

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
June 3, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday June 3, 2025, 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.

Council Members Absent: Elizabeth A. Upton

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

Others in Attendance: Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Josh Leppien-Economic Development Coordinator, Calvin Martyn-DPW Superintendent, Brian Shingline-resident, Mary Hungerford-resident, Rose Simmons-resident, Scott Sheets, and Melissa Weiss.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam to approve the agenda for June 3, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Public Hearing-Public Safety Special Assessment Renewal.**

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. and asked for public comments.

There were none.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw closed the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

### **Public Hearing-Budget Adoption.**

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m. and asked for public comments.

There were none.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw closed the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$245,015.88. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Board Minutes.**

City Council discussed the May 2025 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam to receive the May 2025 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audience Recognition.**

Melissa Weiss and Scott Sheets introduced themselves to the council and informed them that they were planning to be the in-house caterer for a possible new venue at 520 Olive. Weiss asked about ordinances and rules on alcohol at the potential venue. Chief Ramereiz stated that they needed to reach out to the State of Michigan's Liquor Control Department. Manager Giles informed them that this business idea really needs to be brought before the Planning Commission and took their contact information.

Rose Simmons, a resident, informed the council of incidents that have occurred in her neighborhood, with a neighbor. Chief Ramereiz informed Simmons that the incidents have been documented and are currently awaiting action from the Prosecutor's Office.

Mary Hungerford and Brian Shinelng, residents, both made complaints about the same incidents that Simmons discussed and again Ramereiz stated that these issues are awaiting action from the Prosecutor's Office.

### **Consent Agenda.**

There were no items for approval.

### **Resolution 2025-08-Public Safety Assessment.**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, held in the City on June 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

PRESENT: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Ferris E. Azzam, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer

ABSENT: Elizabeth A. Upton

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, pursuant to Act 33, Public Acts of Michigan, 1951, as amended, has created the St. Louis Fire and Police Special Assessment District (the “District”) to pay for certain costs and expenses of fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations (the “Assessed Costs”) and assess the costs thereof to the property specially benefitted by said fire and police protection in the District; and

WHEREAS, a special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of defraying the Assessed Costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed said special assessment roll, and, after due and legal notice, the City Council met on June 3, 2025 and heard objections to the distribution of the special assessment levy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems said special assessment roll and special assessment levy to be fair and equitable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The special assessment roll attached hereto as Exhibit A shall be designated “2025 St. Louis Fire and Police Special Assessment Roll” (the “Roll”).
2. The Roll, in the total sum of \$135,797.46 is hereby confirmed and approved.
3. The assessments made in the Roll are hereby ordered and directed to be collected and the City Treasurer is directed to distribute the special assessment levy on the taxable value of all of the lands and premises in the District.
4. The City Council shall annually determine the amount to be assessed in the District for fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations, shall direct the City

Treasurer to distribute the special assessment levy, and shall hold a hearing on the estimated costs and expenses of fire and police protection and on the distribution of the levy. The assessment may be made either in a special assessment roll or in a column provided in the regular tax roll. The special assessment shall be distributed and shall become due and be collected at the same time as other City taxes are assessed, levied, and collected, and shall be returned in the same manner for nonpayment. If the collections received from the special assessment levied are, at any time, insufficient to meet the obligations or expenses incurred for fire and police motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and operations, the City Council may, by resolution, authorize the transfer or loan of sufficient money from the general fund of the City, to the special assessment fund. This money shall be repaid to the general fund of the City out of special assessment funds when collected.

5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

AYES: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Elizabeth Upton

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**Resolution 2025-09-Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget.**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 3rd day of June 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Ferris E. Azzam, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer

Absent: Elizabeth A. Upton

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

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager has submitted and filed with the City Council a proposed budget estimating revenues and expenditures for 2025-2026 fiscal year, as required by Chapter VII, Section 7 of the City Charter and Act 2, Michigan Public Acts of 1968, as amended, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council in accordance with Act 621 Michigan Public Acts of 1978, as amended, has set the date June 3, 2025 for a public hearing at 6:00 o'clock PM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits, to receive citizen comment on the proposed budget as presented herein. A copy of the affidavit of publication of said public hearing is on file with the City Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Council, after such hearing thereon and consideration thereof, does hereby adopt said budget as represented herein and fixes the tax of fifteen (15) mills for general operating purposes (subject to Headlee rollbacks and adjusted to 13.0013 mills) , to be raised by a general ad valorem tax upon owners of real and personal property in the City, by the authority granted, and in accordance with the Michigan Constitution, the General Property Tax Act 206, Michigan Public Acts of 1893, as amended, and City Charter, Chapter VII, subject to limitations therein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer be authorized and directed to make such transfers between the various funds in accordance with the adoption of the budget as follows:

**GENERAL FUND**

<u>REVENUES</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Taxes	\$ 927,095	General Government	
Federal Grants	-	Legislative	\$ 38,560
State Grants	901,245	Executive	90,289
Charges for Services	685,405	Clerk	42,829
Interest & Rents	53,500	Board of Review	5,720
Licenses & Permits	32,645	Finance	96,698
Other Revenue	448,861	Assessing	95,120
Other Financing Sources	-	Elections	18,400
		Hall & Grounds	207,100
		Corporate Council	10,000
		Public Safety	
		Building & Code Enforcement	101,582
		Public Works	
		Cemetery	113,800
		Public Works	280,740
		Community & Economic Development	
		Planning	37,600
		Development	506,457
		Industrial Park	15,842
		Blight	-
		Community Promotion	73,192
		Recreation & Culture	
		Pool	108,819
		Parks Maintenance	123,538
		Capital Outlay	79,037
		Debt	84,453
		Other Financing Uses	1,376,209
		Contingency	75,000
From Fund Balance	532,234	To Fund Balance	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 3,580,985</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,580,985</u>

**CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Charges for Services	\$ 2,100	Other Financing Uses	\$ -
Interest & Rents	5,400		
Other Financing Sources	-	Other Financing Uses	-
From Fund Balance	-	To Fund Balance	7,500
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 7,500</u>

**MAJOR STREET FUND**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Federal Grants	\$ -	Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	\$ 233,664
State Grants	638,896	Capital Improvements	361,000
Interest & Rents	17,000		
Other Revenue	16,000		
Other Financing Sources	-	Other Financing Uses	157,291
From Fund Balance	80,059	To Fund Balance	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 751,955</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 751,955</u>

**LOCAL STREET FUND**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
State Grants	\$ 248,127	Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	\$ 233,969
Interest & Rents	16,200	Capital Improvements	514,500
Other Revenue	-		
Other Financing Sources	157,291	Other Financing Uses	-
From Fund Balance	326,851	To Fund Balance	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 748,469</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 748,469</u>

**PUBLIC SAFETY FUND**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Taxes	\$ 135,797	Police	\$ 1,358,936
State Grants	17,400	Fire	169,405
Interest & Rents	50		
Fines & Forfeitures	250	Capital Outlay	-
Other Revenue	-	Debt Service	1,365
Other Financing Sources	1,376,209	Other Financing Uses	-
From Fund Balance	-	To Fund Balance	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,529,706</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,529,706</u>

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Taxes	\$ 60,914	Community & Economic Development	\$ 47,679
Interest & Rents	8,958	Debt Service	-
Other Revenue	-	Other Financing Uses	-
From Fund Balance	-	To Fund Balance	22,193
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 69,872</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 69,872</u>

**T.A. CUTLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Taxes	\$ 248,000	Recreation & Culture	333,175
State Grants	10,934	Capital Outlay	45,000
Fines & Forfeitures	56,330		-
Interest & Rents	45,000		-
Other Revenue	17,911		-
Other Financing Sources	-	Other Financing Uses	-
From Fund Balance	-	To Fund Balance	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 378,175</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 378,175</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager be authorized to direct transfers between department levels of up to \$5,000 and to allocate available contingency to functions as needs arise.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Ayes: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echinaw

Nays: None

Absent: Upton

Resolution declared adopted.

**Proposal for Eaton Powerflex 400 VFD.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal by the Town and Country Group of Ithaca to provide a new Eaton Powerflex 400VFD and provide the labor and equipment necessary to remove, replace, and program the new VFD into our existing oxidation controls setup in the amount of \$7,320.66.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam to approve the proposal by the Town and Country Group of Ithaca to provide a new Eaton Powerflex 400VFD and provide the labor and equipment necessary to remove, replace, and program the new VFD into our existing oxidation controls setup in the amount of \$7,320.66. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Distribution of Compost Dirt and Wood Chips to the Public.**

Manager Giles requested members to authorize the distribution of the city's compost dirt and woodchips to the public at no charge. These materials would be placed at the city's snow lot located on Michigan Avenue and be a self-service, first come first serve.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to authorize the distribution of compost dirt and woodchips to the public at no charge. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Street Closure for Independence Day Festival Activities.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the street closures on North Franklin, West Saginaw, and North Mill on July 12, 2025, for activities related to the Independence Festival.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the street closures on North Franklin, West Saginaw, and North Mill on July 12, 2025, for activities related to the Independence Festival.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reported that leadership within the Healthy Pine River Group has reached out and invited Josh Leppien to join their board.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Council Comments.**

Mayor Echtenaw inquired about the status of the MCOLES review on the new officer, Dan Berden. Chief Ramereiz stated that MCOLES has begun their review, and he is just waiting for completion.

### **Public Comments.**

There were none.

### **Adjournment.**



Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam, to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk