manager Giles presented the topic of suspending the 2024 annual Joe Scholz Fishing Derby due to the high level of e-coli found in the Pine River in the studies done by Alma College Professor, Murray Borello.

Discussion was held.

It was the consensus of the council to table the topic for further discussion after members can review the findings of the test results and do further research on their own.

Addition to Agenda-Temporary Street Closure.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the temporary street closure on the 100 block of Center Street between Mill Street and City Hall for the Halloween Block Party on October 26, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to approve the temporary street closure on the 100 block of Center Street between Mill Street and City Hall for the Halloween Block Party on October 26, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. All ayes carried the motion.

Addition to Agenda-Pre-Demolition Services.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Pre -Demolition services from Tri Terra for 403 S. Clinton, 410 S. East Street, and 216 S. East Street in the amount of \$8,500.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison, supported by Upton to approve the Pre -Demolition services from Tri Terra for 403 S. Clinton, 410 S. East Street, and 216 S. East Street in the amount of \$8,500. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported the ranking for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund has gone up for the city and the city is now ranked high enough in the point system to qualify for principal forgiveness.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported the LIEN audit has been completed and credit needs to be given to Amy Velasco for her hard work in the preparation of the audit. Ramereiz reported that the audit went well with only a few minor things that were marked down.

Chief Ramereiz reported that Officer Pat Herson had his last shift with the department on October 16, 2023.

Ramereiz reported that Officer Kohloff has accepted an offer with another department and will be leaving the St. Louis Police Department.

Ramereiz reported that he does have a candidate he will be making an offer to, pending background checks. He also reported he does have another possible candidate, but they will need to attend the Police Academy.

Ramereiz informed the council that due to the leaving of the two officers, it will leave the department shorthanded again, therefore causing overtime and Sergeant Forshee and himself will be doing time on the road to help alleviate the scheduling conflicts.

Ramereiz informed the council that his staff has been doing a great job on several cases, especially Forshee and Morell. Ramereiz gave his officers praise for their hard work.

Council Comments.

Member Collison commented that the grant money the city is now in line for is a huge thing for the community and he appreciates all the time and hard work that went into this, especially from Utilities Director, Keith Risdon.

Member Upton stated the possibility of a police merger is looking better all the time, especially with the need for more officers being a constant issue.

Mayor Reed agreed with Member Upton on the potential police merger.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:57p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk