

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
October 15, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday October 15, 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, Elizabeth A. Upton.

Council Members Absent: Kevin D. Palmer joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Philip Hansen-DDA Director, Lou Fleury-OHM, Robin Hart-resident, Tim Odykirk candidate for State Representative and Michael McGeehan-Verdantas.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the agenda for October 15, 2024, with the addition of item 11E-Resolution 2024-22. All ayes carried the motion.

Electric Distribution Study Presentation.

A presentation was given by Michael McGeehan regarding the Electric Distribution Study and Five-Year Plan.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Upton supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 1, 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 \$498,901.00. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the September 2024 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

Tim Odykirk, a candidate for State Representative, gave a brief introduction and touched on his stance on several issues of importance to him,

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to T.H. Eifert for WWTP Grit Rebuild Unit.
- b. Payment to Digital Ally for Police Body Cameras.
- c. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Phase Services for the DWSRF Project.
- d. Payment to Milan Supply for the Pine River Pumpstation to be Reimbursed by Pine River Township.

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

OHM Consultant Professional Services Agreement for the DWSRF Project II.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the OHM Consultant Professional Services Agreement for the DWSRF Project II in the amount of \$2,597,589.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Azzam, to approve the OHM Consultant Professional Services Agreement for the DWSRF Project II in the amount of \$2,597,589. All ayes carried the motion.

Power Purchase Commitment Authorization.

Manager Giles requested members Authorize the Power Purchase Commitment through MPPA in the amounts shown in exhibit A of the Authorization.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to authorize the Power Purchase Commitment through MPPA. All ayes carried the motion.

Memorial Statue Honoring PFC Specialist Richard H. Rosas.

Chief Ramereiz requested members to approve a memorial statue honoring Richard H. Rosas, a former resident of St. Louis, to be placed in the open area at the War Monument at the point of M-46, Michigan Avenue and Mill Street. Rob Lott will donate services to place the monument, with the City of St. Louis being responsible for regular maintenance and upkeep on the statue.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the donation of a memorial statue honoring Richard H. Rosas, to be placed in the open area at the War Monument at the point of M-46, Michigan Avenue and Mill Street. Donation of services to place the monument by Robb Lott, with the City of St. Louis being responsible for regular maintenance and upkeep on the statue. All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of 2024 F250 Pick-Up with Plow.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a 2024 F250 with plow from Krapohl Ford in the amount of \$40,496.72, after trade in of the existing truck.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the purchase of a 2024 F250 with plow from Krapohl Ford in the amount of \$40,496.72, after trade in of the existing truck. All ayes carried the motion.

Addition to Agenda-Resolution 2024-22-Gratiot County Parks Grant Application.

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 15th day of October 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ralph Echtenaw, Fares Azzam, Kevin D. Palmer, William R. Leonard, Elizabeth A. Upton

Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Azzam, and supported by Member Palmer:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has the authority to construct, operate and maintain the Lions Park Recreational Enhancement; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis is requesting a \$39,061 appropriation from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis desires to develop, design and construct Lions Park Recreational Enhancements to meet the needs of users in Gratiot County;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED by the City of St. Louis that, pursuant and subject to all of the terms and provisions of the Gratiot County Parks millage, application be made to the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners for funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kurt Giles, the City Manager of the City of St. Louis is hereby authorized and directed to cause the necessary data to be prepared and application be signed and filed with the County of Gratiot;

AYES: Azzam, Palmer, Leonard, Upton, Echtenaw

NAYS:

ABSENT:

MOTION APPROVED.

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Saint Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan, at a regular meeting held October 15, 2024.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the Land Bank deadlines are approaching to close the deal on the property at 137 North Mill. Giles reported that the contents of the building still have not been removed and these must be removed to continue to next steps. The process needs to move forward to meet the deadlines and avoid the loss of funding from the Land Bank. Giles explained the risks with going forward with design services and then the project falling through, along with costs that could be associated with the project. The general consensus from the council was to push forward with the next steps.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Palmer thanked DDA Director, Phil Hansen, for his years of service and dedication to the City of St. Louis and wished him luck with his retirement.

Mayor Echtenaw thanked Hansen for attending the meeting.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Upton, supported by Azzam, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk