

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
October 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Roger L. Collison on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Roger L. Collison, George T. Kubin,
William R. Leonard, Elizabeth A. Upton

Council Members Absent: Mayor Thomas L. Reed (excused)

City Manager: Kurt Giles
City Clerk: Mari Anne Ryder
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz, Jr.

Others in Attendance:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director, Tom Alcamo – EPA, Diane Russell – EPA, Kelly Povlos – EPA, Celine Wysgalla – EPA, Jennifer Knoepfte – EPA, Ralph Echtinaw – St. Louis Sentinel, two high school students

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Collison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 4, 2022. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,303,496.81. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council Members discussed the Monthly Reports.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to received and place the Monthly Reports on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

Tom Alcamo updated members on the status of the cleanup at the former Velsicol site. They are

currently installing the sheet pile along the fence area and this should take four to eight weeks.

Jennifer Knoepfte updated members on the status of the burn pit. The Insitu-Thermal process should start in February or March.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Collison requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items “a” through “d” as shown below:

- a. Payment to OHM for Professional Services – M-46 Watermain.
- b. Payment No. 3 to Isabella Corp. – Well 12 Well House and Watermain.
- c. Payment to Wards Excavating – Well Abandonment.
- d. Payment to Rehman – Replacement Switches.

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

New Business.

Replacement Body Cameras for Police Department and 1st Annual Payment.

Manager Giles requested members approve the replacement of eight Body Cameras for the Police Department and payment in the amount of \$6,205.00, which will be reimbursed by grant funds. The following four years the annual payment will be \$6,060.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the replacement of eight Body Cameras for the Police Department from Digital Ally and the first annual payment in the amount of \$6,205.00, which will be reimbursed by grant funds. All ayes carried the motion.

Resignation from Parks & Recreation Commission.

Manager Giles requested members accept the resignation of Amanda Kelly from the Parks & Recreation Commission as her schedule does not let her continue to be a member.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton, to accept the resignation of Amanda Kelly from the Parks & Recreation Commission with regret. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2022-18 Clean Energy Program.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2022-18, which approved continuation of the Clean Energy Program.

Discussion was held.

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

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan (the “City”) began providing an Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) program for its electric utility customers during the City’s fiscal year 2009-2010. This program complied with the provisions of P.A. 295 of 2008 which, applied to municipal electric utilities. Since 2009, the City has continuously provided an EWR program which was also previously known as Energy Optimization or Energy Efficiency.

WHEREAS, P.A. 295 has been amended since its passage including, most recently, when P.A. 342 was passed. A provision of P.A. 342 is that the EWR mandate was to be discontinued after December 31, 2021. Unless legislation occurs to extend EWR requirements for municipal utilities, an independent third-party verification contractor will not need to verify and report on efficiency measure implementation.

WHEREAS, the City has participated with a service committee of Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) who has contracted with an EWR implementation contractor and savings verification contractor to fulfill requirements of P.A. 342. It is understood, that absent any replacement legislation, municipal utilities who voluntarily offer EWR programs would no longer be required to have independent verifications conducted or submit annual filings to the MPSC.

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the value of offering an EWR program and wishes to continue offering comparable services in calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025. For smaller municipal utilities, the most cost-effective method of providing such programs is through a joint venture as described herein. MPPA along with the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) have solicited proposals from firms to provide comparable services. In addition to the scope of an EWR program, participating utilities have requested a new component to address “Clean Energy or Environmentally Friendly” offerings.

WHEREAS, The City has charged its electric customers an Energy Optimization surcharge to fund the current EWR program. Charges have been in the amount of \$0.00225/kWh for residential customers, \$4.09 per month for General Service Rate B customers, \$70.20 per month for General Service Demand Rate C customers and \$452.02 per month for Primary Service Rate D customers. The estimated proceeds from this surcharge total \$69,300 annually and the annual energy savings goal is approximately 314,000 kWh.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Provided a comparable EWR/Green Energy program is available through MPPA, the City will continue collecting the above-described surcharges in calendar year 2023, 2024 and 2025 and use the proceeds to fund energy incentives and programs to customers and make payments to MPPA for work performed by contractors and other service committee-related expenses.

Ayes: Leonard, Upton, Kubin, Collison

Nays: None

Resolution Declared Adopted this 18th day of October, 2022.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles updated members on the following:

1. The City of Alma and Gratiot County are in discussions regarding ownership of the parcels of Airport land.
2. Due to a resignation, the Parks & Recreation Commission has a vacancy to fill. Mary Reed has been appointed Chairperson.
3. There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and the Ordinance states that vacancy has to be filled by a Council member unless the Ordinance language is amended.
4. GAWA has a vacancy also, if members know of anyone to recommend to fill Tom Reed's vacant position.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz stated the K-9 group was here today and conducted a sweep of the High School Middle School and then used the north end of City Hall for training. They expressed gratitude for the use of our building.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard asked if the former Velsicol site contamination was going to be hauled off site via Bankson Street. Manager Giles stated no. They will be using M-46.

Mayor Pro Tem Collison stated he was not able to attend the Block Party but heard good comments about it.

Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk