

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, June 6, 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, Elizabeth A. Upton

Council Members Absent: None

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

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Public Service Director, Brian Buysse-resident, Ralph Echtenaw-St. Louis Sentinel, Jistine Garcia-Families Against Narcotics, Fares Azzam-Resident, J. Larsen, Kathy Roslund-St. Louis Assessor, and four students.

Member Collison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 16, 2023. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,376,500.10. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the May 2023 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard to receive the May 2023 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

Jistine Garcia of Families Against Narcotics gave a presentation on their program called Hope Not Handcuffs.

Fares Azzam informed council of a downed line by Nikkari School.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Michigan AgriBusiness Solutions-Biosolid Land Application.
- b. Payment to Advanced Rehabilitation Technology Services-Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation.
- c. Payment to Fishbeck-Well 12.
- d. Payment to Malley Construction-Orchard Hills Water Main Extension.
- e. Payment to Spicer-Orchard Hills Water Main Disconnect.
- f. Review Assessing Annual Report-presentation by Kathy Roslund.
- g. Payment to Lazer-Lines-Parking Lot Striping.

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

New Business.

Renewal of Enterprise Asset Management Program (Cartegraph).

Manager Giles requested members approve the renewal of the Asset Management Program in the amount of \$59,019.90.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard to approve the renewal of the Asset Management Program in the amount of \$59,019.90. All ayes carried the motion.

Set Public Hearing for IFE Applications for June 20, 2023.

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the public hearing for the IFE Applications for June 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton, to approve setting the public hearing for the IFE Applications for June 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2023-11-Pine River Portage Project.

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

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis supports the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) submission of an application titled, “St. Louis Kayak Launch” to the Spark Grant Program for

the construction of a portage around the municipal dam on the Pine River for kayaks and canoes at the “Above Dam Portage Access” point located at 306 North Street and the “Below Dam Portage Access” point located behind the Municipal Pool at 400 N. Mill Street; and,

WHEREAS, the location of the proposed project is within the jurisdiction of the City of St. Louis; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project, if completed, will be a benefit to the community; and,

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that the City of St. Louis is not committing to any obligations; financial or otherwise.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that St. Louis hereby supports submission of a Spark Grant Application for the “St. Louis Kayak Launch”, by the DNR in the amount of \$285,000.

AYES: Upton, Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Reed
NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Proclamation-National Flag Day

The following Proclamation was read and proclaimed by Mayor Thomas L. Reed:

Proclamation
National Flag Day
June 14, 2023

WHEREAS: Patriotic values have long been recognized by fraternalists who have made significant gains promoting such values in our county; and

WHEREAS: The National Flag Day Foundation has developed a ceremony called Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance, which transcends age, race, religion, national origin, political and geographical differences by encouraging Americans across the nation to pause and recite the Pledge of Allegiance; and

WHEREAS: Fraternal benefit societies throughout the nation support the efforts to encourage national patriotism.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, the American Fraternal Alliance calls upon leaders of its 76 members societies and 32 state fraternal congresses to promote the celebration of National Flag Day in an effort to spread patriotic ideals and pride in our country to all fraternal benefit society members in every corner of this land of “liberty and justice for all.”

NOW, THERFORE, I Mayor Thomas L. Reed of Saint Louis, MI , do hereby proclaim June 14, 2023 as National Flag Day and call upon citizens to lend their support and show their appreciation for the contributions made by fraternal benefit societies and their members.

IN WITNESS WHEROF, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of City of St. Louis, to be

affixed this 6th day of June 2023.

Set Public Hearing for the 2022/2023 Budget Amendments.

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the public hearing for the 2022/2023 Budget Amendments for June 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton, to approve setting the public hearing for the 2022/2023 Budget Amendments for June 20, 2023 at 6 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Set Public Hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget Adoption.

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the public hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget Adoption for June 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to approve setting the public hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget Adoption for June 20, 2023 at 6 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2023-12-Airport Resolution Requesting Withdrawal.

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

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Community Airport Authority (the Airport Authority) was originally created on February 18, 2009 between Gratiot County, the City of Alma, City of St. Louis, City of Ithaca, Township of Pine River and Township of Arcada (the Parties), under the authority granted by the Community Airports Act, MCLA 259.621 *et. seq.* (the Act), and

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into an Amended Agreement to Establish the Gratiot Community Airport Authority on January 30, 2012 (the Agreement); and

WHEREAS, the Parties undertook an examination of ways to improve the efficiency, management, and funding of the Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Parties concluded that it is desirable to create a single county-based funding mechanism by reorganizing the Airport Authority membership under the control of Gratiot County; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish that objective, it is necessary that all current members of the Airport Authority, except Gratiot County, withdraw from the Airport Authority, leaving Gratiot County as the sole member; and

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Community Airport Authority shall remain the Sponsor of the

Gratiot Community Airport, as that term is defined by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics; and

WHEREAS, under both the Agreement and the Act, a member community may request withdrawal and release from the Authority by resolution duly adopted, which, when approved by 2/3 vote of the Authority, releases that member from all further obligations under the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis requests to withdraw from the Authority and seeks a release of any further direct financial obligation associated with membership in the Authority, contingent upon (1) the release of all other Parties, other than Gratiot County, (2) approval by 2/3 vote of the Authority, (3) approval of Gratiot County to become the sole member of the Authority, (4) execution of a lease of all Airport real estate to the Airport Authority, together with any required assignments of leases, property, equipment, monies and accounts of the Airport to the Airport Authority, and (5) final approval of the reorganization by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of St. Louis requests approval of the Authority to withdraw as a member of the Gratiot Community Airport Authority and requests release of any further direct financial obligation associated with membership in the Authority, effective immediately upon the last of the following to occur: (1) the release of all other Parties, other than Gratiot County, (2) approval by 2/3 vote of the Authority, (3) approval of Gratiot County to become the sole member of the Authority, (4) execution of a lease of all Airport real estate to the Airport Authority, together with any required assignments of leases, property, equipment, monies and accounts of the Airport to the Airport Authority, and (5) final approval of the reorganization by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics.

AYES: Collison, Upton, Kubin, Leonard, Reed

NAYS: NONE

Addition to Agenda-Budget Workshop Meeting.

Manager Giles asked members if they would like a budget workshop meeting prior to the approval of the 2023/2024 budget.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison, supported by Upton to set the special meeting for a budget workshop for the 2023/2024 budget for Thursday June 15, 2023 at 9 a.m. All Ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported the progress on Well 12, with electrical to be installed 06/08/2023.

Manager Giles reported Orchard Hills Project making progress with more homeowners signing on.

Manager Giles reported that the construction on the salt storage shed has begun and the walls are to be poured this week.

Manager Giles reported that Flag Day is June 14, 2023, with a presentation on the back deck of City Hall at 7 p.m.

Manager Giles reported that the warning siren was tested and is now working.

Manager Giles reported that the Middle of the Mitten Golf Outing is on for 06/08/2023.

Manager Giles reported that there were several school field trips to the pool this week and currently all Saturdays are full with free swims until August 12th.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard reports that there were higher turnouts for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Member Collison reported of a trip spot in the Memorial Garden area at the cemetery. Giles reports that it is currently blocked off with repairs to be done in the future.

Member Collison reported that the geese seem to be back and questioned how the deterrent device works.

Mayor Reed reported being stopped by a gentleman asking about ordinances in the city regarding fireworks being set off. Chief Ramereiz informed him of state laws in place for the day before and after the holiday.

Public Comments.

Brian Buysee from 215 West Center, Apt 2 states he is very annoyed by all of the highly modified motorcycles that have excessive noise coming through town. He states that ordinance 62-7 should be upheld and riders should at least be given warnings instead of the police just ignoring the issue. He states either the city should follow the ordinance or remove it from the books.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk