

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
November 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, November 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  
Deputy Clerk: Bobbie Marr  
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Andy Campbell-Bendzinski & Company, Brittany Brower-Bendzinski & Company, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Josh Leppien-Downtown Development, and Elsie Burton-Community Development Coordinator.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

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

### **Presentation by Andy Campbell-Final Intended Use Plan for the DWSRF Phase II Funding/EGLE Milestone Schedule.**

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 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 \$763,347.55. All ayes carried the motion.

## **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the October 2024 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to receive the October 2024 Monthly Reports and place them 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 “e,” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Spicer for Main Street Bridge Design.
- b. Payment to Krapohl Ford for Purchase of 2024 F250 Pick-up with Plow for DPW.
- c. Payment to GRP Engineering for Engineering Services-System Model Update & Distribution System Study.
- d. Payment to B&C Janitorial for Rug Cleaning and Tile Stripping/Waxing at City Hall.
- e. Pine River Township Proposed Zoning Amendment.

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

## **New Business.**

### **Quote for Security Camera Updates.**

Chief Rameriez requested members to approve the quote for security camera updates from Safeware Inc. in the amount of \$191,844.55.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote for security camera updates from Safeware Inc. in the amount of \$191,844.55. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Member Upton was excused from the meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

### **DWSRF Schedule approval.**

It was pointed out that the presentation on the DRWSRF earlier in the meeting was originally a business item that included the need for council action to approve the schedule that was included.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the City Manager or Keith Risdon to sign the DWSRF schedule for Phase II as presented. All ayes carried the motion.

**Closed Session-Acquisition of Former Bank Building at 137 North Mill.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam to go to closed session for discussion of acquisition of Former Bank Building at 137 North Mill 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Palmer, Azzam, Leonard, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

**Return to Open Session:**

Council returned to open session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion by Azzam and supported by Leonard to authorize a contribution from the City of St. Louis toward the acquisition and demolition of the former bank building at 137 N. Mill Street of up to \$22,298 in the event project costs exceed the Grant amount of \$500,000.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Azzam, Leonard and Echtenaw

Nays: None

Absent: Upton

Abstained: Palmer

Motion Carries

Motion by Leonard and supported by Azzam to authorize and convey all approvals that may be required from the St. Louis City Council for proceeding with demolition of a structure within an historic district of the City of St. Louis.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer and Echtenaw

Nays: None

Absent: Upton

Motion Carries

**City Manager Report.**

None

**Clerk Report.**

None

**Police Chief Report.**

None.

**Council Comments.**

Member Azzam asked about the local train schedules.

Member Palmer asked if it was okay to wear a “vote for” shirt at the polling place. Noting someone had one on but he didn’t recall who the subject of the vote was.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Bobbie Marr, Deputy Clerk