

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
March 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday March 18, 2025, 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
Clerk: Jamie Long
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Brian Buysse-resident, Josh Leppien- Economic Development Coordinator, Keith Risdon- Utilities Director, Calvin Martyn-DPW Superintendent, Sheila Salmon-resident, Brian Buysse-resident, David Mossner-resident.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for March 18, 2025 with the addition of item #11H- Revised Amount for Lions Playground Equipment. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 4, 2025. 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 \$621,632.34. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the February 2025 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to receive the February 2025 Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

Sheila Salmon reported that her daughter lives across the street from the Wells Road Lot. Salmon stated there is a lot of traffic, brush burning, a large pile of concrete and excessive noise. Salmon would like to see something done differently due to her small grandchildren living in the home. Salmon discussed the option of signage to alert trucks to slow down.

Dave Mossner, a resident, reported that he lives at 116 Main and there is a great deal of truck traffic, and these trucks are using their engine brakes. Mossner asked if any signage could be placed to try to deter these trucks from using these loud brakes. Chief Rameriez stated that he had looked into this a while back but would do more research to see if rules and regulations had changed.

Mossner reported that he had heard the city was considering backyard chickens and he would like to see that happen.

Salmon stated she would also like to see the city allow chickens.

Brian Buysse stated he is against chickens within the city limits.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Project I Phase II.
- b. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Design Project.
- c. Payment to Malley Construction, Inc. for DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- d. Purchase and Payment to Border States for Wire for Street Lamp Expansion.
- e. Payment to Contractors Rental Corporation for Equipment Rental for Riverbank Clearing.

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

Receive Resolution 2025-01-Compensation for Elected Officials and Decline Option to Reject their Conclusions.

Manager Giles requested members to receive the resolution 2025-01-Compensation for Elected Officials and decline the option to reject their conclusions.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to receive the resolution 2025-01-Compensation for Elected Officials and decline the option to reject their conclusions. All ayes carried the motion.

Crack Seal Bricks for Preventative Road Maintenance.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Crafcoc Inc. for crack seal bricks for the mid-summer road preventative maintenance in the amount of \$5,455.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the quote from Crafcoc Inc. for crack seal bricks for the mid-summer road preventative maintenance in the amount of \$5,455. All ayes carried the motion.

Concrete Work at the SLED Standard Building.

Manager Giles requested members to approve quote from Seifert Concrete for concrete work at the St. Louis Electric Department Standard building in the amount of \$11,271.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve quote from Seifert Concrete for concrete work at the St. Louis Electric Department Standard building in the amount of \$11,271.

Ayes: Palmer, Leonard, Azzam, Upton

Nays: None

Abstain: Echtenaw

Opt in or Out of Michigan Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

Manager Giles requested members to opt in to the Michigan Low-Income Assistance Program.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Azzam opt in to the Michigan Low-Income Assistance Program. All ayes carried the motion.

Appointment of Dale Wolfe to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the appointment of Dale Wolfe to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the appointment of Dale Wolfe to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ayes: Azzam, Upton, Palmer, Echtenaw

Nays: Leonard.

Adoption of Electric System Capital Improvement.

Manager Giles requested members to adopt the five-year capital improvement plan.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton supported by Palmer, to adopt the five-year capital improvement plan. All ayes carried the motion.

2025 Street Pavement Improvement Plan.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the 2025 Street Improvement Plan, which includes Clinton Street between River Court and I&K Street and Gratiot Street between Main Street and Union Street, for a total project cost of \$495,002.83.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the 2025 Street Improvement Plan, which includes Clinton Street between River Court and I&K Street and Gratiot Street between Main Street and Union Street for a total project cost of \$495,002.83. All ayes carried the motion.

Addition to Agenda-Lions Park Playground Equipment.

Manager Giles requested members to approve additional playground equipment in the amount of \$9500, which was missed in the original quotes, from GameTime, for a total cost of \$26,035.21.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve additional playground equipment in the amount of \$9500, which was missed in the original quotes, from GameTime, for a total cost of \$26,035.21. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that a survey has been created and will soon be going out regarding backyard chickens, to see how much interest there is.

Manager Giles reported that he received a notice from Bethany Township that they will be holding a public hearing to decide on a special use permit for the SolAmerica project on Thursday, March 27th at 5:30.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that he would be out of the office for the rest of the week, Sergeant Forshee will be filling in for his absence.

Council Comments.

Nothing to report.

Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Adjournment.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to adjourn 7:10 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk