

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
May 7, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Fares E. Azzam, Mayor Pro Tem 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

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Tom Clark, Alex Tatroe, Max Clever-Spicer Group, Joe Vozar-Gratiot County Jail Administrator, Chris Black-Black Castle Music, Marina Valoshina, Andy Campbell-Baker Tilly and three students.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Officer Marina Valoshina. City Clerk, Jamie Long administered the Oath of Office.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for May 7, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 16, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$593,143.08. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the April 2024 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to receive the April 2024 Monthly Board Minutes and place

on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

Tom Clark-candidate for Gratiot County Sheriff informed the council of his intent to run for sheriff. Clark gave a speech on his background, accomplishments and goals if elected.

A presentation was given by Andy Campbell from Baker Tilly on the SRF Project.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Chrouch Communications for the upfit of the 2023 Dodge Charger Patrol Vehicle.
- b. Payment to GEI for Safety Engineering Services for Reclassification for the Dam.
- c. Payment to S&L of Alma for the pool heater replacement.
- d. Payment to Wolverine Power Cooperative for John Rugenstein and Jake Oswald apprenticeship programs.
- e. Payment to Spicer for Drinking Water Asset Management.

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

Temporary Street Closure for Community Block Party.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the temporary street closure for the community block party to be held on Saturday, June 29th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the temporary street closure for the community block party to be held on Saturday, June 29th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Member Palmer was excused from the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Owner’s Work Directive Change from Spicer Group.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Owner’s Work Directive Change from The Spicer Group, in the amount of \$13,500.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the Owner’s Work Directive Change from The Spicer Group, in the amount of \$13,500.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported SLIPR met and adopted a resolution for the budget and a ballot question was approved for five years 2026-2030 and will be on the August Ballot for approval.

Manager Giles reported that he toured the burn pit last week and they are ready to go forward with the new steps on the project.

Manager Giles reported that the Manhole Adjustor Core Machine was used on two streets, Wilson and the corner of M-46 and Hubbard.

Manager Giles reported that Sea Lamprey treatment will be happening again this year in the Pine River.

Manager Giles reported that employee insurance plans are still being researched, with talks with employees and continuing efforts to find the best option for insurance.

Manager Giles discussed the Mayor Exchange program with council and several members expressed interest in taking part in the program.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that Marina will be beginning her field training. Ramereiz stated that Officer Eisenberger is doing great and continues to excel in his position.

Chief Ramereiz reported that they have received several applications for the opening in the police department.

Council Comments.

Mayor Pro Tem, Bill Leonard gave a shout out to both Ramereiz and Forshee for their great work on keeping the department staffed even in times of employee shortages.

Member Azzam reported that he enjoyed his trip to the MPPA Annual Stakeholder's event and recommended that other council members take the opportunity in the future.

Mayor Echinaw asked Manager Giles if he has had any talks regarding the Hope House and requested we invite the director of the Hope House and Bill Coty to the next meeting.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk