

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
April 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday April 2, 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 Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Alisha and William Vickers-residents, Angela Firman-resident, Ellen Brown-resident, Sarah Moore-resident, Kristina Casteel-resident, Landon Pestrue-student, Brianna Griffin-student, Bethany Bowerman-student, Joe Vozar-Gratiot County Jail Administrator, Brad Wisser-resident, Lorin Oakley-resident, Blake Firman-student, Eric Kelley- resident, and Candace Gilstrap-resident.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for April 2, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Upton, supported by Palmer, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$511,738.88. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the March 2024 Monthly Board Minutes.

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

Audience Recognition.

Several residents of Evergreen Park reported various issues that are happening within the park. These civil matters included complaints of a failing water system, many dead or dying trees causing damage to property throughout the park, failure to plow the streets in a timely manner, threats of eviction, aggressive behavior from the park maintenance man and lack of general maintenance and upkeep throughout the park.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to USA Trailer Sales for purchase of a dump trailer.
- b. Payment to Rowe for layout and construction oversight services for the DWSRF Project.

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

Ratify Tentative Agreement with St. Louis Police Officers Association.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the tentative agreement with the police officers bargaining agreement and extend the agreement by two years.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Azzam, to approve the tentative agreement with the police officers bargaining agreement and extend the agreement by two years. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reminded the council of the Planning Commission meeting that will be held on April 10th at 5:30. This meeting will include a master plan work session.

Manager Giles reported that the Board of Review compensation increase is being considered. The city has obtained information from other communities on current compensation. The current resolution for the compensation was from 1993, so a new resolution will have to occur for the increase.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Azzam stated that he did not see a police presence at the East Scavenger Hunt on Saturday. Chief Ramereiz stated an officer was on duty, however with the shortage of staff, one could not be specifically assigned to the event.

Public Comments.

Bethany Bowerman, a St. Louis High School student asked the council if there was anything the city could do as far as compensating the residents of Evergreen Park.

Candace Gilstrap, a resident asked for information on volunteering and becoming involved in the community.

Adjournment.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk