

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
March 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday March 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Fares E. Azzam, Mayor Pro Tem William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer, Elizabeth A. Upton.

Council Members Absent: None

City Manager: Kurt Giles  
City Clerk: Jamie Long  
Police Officer: Sergeant Forshee

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Max Clever-Spicer Group, Karen Aumagher-resident, Dora Boody-resident, and Brayden Bloom-student.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for March 5, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Upton, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 20, 2024 and the minutes of the Executive Session of February 20, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$354,967.19. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Board Minutes.**

City Council discussed the February 2024 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton to receive the February 2024 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audience Recognition.**

Karen Aumaugher, a resident of the city, informed the council of a neighbor burning trash in a firepit that they wrongfully built with patio blocks that belonged to her. Aumaugher stated the pit is very close to her home and is a fire hazard. She had had a conversation with the neighbor and they did say they would take care of the pit, but have failed to do so. Aumaugher made a complaint with the police department and has left several messages with the department and has heard nothing in return and it has been over two weeks. After she made the police report, she contacted Dori Foster, the city's Code Enforcer, but because she had already filed a police report, it was out of her hands and could not help with the matter. Sergeant Forshee asked that she stop into the department on Wednesday, and she would get her a copy of the police report that has been filed.

Dora Boody, a resident of the city, informed council of her disappointment in the lack of response from the police department.

Boody also informed council that she is upset that the city no longer shovels and maintains the sidewalks in her neighborhood, and she can no longer do it herself.

Max Clever of the Spicer Group updated council on the progress of the DWAM Project. Clever stated there were forty-two potential galvanized lines.

### **Consent Agenda.**

Mayor Echinaw requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items "a." through "c" as shown below:

- a. Payment to Tri Terra for asbestos abatement-building demolition-closeout document for 410 S. East Street, 216 S. East Street, 403 S. Clinton Street, and 413 S. Mill Street.
- b. Payment to Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce for the St. Louis Farmers Market Manager Contribution/DDA.
- c. Payment to Michigan Municipal Electric Association for 2024 Annual Membership Dues.

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

### **Quote for Wastewater Treatment Plant Grit Unit Rebuild.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for the Wastewater Treatment Plant grit unit rebuild from T.H. Eifert with an amount not to exceed \$54,620.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote for the Wastewater Treatment Plant grit unit rebuild from T.H. Eifert with an amount not to exceed \$54,620. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audit Engagement from Berthiaume & Company.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the audit services proposal for years 2024, 2025, and 2026 from Berthiaume & Company.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the audit services proposal for years 2024, 2025, and 2026 from Berthiaume & Company. All Ayes carried the motion.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles informed the council that the Planning Commission Meeting is Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and will be hosting the company that is preparing the Master Plan.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Report.**

Sergeant Forshee informed the council that the new hire Eljah Shier started field training with Matt Vanhall, which typically takes twelve to fourteen weeks.

Forshee also informed the council that the new recruit, Marina Valoshina, is doing well in the Police Academy and is expected to graduate as scheduled, at which time she will begin her field training with the St. Louis Police Department.

### **Council Comments.**

Member Palmer thanked the members of the council for providing feedback on issues.

Member Azzam discussed Coffee with the Mayor/Council Members and a date was decided upon as April 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at River Rock and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, before the council meetings at 5:30 p.m.

Member Leonard requested an update on the Velsicol Plant and would be interested in a visit to the Burn Pit site.

Mayor Echinaw stated there is a manhole cover that is getting low on M46 and Hubbard Street and would like it to be looked at.

Mayor Echinaw thanked the Electric Department for their speedy restoration with the recent power outage.

### **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