

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
June 17, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday June 17, 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, Elizabeth A. Upton.

Kevin D. Palmer joined the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Jessica Little-Library Director, Josh Leppien- Economic Development Coordinator, Brian Buysse-resident, Jan Bunting, and Anita Eby-resident.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam, to approve the agenda for June 17, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Public Hearing-2024-2025 Budget Amendments.**

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.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 3, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$856,050.96. All ayes carried the motion.

## **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the May 2025 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to receive the May 2025 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 “g” as shown below:

- a. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- b. Payment to MCD Architects for Library Space Utilization Study & Master Plan.
- c. Payment to OHM for Design Phase Services for North Main Street.
- d. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Design Project.
- e. Payment to Rite-Way Asphalt for Cemetery Road Repairs.
- f. Payment to Rite-Way Asphalt for Lions Park Playground Parking Lot.
- g. Payment to Spicer Group for As Needed GIS Updates.

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

## **Resolution 2025-10-Amending 2024-2025 Budget.**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Upton, Echtenaw

Absent: None

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

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted a budget estimating revenues and expenditures for 2024-2025 fiscal year on June 4, 2024, as required by Chapter VII, Section 7 of the City Charter and Act 2, Michigan Public Acts of 1968, as amended, and

**WHEREAS**, during the fiscal year, certain unforeseen and/or subsequently planned circumstances have arisen which has caused need to amend the budget, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council in accordance with Act 621 Michigan Public Acts of 1978, as amended, has set the date of June 17, 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 amended 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 amended budget as represented herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer be authorized and directed to make such additional transfers between the various funds in accordance with the amendments to arrive at a final budget as follows:

<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>			
	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 884,611	(2,501)	\$ 882,110
Federal Grants	-	-	-
State Grants	761,884	126,803	888,687
Charges for Services	483,365	176,110	659,475
Interest & Rents	58,500	3,200	61,700
Licenses & Permits	34,650	(2,015)	32,635
Other Revenue	9,600	12,334	21,934
Other Financing Sources	-	6,550	6,550
From Fund Balance	649,342	(368,509)	280,833
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 2,881,952</u>	<u>\$ (48,028)</u>	<u>\$ 2,833,924</u>

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Government			
Legislative	\$ 31,750	(3,435)	\$ 28,315
Executive	65,139	1,004	66,143
Clerk	40,259	1,128	41,387
Board of Review	3,215	1,343	4,558
Finance	98,487	(1,106)	97,381
Assessing	108,145	(23,076)	85,069
Elections	37,940	(17,449)	20,491
Hall & Grounds	211,544	(41,771)	169,773
Corporate Council	10,000	-	10,000
Public Safety			
Building & Code Enforcement	118,020	(19,610)	98,410
Public Works			
Cemetery	133,248	(15,939)	117,309
Public Works	229,266	11,328	240,594
Community & Economic Development			
Planning	37,086	(34,872)	2,214
Development	107,297	(6,553)	100,744
Industrial Park	22,231	2,376	24,607
Blight	-	-	-
Community Promotion	28,951	3,150	32,101
Recreation & Culture			
Pool	89,106	2,159	91,265
Parks Maintenance	89,291	26,214	115,505
Capital Outlay	62,000	146,758	208,758
Debt	84,341	-	84,341
Other Financing Uses	1,199,636	(79,677)	1,119,959
Contingency	75,000	-	75,000
To Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 2,881,952</u>	<u>\$ (48,028)</u>	<u>\$ 2,833,924</u>

### **CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Charges for Services	\$ 2,500	(1,200)	\$ 1,300
Interest & Rents	5,400	2,800	8,200
Other Financing Sources	-	-	
From Fund Balance	-	-	
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 7,900</u>	<u>\$ 1,600</u>	<u>\$ 9,500</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Other Financing Uses	\$ -	-	\$ -
To Fund Balance	7,900	1,600	9,500
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 7,900</u>	<u>\$ 1,600</u>	<u>\$ 9,500</u>

### **MAJOR STREET FUND**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Federal Grants	\$ -	-	\$ -
State Grants	629,990	-	629,990
Interest & Rents	12,000	21,826	33,826
Other Revenue	16,405	(8,052)	8,353
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-
From Fund Balance	122,890	(122,890)	
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 781,285</u>	<u>\$ (109,116)</u>	<u>\$ 672,169</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	\$ 256,220	(68,392)	\$ 187,828
Capital Improvements	370,000	(225,000)	145,000
Other Financing Uses	155,065	-	155,065
To Fund Balance	-	184,276	184,276
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 781,285</u>	<u>\$ (109,116)</u>	<u>\$ 672,169</u>

**LOCAL STREET FUND**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
State Grants	\$ 244,899	(1,000)	\$ 243,899
Interest & Rents	9,800	22,511	32,311
Other Revenue	-	1,100	1,100
Other Financing Sources	155,065	-	155,065
From Fund Balance	151,040	(151,040)	
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 560,804</u>	<u>\$ (128,429)</u>	<u>\$ 432,375</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	\$ 220,804	(29,697)	\$ 191,107
Capital Improvements	340,000	(185,000)	155,000
Other Financing Uses	-	-	
To Fund Balance	-	86,268	86,268
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 560,804</u>	<u>\$ (128,429)</u>	<u>\$ 432,375</u>

### **PUBLIC SAFETY FUND**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 129,491	(1,310)	\$ 128,181
State Grants	18,860	6,892	25,752
Charges for Services	-	150	150
Interest & Rents	55	430	485
Licenses & Permits	-	100	100
Fines & Forfeitures	645	962	1,607
Other Revenue	3,100	22,734	25,834
Other Financing Sources	1,199,636	(79,677)	1,119,959
From Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,351,787</u>	<u>\$ (49,719)</u>	<u>\$ 1,302,068</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Police	\$ 1,177,993	(22,501)	\$ 1,155,492
Fire	147,566	(2,225)	145,341
Capital Outlay	25,000	(25,000)	-
Debt Service	1,228	7	1,235
Other Financing Uses	-	-	-
To Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,351,787</u>	<u>\$ (49,719)</u>	<u>\$ 1,302,068</u>

### **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 53,141	1,464	\$ 54,605
Interest & Rents	10,260	600	10,860
Other Revenue	-	-	-
From Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 63,401</u>	<u>\$ 2,064</u>	<u>\$ 65,465</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Community & Economic Development	\$ 36,016	-	\$ 36,016
Debt Service	-	-	-
Other Financing Uses	-	-	-
To Fund Balance	27,385	2,064	29,449
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 63,401</u>	<u>\$ 2,064</u>	<u>\$ 65,465</u>

**T.A. CUTLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 210,000	35,786	\$ 245,786
State Grants	10,450	482	10,932
Fines & Forfeitures	55,299	4,162	59,461
Interest & Rents	43,200	800	44,000
Other Revenue	17,350	7,468	24,818
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-
From Fund Balance	75,145	(75,145)	
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 411,444</u>	<u>\$ (26,447)</u>	<u>\$ 384,997</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Recreation & Culture	288,244	(22,844)	\$ 265,400
Capital Outlay	80,000	(32,060)	47,940
Contingency	43,200	(43,200)	-
Other Financing Uses	-	-	
To Fund Balance	-	-	
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 411,444</u>	<u>\$ (98,104)</u>	<u>\$ 313,340</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer amounts between activities or functions within a fund's budget a sum not to exceed \$ 20,000 to allow for any needed year-end adjustments from the estimates, and/or to allocate contingency as available.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

AYE: Palmer, Upton, Azzam, Leonard, Echtenaw

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted this 17th day of June, 2025.

**Purchase of Electric Meters.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of 16 electric meters from ETNA Supply in the amount of \$9,120.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase of 16 electric meters from ETNA Supply in the amount of \$9,120. All ayes carried the motion.



### **Appointment of Josh Leppien to the Healthy Pine River Board of Directors.**

Manager Giles requested members to appoint Josh Leppien to the Healthy Pine River Board as a representative of the City of St. Louis.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam, to appoint Josh Leppien to the Healthy Pine River Group as a representative of the City of St. Louis. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Patrol Car Purchase.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase and outfit of a new patrol vehicle and 47-201 into the detective car and update outdated equipment in the current patrol cars in the amount of \$74,617.57.

Discussion was held.

Move by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase and outfit of a new patrol vehicle and 47-201 into the detective car and update outdated equipment in the current patrol cars in the amount of \$74,617.57. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Resolution 2025-11-Solid Waste Rates.**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Ralph R. Echtnaw, Ferris Azzam, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer,  
Elizabeth A. Upton.

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was moved by Palmer, supported by Upton:

#### **Solid Waste Rate Schedule**

These monthly rates shall be effective as of July 1, 2025 and thereafter:

Solid Waste Collection \$17.00, Hazardous Waste Collection \$0.52 and Yard Waste Collection \$16.03.

Be it further resolved, the owners or occupants of all residential dwellings within the City of St. Louis are required to subscribe to all components of Solid Waste Service on a continual basis.

AYES: Palmer, Upton, Azzam, Leonard, Echtnaw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

## **Resolution 2025-12-Water and Wastewater Rates.**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on June 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

### **Water Rate Schedule**

These rates shall be effective for all bills due and payable October 1, 2025, and thereafter:

(a)	Gallons per month	Charge per 1,000 Gallons
	Commodity Charge	\$5.65

A separate meter may be installed, at the customers' expense, to measure water used FOR cooling purposes. If water is used for cooling purposes, and the water is not discharged to a sanitary sewer, wastewater charges are not applicable.

- (b) To the above commodity charge established in subsection (a), there shall be added a readiness to service (RTS) charge to cover fixed costs, based on meter size as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly RTS Charge
5/8 inch	\$29.31
3/4 inch	\$29.31
1 inch	\$56.13
1 ¼ inch	\$79.61
1 ½ inch	\$94.65
2 inch	\$140.56
3 inch	\$237.02
4 inch	\$378.29
6 inch	\$705.75
8 inch	\$1090.67

Monthly Water Flat Fee: \$62.06

Outside City Water (2x): \$124.12

(c) For non-metered flat rate customers, within the City, the charge shall be a minimum of \$62.06, which shall include the monthly service charge.

(d) For flat rate customers, outside the City, the charge shall be a minimum of \$124.12 per month, which shall include the monthly service charge or base rates.

(e) For customers outside the corporate limits, the charges shall be double the city commodity rate and service charge based on meter size when no other rate agreement exists between the City and the Township.

(f) All other charges in effect shall remain the same.

#### Sewer Rate Schedule

(a) The monthly sewer bill shall be based on the water usage at the following rates:

Commodity Charge \$6.78/1,000 gallons

Monthly RTS Charge Based on Water Meter Size:

5/8 inch	\$37.79
3/4 inch	\$37.79
1 inch	\$61.41
1 ¼ inch	\$78.34
1 ½ inch	\$88.55
2 inch	\$120.66
3 inch	\$175.10
4 inch	\$259.36
6 inch	\$420.35
8 inch	\$597.93

Non-metered customers	\$76.09
Non-metered, non-City residents, when no rate agreement exists between the City and Township	\$152.19

(b) All other charges in effect shall remain the same.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Ayes: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Upton, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 17th day of June 2025.

#### **Appointment of Anita Eby to the Library Board.**

Manager Giles requested members to appoint Anita Eby to fill the vacancy on the Library Board.

Discussion was held. Eby introduced herself to the council.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Upton, to appoint Anita Eby to fill the vacancy on the Library Board. All ayes carried the motion.

#### **Quote for Kyocera Color Copier and Printer for the Library.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for a Kyocera color copier and printer for the library from Visual Edge in the amount of \$8,610.03.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote for a Kyocera color copier and printer for the library from Visual Edge in the amount of \$8,610.03. All ayes carried the motion.

#### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reported that the DDA and Theresa Jewell plan to paint the crosswalk between the Frosty Cone and the W.T. Morris Pool for the summer season on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The design will include sunglasses, sandals, and ice cream cones. The DDA will cover the cost of the materials and Jewell will donate her time to the project.

Manager Giles reported that on June 12<sup>th</sup> there was a condemnation hearing for 117 South East Street. The owners were given 30 days to obtain a work permit and must complete the work on the property withing 100 days.

**City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

**Police Chief Report.**

Chief Ramereiz reported that he will be out of the office next week for conferences.

**Council Comments.**

Member Leonard asked when the police department would transition to the new service weapons. Chief Ramereiz informed council that the training had been completed and they had been using the new guns for around 30 days.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

Moved by Leonard supported by Azzam, to adjourn 6:29 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk