

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
August 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday May 21, 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
Deputy Clerk: Bobbie Marr
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Dori Foster-Community Services Coordinator, Max Clever-Spicer Group and Brian Buysse-resident.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for August 6, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

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

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$553,582.49. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the July 2024 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to receive the July 2024 Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

Brian Buysse, a resident, expressed his concerns again about the excessive noise from motorcycles. Buysse stated that if something isn't done he will reach out to the media.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Echtenaw requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda item "a" through "e." as shown below:

- a. Payment to East Jordan for Spring 2024 Spring Street Project.
- b. Payment to Seifert Concrete for Sidewalk Project.
- c. Payment to GRP Engineering for Engineering Services-System Model Update & Distribution System Study.
- d. Payment to Plunkett Cooney for IBEW Union Negotiation Services.
- e. Payment Seifert Concrete LLC for Concrete Services for the DWAM Plan Step #2.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve Consent Agenda item "a" through "e." All ayes carried the motion.

Determination Hearing-117 South East Street.

Manager Giles stated that the building inspector determined issues to be addressed with the property at 117 South East Street. Giles stated that the hearing officer addressed that there has been no movement on fixing the issues. Primarily the holes in the roof etc., that make the home inhabitable. The new inhabitant has now taken an interest in making the repairs. The hearing officer originally gave 60 days to secure permits and 300 days to complete the construction. The date construction is expected to be done is October 11, 2024.

Motion to approve hearing officers' determination by Azzam and supported by Upton.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Azzam, Upton, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

Quote from Wachs Utility Products for a Valve Turning Machine.

Manager Giles requested members to approve a quote from Wachs Utility Products for a Valve Turning Machine in the amount of \$40,668.74.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve a quote from Wachs Utility Products for a

Valve Turning Machine in the amount of \$40,668.74. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote from LazerLines for Street Striping.

Manager Giles requested members to approve a quote from LazerLines for street striping in the amount of \$9,742.50.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Palmer, to approve a quote from LazerLines for street striping in the amount of \$9742.50. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2024-19 to Establish Authorized Signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approval.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Leonard, and supported by Member Azzam:

This Resolution is entered into under the provisions of 1996 PA 220 and the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS") Plan Document, as each may be amended.

This resolution is being adopted by the governing body of The City of St. Louis and applies to all reporting units of said participating entity.

WHEREAS, The City of St. Louis is a participating municipality with the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS") and has adopted one or more retirement, insurance, investment or other post-employment benefit products administered by MERS;

WHEREAS, MERS requires signatures of an authorized representative of the Employer to execute contracts with MERS, the entry of which is authorized by the governing body and permitted under the applicable MERS Plan Document(s);

WHEREAS, the Employer wishes to designate certain job position(s), the holder(s) of which may sign MERS' contracts relating to the adoption, amendment and termination of MERS' products, and defined benefit service credit purchase approvals on behalf of Employer to implement decisions and actions of the governing body;

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to apply to MERS forms or any other MERS document except as specifically mentioned herein,

Therefore, the Governing Body resolves:

The holders of the following job position(s) are hereby *Authorized Officials* that can sign: (1) MERS Adoption Agreements, Resolutions, Participation Agreements, Administrative Services Agreements, Withdrawal Agreements and any other contracts between MERS and the Employer with respect to Employer's participation in any MERS-administered product and any amendments and addendums thereto, and (2) MERS Defined Benefit service credit purchase approvals:

1. City Manager.

Optional additional job positions:

2. Finance Director.
3. City Clerk.

This Resolution may be revoked in writing or amended by the Governing Body at any time, provided that it will not be effective until such writing or amended Resolution is received by MERS. The Governing Body agrees that MERS may rely upon this Resolution as conferring signing authority upon the holders of the above job position(s) to bind Employer with respect to MERS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

AYE: Leonard, Azzam, Palmer, Upton, Echtinaw

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted this 6th day of August 2024.

Quote from Shults Equipment for a new Salt Spreader.

Manager Giles requested members to approve a quote from Schults Equipment for a new Salt Spreader in the amount of \$42,985.00 which includes a new GPS system from Skyhawk by Telus.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve a quote from Schults Equipment for a new Salt Spreader in the amount of \$42,985.00 which includes a new GPS system from Skyhawk by Telus. All ayes carried the motion.

Personnel Policy Number 8.2 Insurance, Section E Group Hospitalization.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Personnel Policy 8.2 Insurance, Section E Group Hospitalization changes.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Upton, to approve the Personnel Policy 8.2 Insurance, Section E Group Hospitalization changes. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the Department of Transportation informed the city that new pavement will be placed on South Main between M-46 and the Railroad in August.

Manager Giles reported that the burn pit insitu treatment process is maxing out and will continue through the rest of the calendar year.

Manager Giles reported that the adopted resolution on the charter language has been sent in by Jamie for ballot consideration. It is unsure if it will make it on time to get on the November ballot. The Attorney General gave the okay, however no confirmation from the Governor has been received.

Deputy Clerk Report.

None

Police Chief Report.

None.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard asked if there were more plans to tour the burn pit. Member Palmer also expressed interest. Manager Giles will call and get that set up.

Member Azzam expressed concern of the candidate for Sheriff campaign sign in the parking lot during the election. Manager Giles explained the guidelines and rules for those types of displays and that the sign was in compliance.

Member Azzam discussed street lights that are dim or out and signs that were knocked down on Eden and Berea Streets. DPW Supervisor Martyn noted the signs, Manger Giles will follow up with the Electric Department.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

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

Bobbie Marr, Deputy Clerk