

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
May 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Thomas L. Reed, Roger L. Collison, George T. Kubin,
William R. Leonard

Council Members Absent: Elizabeth A. Upton

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

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Public Service Director, Phil Hansen-DDA Director, Ralph Echtenaw-St. Louis Sentinel, Lou Fleury-OHM, Skylar Kruger-OHM, Fares Azzam-Resident, and 7 students.

Public Hearing – Public Safety Millage Renewal.

Mayor Thomas L. Reed opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. and asked for Public Comments.

There were none.

Mayor Thomas L. Reed closed the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Resolution 2023-08 Special Assessment.

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, pursuant to Act 33, Public Acts of Michigan, 1951, as amended, has created the St. Louis Fire and Police Special Assessment District (the “District”) to pay for certain costs and expenses of fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations (the “Assessed Costs”) and assess the costs thereof to the property specially benefitted by said fire and police protection in the District; and

WHEREAS, a special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of defraying the Assessed Costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed said special assessment roll, and, after due and legal notice, the City Council met on May 16, 2023, and heard objections to the distribution of the special assessment levy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems said special assessment roll and special assessment levy to be fair and equitable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The special assessment roll attached hereto as Exhibit A shall be designated “St. Louis Fire and Police Special Assessment Roll” (the “Roll”).
2. The Roll, in the total sum of \$120,751.73 is hereby confirmed and approved.
3. The assessments made in the Roll are hereby ordered and directed to be collected and the City Treasurer is directed to distribute the special assessment levy on the taxable value of all of the lands and premises in the District.
4. The City Council shall annually determine the amount to be assessed in the District for fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations, shall direct the City Treasurer to distribute the special assessment levy, and shall hold a hearing on the estimated costs and expenses of fire and police protection and on the distribution of the levy. The assessment may be made either in a special assessment roll or in a column provided in the regular tax roll. The special assessment shall be distributed and shall become due and be collected at the same time as other City taxes are assessed, levied, and collected, and shall be returned in the same manner for nonpayment. If the collections received from the special assessment levied are, at any time, insufficient to meet the obligations or expenses incurred for fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations, the City Council may, by resolution, authorize the transfer or loan of sufficient money from the general fund of the City, to the special assessment fund. This money shall be repaid to the general fund of the City out of special assessment funds when collected.
5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

Ayes: Kubin, Leonard, Reed

Nays: Collison

Resolution Declared Adopted.

EXHIBIT A
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

Attached

Presentation by Leu Fleury-OHM.

A slideshow presentation was given by Leu Fleury-OHM regarding the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Public Hearing-The Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project.

Mayor Thomas L. Reed opened the Public Hearing at 6:24 p.m. and asked for Public Comments.

Fares Azzam-resident, presented questions regarding the estimated \$74.00 per household per month increase along with questions as to how these estimates were calculated. Mr. Azzam commented that the project was a large sum of money.

Mayor Thomas L. Reed closed the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m

Resolution 2023-09 The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Planning Document FY 2024 for Water Improvements.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Collison and supported by Member Kubin:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing water main, valves, and lead service lines; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis partnered with the Michigan Municipal League Foundation to prepare a FY2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Planning Document, which recommends the following projects:

- Replace existing water main
- Replace non functioning valves
- Add new valves
- Purchase a valve turning machine
- Replace lead service lines

WHEREAS, said Project Planning Document was presented at a Public Meeting held on May 16, 2023, and public comments have been considered and addressed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of St. Louis formally adopts said FY2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Planning Document and agrees to implement the selected alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Services Director, a position currently held by Keith Risdon, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the

projects referenced above, including the submittal of said FY2024 Project Planning Document as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan to assist in the implementation of the selected alternatives.

Ayes: Collison, Kubin, Leonard, Reed

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted this 16th day of May, 2023.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 2, 2023. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Collison, supported by Kubin, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$329,354.86. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

Members discussed the April 2023 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to The Isabella Corporation for services on the Well 12 Project.
- b. Payment to Ward’s Excavating for the Existing Well Abandonment Project.
- c. Payment to AWE Acquisition Inc. for two early literacy computers for the library.
- d. Payment to Fishbeck for services on the Well 12 Project.
- e. Change Order #1 from Malley Construction-Orchard Hills Water Main Project.

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

New Business.

Proposal for Sanitary Sewer Line Investigations.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from Elite Pipeline Services for sanitary sewer line investigations in the amount of \$5,900.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to approve the proposal from Elite Pipeline Services for sanitary sewer line investigations in the amount of \$5,900. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote for 12 New Desktops.

Manager Giles requested members approve the quote from Rehmann for 12 new desktops in the amount of \$22,878.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Collison, to approve the quote from Rehmann for 12 new desktops in the amount of \$22,878. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote for Replacement and Installation of Emergency Warning Siren.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from West Shore Services for replacement and installation of a new emergency warning siren in the amount of \$25,460.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard to approve the quote from West Shore Services for replacement and installation of a new emergency warning siren in the amount of \$25,460. All ayes carried the motion.

Addition to Agenda-Resolution 2023-10 Blight Elimination Grant Fund.

Manager Giles requests members to adopt 2023-10 Blight Elimination Grant Fund.

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

WHEREAS, in order to continue efforts to reduce blight in residential and commercial areas in the City of St. Louis and to take advantage of funding opportunities that would further this goal and

WHERAS, the State Land Bank Blight Elimination Program is offering such potential funding at the current time,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of St. Louis Council approves application on the City's behalf to request funding from the State Land Bank Blight Elimination Program Round 2 and authorizes Economic Development Director Philip Hansen to submit this application.

Ayes: Kubin, Leonard, Collison, Reed

Nays: None

Resolution Declared Adopted

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reports that the plant site redevelopment is in active discussion. Representatives spoke with him and Phil Hansen, with plans for future discussions that will involve the council and the public.

Manager Giles reports that the budget process is continuing. Bobbie Marr-Treasurer is working through the expenditures. There are opportunities to initiate a health care savings plan with employees who have accrued sick time hours for payout. Along with this, there is an opportunity to provide employees with vision insurance benefits. Costs to the city and copies of the breakdown of the expenses will be forwarded on to the council at their request.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that Officer Herson has completed his field training and is now working on his own and officer Eisenberger is now working on his field training.

Council Comments.

Member Collison expressed concerns on the dust on the city's gravel roads, however he did note that the chloride was distributed today so the problem is resolved.

Public Comments.

Fares Azzam-Resident commented that the amount of brine put on the dirt road by his home was very minimal and sporadic.

Adjournment.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk