

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
July 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday July 1, 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 (Excused)

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

Others in Attendance: Brian Buysse-resident, Rose Simmons-resident, Jennifer Totzkay-resident, Erica Gonzalez-resident, Rodney Gonzalez-resident, April Harrier, Eric Harrier, Max Clever, and Josh Leppien-Economic Development Coordinator.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for July 1, 2025, with the addition of 11G-purchase of two new Milwaukee Combination Cutter/Crimper Tools. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 17, 2025. 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 \$1,265,855.02. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Board Minutes.**

City Council discussed the June 2025 Monthly Board Minutes.

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

### **Audience Recognition.**

Erica Gonzales, a resident, discussed issues with the neighbors living directly next door. Gonzales stated she has received threats from her neighbors, and she fears for her life. Gonzales read from the most recent police report and questioned what she could do to protect her family.

Chief Ramereiz informed Gonzales that her best option is to take that police report to the county clerk and try to file for a personal protective order.

Bryan Buysse, a resident, questioned the laptop purchase for the police department.

Chief Ramereiz explained that these laptops will be used for training, presentations, classes and meetings. These laptops need to be a durable product, as they will be traveling with officers to different places.

### **Consent Agenda.**

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

- a. Payment to Biotech Agronomics, Inc. for Biosolid Liquid Land Application at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- b. Payment to Dean Boiler, Inc. for service work and testing on the Walker Sludge Heat Exchanger.
- c. Payment to EJ USA, Inc. for manhole covers and hinged manhole assembly for the 2025 Spring Paving Project.
- d. Payment to Malley Construction, Inc. for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- e. Payment to Safeware, Inc. for 75% completion of the upgraded camera system.
- f. Payment to Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. for the Underground Pipeline Crossing Application for the DWSRF Loan.
- g. Payment to Ellens Equipment for the 2025 Bobcat E35 Excavator.
- h. Payment to Visual Edge IT for purchase of a Kyocera Color Copier and Kyocera Printer for the library.
- i. Ratify purchase of diesel fuel for generating units 1, 7, 8, 9.

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

### **As Needed GIS and Training Services with Clever Surveying & Engineering.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve professional services letter agreement for “As Needed GIS Updates and Training” services with Clever Surveying & Engineering, PLLC for a not to exceed amount of \$16,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam to approve professional services letter agreement for “As Needed GIS Updates and Training” services with Clever Surveying & Engineering, PLLC for a not to exceed amount of \$16,000. All ayes carried the motion.

### **CDL Training for Aldrich and Teed.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Tri-Area Trucking School for CDL training for Austin Aldrich, a new hire in DPW and for Derek Teed, a new hire in the Water Department, in the amount of \$10,800.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the quote from Tri-Area Trucking School for CDL training for Austin Aldrich, a new hire in DPW and for Derek Teed, a new hire in the Water Department, in the amount of \$10,800. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Purchase and Payment for Two Rugged Laptops.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase and payment for two rugged laptops for the police department from Brite, in the amount of \$7,200. This purchase would be covered by grant funds.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase and payment for two rugged laptops for the police department from Brite, in the amount of \$7,200. This purchase would be covered by grant funds. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Temporary Street Closure for the Evening in the Park from the Historical Society.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the temporary street closure on July 22 from the Historical Society for the “Evening in the Park.”

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the temporary street closure on July 22, from the Historical Society for the “Evening in the Park.” All ayes carried the motion.

### **Proposal from NTH Consultants to Conduct Testing of RICE NESHAP Emissions Control Equipment.**

Manager Giles recommended members to approve the proposal from NTH Consultants for testing of RICE NESHAP Emissions Control Equipment in the amount of \$35,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer supported by Azzam, to approve the proposal from NTH Consultants for testing of RICE NESHAP Emissions Control Equipment in the amount of \$35,000. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Designation of Officer and Employee Delegate for MERS Annual Meeting.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the designation of Josh Leppien as an Officer Delegate and Jackie Randall as an Employee Delegate to serve as voting delegates for the City of St. Louis at the 2025 MERS Annual Business Meeting.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the designation of Josh Leppien as an Officer Delegate and Jackie Randall as an Employee delegate to serve as voting delegates for the City of St. Louis at the 2025 MERS Annual Business Meeting. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Addition to Agenda- Purchase of Two New Milwaukee Combination Cutter/Crimper Tools.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of two new Milwaukee Combination/Crimper Tools from Border States in the amount of \$8,897.82.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam, to approve the purchase of two new Milwaukee Combination/Crimper Tools from Border States in the amount of \$8,897.82. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reported that he was contacted by the organizers of the Joe Scholz Fishing Derby and they have requested to move their central location from Leppien Park to Clapp Park, due to the algae conditions causing issues for fishing at Leppien Park.

Manager Giles reported that bids came in last week for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project #1 and #2. Crawford Contracting was the low bidder on both projects. Malley Construction, Rhode Brothers and Greentech also presented bids.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Chief Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Council Comments.**

Mayor Pro Tem- Bill Leonard reported that he, along with Josh Leppien, and Elise Burton will be shooting a promo video with WNEM, for the Independence Day Celebration.

**Public Comments.**

Brian Buysse, a resident expressed his opinions that the St. Louis Police Department is not doing their jobs and citing people for improper parking, noise, and disturbing the peace. Buysse showed a picture of a car without a bumper and stated several other issues with the vehicle. Buysse expressed his disappointment in the fact that the car had been in the city for over 7 month and had never been ticketed for any of those violations.

Chief Rameriez explained that the vehicle has to be moving on the roadway for officers to give a citation for those violations.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Palmer supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk