

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
December 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday December 17, 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, Calvin Martyn-DPW Superintendent, Officer Tim Kirby, Timothy Kirby, and Michele Kirby.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the agenda for December 17, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Badge Pinning for Officer Timothy Kirby.**

Chief Rich Ramereiz gave a brief presentation to honor the St. Louis Police Department's newest graduate, Timothy Kirby. Officer Kirby was sworn in by Clerk Jamie Long and the pinning of the badge was done by Kirby's father, Timothy Kirby.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Leonard supported by Upton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 3, 2024. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam supported by Palmer to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$793,649.54. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the November 2024 Monthly Reports.

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

### **Audience Recognition.**

There were no comments.

### **Consent Agenda.**

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

- a. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Project II, Phase I.
- b. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Project I, Phase II.
- c. Payment to Safeware, Inc. for 25% down payment for the Upgraded Camera System.
- d. Payment to Spicer Group for Drinking Water Asset Management.
- e. Payment to Spicer for DWAM Grant Work Directive #3.

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

### **Appointment of Paul Erskine to the St. Louis Housing Commission.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the appointment of Paul Erskine to the St. Louis Housing Commission.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to approve the appointment of Paul Erskine to the St. Louis Housing Commission. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Proposal for Kayak Launch Engineering Services.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from Spicer Group for Engineering Services for a Kayak launch on city property on the west side of the Pine River in the amount of \$36,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the proposal from Spicer Group for Engineering Services for a Kayak launch on city property on the west side of the Pine River in the amount of \$36,000. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Quote for International Dump/Plow Truck.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for an International Dump/Plow Truck chassis from Wieland Sales in the amount of \$97,159.85 and outfitted by Shults Equipment in the amount of \$129,040 for a total of \$229,199.85.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton to approve the quote for an International Dump/Plow Truck chassis from Wieland Sales in the amount of \$97,159.85 and outfitted by Shults Equipment in the amount of \$129,040 for a total of \$229,199.85. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Proposal for Fiber Optic Communication System.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from Verdantas for fiber optic communication systems engineering services in the amount of \$57,500.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard to approve the proposal from Verdantas for fiber optic communication systems engineering services in the amount of \$57,500. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles Reported the plan to sell the vacant lots the city has acquired is very close to being completed. Giles is working with Jon Pavlik, who has suggested selling properties outright and not at auction. Pavlik has agreed to donate his services to the city. Giles will plan to bring more information to the council at a later date.

Manager Giles reported the SolAmerica 1.2 mega watt solar fund and loan forgiveness is on track. The U.S.D.A. did flag two items in the contract, the interest rate and the capacity factor. SolAmerica will make adjustments to resolve those issues. Giles will bring back this information to the council in January 2025.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **PoliceChief Report.**

Chief Ramereiz reported that the department is now back to full staff after the hiring of three new officers. Ramereiz stated that these officers may have a shorter training period because they have many years of experience.

### **Council Comments.**

Member Palmer asked about the drop in the numbers on the water report. Keith Risdon explained that it could be several factors from residents getting more efficient, construction from year to year and years with higher

rainfall. Risdon also explained that the discrepancies in the treated water numbers are partly because of a leaky system.

Mayor Echtenaw asked Clerk Long if she would reach out to Don Burch to see if he would be interested in a seat on the Board of Review.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to adjourn at 6:55p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk