

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
November 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Fares E. Azzam, Robin W. Hart, Mayor Pro Tem William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer.

Council Members Absent: None

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

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director and Keith Risdon-Utilities Director.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the agenda for November 4, 2025 All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 21, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$328,611.06. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the October 2025 Monthly Board Minutes.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Digital Ally for 4th Year of Police Body Cameras.
- b. Payment to Dubois-Cooper for Replacement Pump at Michigan Avenue Pump Station.
- c. Payment to Gilbert Sales & Service for Pressure Washer for Dam Ice Removal.
- d. Payment to Krapohl Ford for Purchase of a Ford F-250 with Plow for DPW.
- e. Payment to Wieland Sales for Purchase of a 2026 International Dump/Plow Truck.

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

Resolution 2025-23-Medical Benefits Certification.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 4th day of November 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw

Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 - “Hard Caps” Option - limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 - “80%/20%” Option - limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
- 3) Section 8 - “Exemption” Option - a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the City Council plans to continue the 80%/20% option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of St. Louis of elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the 80%/20% option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

AYE: Palmer, Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Echtenaw

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted this 4th day of November 2025.

NTH Proposal-F.E.R.C. Engineering Services.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the engineering services proposal with NTH Consultants Ltd. Of Northville, Michigan, for a not to exceed amount of \$18,200, to provide the city with assistance in preparing and filing the necessary F.E.R.C. documents as identified (Items 1 thru 5) in the NTH Proposal No OP25003130, dated October 27, 2025.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to approve the engineering services proposal with NTH Consultants Ltd. Of Northville, Michigan, for a not to exceed amount of \$18,200, to provide the city with assistance in preparing and filing the necessary F.E.R.C. documents as identified (Items 1 thru 5) in the NTH Proposal No OP25003130, dated October 27, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

Community Food Pantry Project.

Manager Giles requested members to encourage and support the volunteer efforts of city personnel to establish and maintain a community food pantry, to be located at the St. Louis City Officers, but without the use of material resources of the City.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to encourage and support the volunteer efforts of city personnel to establish and maintain a community food pantry, to be located at the St. Louis City Officers, but without the use of material resources of the City. All ayes carried the motion.

**** Addition to Agenda-Police Academy Sponsorship.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve a sponsorship in the next Delta College Police Academy for Josh Coty, in the amount of \$9,359. There may be some grant funds to help cover the cost of the sponsorship, but those are not guaranteed funds.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve sponsorship in the next Delta College Police Academy for Josh Coty, in the amount of \$9359. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the closing for the sale of the former bank building at 137 North Mil took place last Friday.

Manager Giles reported that Sara Piaskowski, the farmers market manager, will be at the 11/18/2025 council meeting to give an update on the market season.

Manager Giles reported that he had a meeting regarding the Small Urban Transportation Project and everything is on track to start the next project in 2026, which was originally planned for 2027. Giles also reported that there was discussion regarding the next cycle of projects in 2032 and that North Main from Prospect Street to north city limits would be a good candidate.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Hart asked about getting a community garden started in St. Louis.

Member Leonard complimented the Department of Public Works on how well they have been doing on fall cleanup.

Member Azzam inquired about a low hanging wire on Cheesman Road. Utilities Director Risdon suspected it may have been Frontier, as they had been doing some work around that area.

Public Comments.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk