

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
January 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Fares E. Azzam, William R. Leonard, Elizabeth A. Upton.

Council Members Absent: Kevin D. Palmer

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

Others in Attendance: Levi Simbit-resident and Ken Berthiaume-Berthiaume & Company.

Member Azzam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audit Presentation-Ken Berthiaume.

Ken Berthiaume reported on fiscal year end June 30, 2023 audit findings with the council.

Ken reviewed several points in the audit documents with the Council, commenting on the great job done by Bobbie Marr and the accounting staff. Ken thanked members for his work as City Auditor.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 8, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$643,927.74. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

Members discussed the December 2023 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Fisher Construction Aggregates for DPW Concrete and Asphalt Crushing.
- b. Payment to OHM for DWSRF Phase 1 Engineering.

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

New Business.

Manager Giles requested members of the council to defer items A-G until the February 6, 2024 meeting, so the Assessor could update and make some necessary changes to the 2024 Assessing documents.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to postpone items A-G until the February 6, 2024 meeting, so the Assessor could update and make some necessary changes to the 2024 Assessing documents. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2024-5-Banking Policy.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Azzam and supported by Member Upton.

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Louis maintains a number of bank accounts with a number of financial institutions, and

WHEREAS, this Council believes it best practice for the City to have multiple persons authorized to sign banking transactions; however, each transaction would require two signatures to authorize and validate opening, closing, withdrawal, draft, check or wire of or from a demand account of any financial institution with which the City does business under Employer #38-6004592, except the Saint Louis Housing Commission, and

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the City of St. Louis by filing with the foregoing banking institutions a copy of this resolution the City of Saint Louis hereby institutes the above best practice and authorizes signatures of any two of the following persons occupying the following offices are authorized to transact business on its bank demand accounts:

Mayor
Mayor Pro-Tem
Finance Director/Treasurer

City Clerk
City Manager

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the persons currently holding said offices are:

Ralph R. Echtenaw, Mayor

Kurt R. Giles, City Manager

Bobbie J. Marr, Finance Director/Treasurer

William R. Leonard, Mayor Pro Tem

Jamie Long, City Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager be authorized to access any and all information regarding any account held under Employer #38-6004592.

Ayes: Azzam, Upton, Leonard, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Absent: Palmer

Resolution declared adopted this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Building Demolition Phase of Land Bank Grant.

Manager Giles requested members to authorize spending up to \$68,000 for services from Triterra in the demolition phase of the Land Bank Grant.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to authorize spending up to \$68,000 for services from Triterra in the demolition phase of the Land Bank Grant. All ayes carried the motion.

DWSRF Water Improvement Project-Rowe Professional Services Company.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the DWSRF Water Improvement cost proposal for Design and Document modification in the amount of \$38,000, and nullify a previously approved proposal in the amount of \$109,900, from Rowe Professional Services Company.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the DWSRF Water Improvement cost proposal for Design and Document modification in the amount \$38,000, and nullify a previously approved proposal in the amount of \$109,900 from Rowe Professional Services Company. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles commented on the great job DPW, along with the help from other departments did with the snow removal.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard reported that Invenergy has donated \$4,000 for the July Celebration. Leonard gave credit to Member Upton for her work in getting Miranda and the M-80's two years ago.

Member Azzam thanked Member Leonard for his collection of the donation.

Member Azzam suggested also having a local band play for the celebration.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk