

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
August 5, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday August 5, 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 joined the meeting at 6:02.

Council Members Absent: None

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

Others in Attendance: Kraig Hug-resident, Robin Hart-resident, Greg Kolhoff-resident, Valerie Kerr-resident, Dale Wolfe-resident, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director and Dori Foster-Code Enforcement.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for August 5, 2025, including the Hearing for the Condemnation of 117 South East Street. All ayes carried the motion.

Hearing for Condemnation of 117 South East Street.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw opened the Hearing at 6:01 p.m. and asked for public comments. There were none.

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

Hearing Officer's Determination.

Manager Giles recommended members approve the Hearing Officer's Determination on 117 South East Street.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam, approve the Hearing Officer's Determination on 117 South East Street. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 15, 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 \$1,811,641.54. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the July 2025 Monthly Board Minutes.

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

Audience Recognition.

Kraig Hug, Robin Hart, Greg Kolhoff, and Dale Wolfe, all residents, gave introductions and expressed their interest in filling the vacant council position.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Receive MPPA Proposed By-Law Amendments.
- b. Payment to Dice Excavating Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Installation for the 2025 Spring Paving Project.
- c. Payment to Green Tech Systems LLC for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- d. Payment to Legacy Assessing Services Inc. for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family Residential Properties.
- e. Payment to Malley Construction, Inc. for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- f. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Design Project.
- g. Payments to Lunghamer Ford for Purchase of Vehicle and Kustom Signals, Inc., Stop Stick and Tiger Tough for New Ford Police Interceptor Upfitting.
- h. Payment to Windemuller for Hydro Dam Gate Repair.

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

Replace UPS for Dam Monitoring System.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for the UPS (Battery Backup System) for the Dam Monitoring System from Windemuller, in the amount of \$6252.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote for the UPS (Battery Backup System) for the Dam Monitoring System from Windemuller, in the amount of \$6252. All ayes carried the motion.

Replacement Pump for Michigan Avenue Pump Station.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for a new 15HP Gorman-Rupp Sewage Pump for the Michigan Avenue Pump Station from Dubois-Cooper, in the amount of \$17,780.

Discussion was held, Utilities Director, Keith Risdon, showed the council photographs of the current condition of the equipment. It was determined that there was a need to purchase two pumps, instead of just one.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the quote for two new 15HP Gorman-Rupp Sewage Pumps for the Michigan Avenue Pump Station from Dubois-Cooper, in the amount of \$35,560. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2025-15-Annual Street Closure for Old US-27 Motor Tour.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 5th day of August 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw

Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, Michigan recognizes the importance of the annual US 27-Motor Tour, which fosters community spirit and supports local businesses and

WHEREAS, the event draws residents and visitors to downtown St. Louis and requires the temporary closure of specific streets to ensure safety and accessibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of St. Louis, Michigan, in regular session assembled:

1. **Authorization of Street Closure:** That North Mill Street shall be closed to vehicular traffic annually during the US-27 Motor Tour.
2. **Schedule:** The closure shall occur each year on the 3rd Thursday of August beginning at 1:00 pm and ending at the conclusion of the Old US-27 Auto Tour
3. **Coordination:** City departments, including Public Works and Police, shall coordinate with event organizers to provide signage, barriers, and traffic control measures as needed.
4. **Effective Date:** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and remain valid unless amended or repealed by future council action.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:
AYE: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted on this 5th day of August, 2025.

Resolution 2025-16-Annual Street Closure-Christmas Parade.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 5th day of 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw
Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis seeks to support community celebration and holiday spirit through the annual Lighted Christmas Parade held on the first Thursday of December; and

WHEREAS, said parade has become a cherished tradition, drawing participants and spectators from throughout surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to temporarily close certain public streets to ensure the safety of participants, spectators, and staff, and to facilitate the orderly conduct of the event;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of St. Louis, as follows:

1. **Authorization:** The City hereby authorizes the annual temporary closure of the 200 and 300 blocks of North Mill Street on the first Thursday of every December beginning at 3:30pm and remaining closed until the parade's conclusion for the purpose of conducting the Lighted Christmas Parade.
2. **Coordination:** The City Manager, Police Department, Public Works Department, and other relevant agencies shall coordinate necessary logistics, notifications, and safety measures to implement the street closures in a manner that ensures public safety and minimizes disruption.
3. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect unless amended or repealed by subsequent action of the City Council.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:
AYE: Azzam, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted this 5th day of August, 2025

Extension of BioSolids Removal and Land Application Contract.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the extension of the St. Louis WWTP BioSolids Removal and

Land Application contract currently held by BioTech Agronomics, Inc. for the 2026 option year and the 2027 option year established in the awarded contract.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the extension of the St. Louis WWTP BioSolids Removal and Land Application contract currently held by BioTech Agronomics, Inc. for the 2026 option year and the 2027 option year established in the awarded contract. All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of Electric Meters.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for electric meters from Etna, in the amount of \$23,500.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the quote for electric meters from Etna, in the amount of \$23,500. All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of Digger Derrick Truck.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a Derek Digger Truck from Altec, in the amount of \$393,741 and to approve the use of electric equipment replacement reserves as necessary to fund the purchase.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase of a Derek Digger Truck from Altec, in the amount of \$393,741 and to approve the use of electric equipment replacement reserves as necessary to fund the purchase.

Appointment of City Council Member to Fill Vacancy.

Manager Giles stated he was encouraged to see all the interest in the open council position and thanked everyone that submitted a letter of interest and spoke. Giles noted that Hart serves on the Board of Review and she would have to step down if she was selected to fill the position. Giles noted the same for Kolhoff being an employee of the police department. Giles informed the council that he checked into Kraig being a government employee and it was found that the HATCH Act did not apply to nonpartisan positions. Giles stated there were no known conflicts with Wolfe and the boards he is on.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam to appoint Robin Hart to the council, to fill the remaining term of Elizabeth Upton. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the draft security study came back, and the city would follow up with any changes to form a final draft.

Manager Giles discussed the USEPA Superfund Site, stating that they have been doing the sheet piling installation and will be completing the slurry wall over the next couple of months.

City Clerk Report.

Clerk Long reported that Cheryl Lombard has resigned from the Library Board.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Mayor Echtenaw discussed a complaint he had received regarding blight. Dori Foster-Code Enforcer explained that the incident he is speaking of has already been dealt with. Foster informed the council that there is a process she must follow, and it can take a while to get these issues dealt with. Echtenaw suggested Foster write a brief explanation of the process, so it can be placed in the newsletter to better inform the residents.

Member Azzam commented that he noticed the auction sign on the old bank building and asked if there were any more updates, which there were not.

Member Azzam discussed the condition of Hazel Street between Main and Mill, stating it was in poor condition. Manager Giles will follow up with the DPW for cold patching pot holes.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard supported by Azzam, to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk