

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan

August 15, 2023

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, August 15, 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:

Phil Hansen-D.D.A Director, Bobbie Marr-Treasurer, Aeric Ripley-Alma City Manager, Calvin Martyn-D.P.W. Director, Bill Coty-Fire Chief, Richard Prestage, Trevor Allen, Matt VanHall, John Rugenstein, Greg Kolhoff, Patrick Herson, Mark Williams-Alma Director of Public Safety, Kendra Overla-Alma Police Chief, Ralph Echtenaw-St. Louis Sentinel, Bill Meiners-Gratiot County Herald, Deputy Harless, Fares Azzam- resident, Cindy Kolhoff-resident, Balin Kolhoff-resident, Karen Medrano, Frank Medrano, Misty Herson, Duane Feiss-resident, Ava Frost.

Member Collison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Ramereiz gave a presentation and awards of valor to St. Louis Police Officers Greg Kolhoff and Patrick Herson, along introducing Gratiot County Sheriff's Deputy Harless.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 1, 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 \$1,232,923.91. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

Members discussed the July 2023 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

Fares Azzam-resident; informed the council of his family being stopped by the St. Louis Police Department for driving a golf cart in downtown St. Louis. Mr. Azzam stated that he was told this was legal to do by a resident of the City of Alma. Chief Ramereiz informed Mr. Azzam that the best practice would be to check with local law enforcement on ordinances, for they vary in each community. Chief further explained to Mr. Azzam. Chief further explained to Mr. Azzam that the city's ordinance prohibits the operation of golf carts in the downtown area for safety reasons.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Reed requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items "a" through "j" as shown below:

- a. Payment to The Isabella Corporation for Well 12 Project.
- b. Payment to GEI for Safety Engineering Services for Reclassification of the dam.
- c. Payment to Malley Construction for Orchard Hills Water Main Extension.
- d. Payment to Spicer for Orchard Hills Well Water Disconnect/Water Main Extension.
- e. Payment to Veolia to re-build the grit chamber at the WWTP.
- f. Payment to Midland Fence Company for the construction of the salt shed.
- g. Payment to Jett Pump & Valve for repairs to pump #3 at the Union Street Pump Station.
- h. Payment to Spicer for as-needed GIS updates and training.
- i. Payment to Columbia Equipment for Dirt Screen Unit.
- j. Change order #4 from The Isabella Corporation for Well #12 Project.

Moved by Upton, supported by Kubin to approve Consent Agenda items "a" through "j." All ayes carried the motion.

New Business.

Grant Agreement with State Land Bank.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the grant agreement with the State Land Bank to receive funding in the amount of \$108,040 to acquire distressed properties and demolish structures.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton to approve the grant agreement with the State Land Bank to receive funding in the amount of \$108,040 to acquire distressed properties and demolish structures. All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of Tasers.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of tasers from Axon Enterprises with payments over 60 months, in the amount of \$8,836.68.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to approve the purchase of tasers from Axon Enterprises with payments over 60 months, in the amount of \$8,836.68. All ayes carried the motion.

Calhoun County Solar Project MPPA Amendment Approval.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Calhoun County Solar Project MPPA Amendment for a period of 20 years.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to approve the Calhoun County Solar Project MPPA Amendment for a period of 20 years. All ayes carried the motion.

St. Louis/Alma Police Department Consolidation Information.

Manager Giles informed members of ongoing discussions regarding the consolidation of the Alma and St. Louis Police Departments. Giles informed council of the potential benefits of the consolidation and asked council members for their feedback on the matter.

Discussion was held and members were all in agreeance to continuing further discussions on the possible future consolidation.

Addition to Agenda-Temporary Street Closure.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the temporary closure of the 100, 200, 300 blocks of North Mill Street on Thursday, August 24, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 5:00 PM for the Old US-27 Auto Tour.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Collison, members to approve the temporary closure of the 100, 200, and 300 blocks of North Mill Street on Thursday, August 24, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 5:00 PM for the Old US-27 Auto Tour. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Nothing to report.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that he is very appreciative of officers we have in the community especially with the most recent incident and he also wanted to give thanks to the Alma officers.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard reported that the land bank agreement will be a great thing for cleanup of the city and future projects.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk