

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
May 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday May 21, 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  
Clerk: Jamie Long  
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Joe Vozar-Gratiot County Jail Administrator, Kathy Roslund-Assessor, Hannah Post, Kevin MacDermaid-Legacy Assessing Services, Lou Fleury-OHM, Brian Buysee-resident and six students.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for May 21, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Goal Setting Meeting held on April 16, 2024 and the Regular Meeting held on May 7, 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 \$669,134.85. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the April 2024 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Upton, supported by Palmer, to receive the April 2024 Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audience Recognition.**

Lou Fleury from OHM gave an update on the DWSRF Project. The bid opening will be June 26, 2024 at 2 p.m. and a recommendation will be made at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **Consent Agenda.**

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

- a. Payment to Rowe for Professional Services for the DWSRF Project.
- b. Payment to OHM for DWSRF Phase 1 Engineering services for March and April 2024.
- c. Payment to Ward’s Excavating for Sanitary Sewer Repairs on Pine Street for 2024 Spring Street Project.
- d. Payment to Ross Education Holdings, LLC for CDL-A Program for Jon Rugenstein.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to approve Consent Agenda item “a” through “d.”  
All ayes carried the motion.

### **DWSRF Water Main Replacement Project Proposal.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal for the construction engineering services for the water main and road for the DWSRF Water Main Replacement Project from ROWE in the amount of \$147,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the proposal for the construction engineering services for the water main and road for the DWSRF Water Main Replacement Project from ROWE in the amount of \$147,000. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Consultant Construction Engineering Phase Services Agreement for the DWSRF Project.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Construction Engineering Phase Services for the DWSRF Project from OHM in the amount of \$2,650,000 which is part of a \$20 million ARPA grant and loan to finance the water main replacements.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the Construction Engineering Phase Services for the DWSRF Project from OHM in the amount of \$2,650,000 which is part of a \$20 million ARPA grant and loan to finance the water main replacements. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Set Public Hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget Amendments.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the Public Hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget

Amendments for June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve setting the Public Hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget Amendments for June 18, 2024 at 6 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

**Set Public Hearing for the 2024/2025 Budget Adoption.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the Public Hearing for the 2024/2025 Budget Adoption for June 4, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve setting the Public Hearing for the 2024/2025 Budget Adoption for June 4, 2024 at 6 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

**Set Public Hearing for the Public Safety Special Assessment Renewal.**

Manager Giles requested members to set the Public Hearing for the Public Safety Special Assessment Renewal for June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer to set the Public Hearing for the Public Safety Special Assessment Renewal for June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

**Quote for Pavement Repairs.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for pavement repairs due to sewer and water main breaks and repaving asphalt turnout at the end of Lions Park from Rite-Way Asphalt in the amount of \$12,063.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the quote for pavement repairs due to sewer and water main breaks and repaving asphalt turnout at the end of Lions Park from Rite-Way Asphalt in the amount of \$12,063. All ayes carried the motion.

**Set Public Hearing to Establish Even Year City Elections.**

Manager Giles requested members to set the Public Hearing to establish even year City elections for June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to set the Public Hearing to establish even year City

elections and to extend each Council Member term by one year for June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Complete Reappraisal Discussion.**

Assessor Kathy Roslund gave a power point presentation on the complete reappraisal. Roslund answered questions and expressed her opinion on the importance of doing the reappraisal.

Kevin MacDermaid from Legacy Assessing Services gave a detailed report of the procedures and processes involved and answered several questions from the council.

Mayor Pro Tem, Bill Leonard informed the council that he does not intend to approve a reappraisal.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reported changes in material management (solid waste management) and possible plans to create a recycling plant in Isabella County. The local communities may experience some changes in the future due to these changes.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Chief Report.**

Chief Ramereiz asked the council to save the date for Jon Rugenstein's retirement from the Police Department. The event will be on June 10, 2024 from 3-5 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall.

### **Council Comments.**

Mayor Echtenaw reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tour of City Hall went great and Chief Ramereiz did a great job.

Member Palmer reported that he had a resident reach out to him and let him know that the services the city provides have been great.

Member Azzam reported that the sound system in the chambers is not good and it is difficult to hear even when the volume on the microphone is turned up.

Member Azzam reported that the cemetery looks great and the grounds maintenance was fabulous. Azzam said the crews were doing a great job.

### **Public Comments.**

Brian Buysee, resident of St. Louis, expressed his concern again on the noise from loud motorcycles, especially with the holiday weekend coming up. Buysee would like the city and police force to enforce the noise ordinance.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Leonard supported by Upton, to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk