

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
November 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday November 18, 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
Clerk: Jamie Long
Police Chief: Richard Rameriz

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Sara Piaskowski-Farmers Market Manager, Ryan Warnke and 4 Students.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the agenda for November 18, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

Presentation by Sara Piaskowski-Farmers Market Update.

Sara Piaskowski gave an update on the 2025 Farmers Market season, touching on the high points of the season and briefly mentioning any issues they had for the season, including construction and accepting SNAP benefits.

Piaskowski stated she has 22 market days scheduled for 2026 and would like to get an earlier scheduled street closure for her market days, possibly 11:00 a.m.

Piaskowski informed the council that the market will not be open for the Independence Day Celebration in 2026.

Manager Giles stated he and Chief Rameriz would reach out to the schools for the 2026 season, and he would reach out to the owner of the former bank building to share contact information to see if there are conflicts with the construction and market days.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 4, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,775,130.39. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the October 2025 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

One St. Louis student discussed their successful volleyball season.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to DuBois-Cooper to rebuild the sewage pump for WWTP.
- b. Payment to OHM for Design Phase Services for North Main St.
- c. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- d. Payment to Rowe for Engineering Services for DWSRF Project.
- e. Payment to Town & Country Group for WWTP Eaton Powerflex 400VFD Replacement and spare.
- f. Payment to Worthy Electric Installation of Pressure Washer for Dam Ice Removal.
- g. Payment to Val-Matic Valve for Replacement of WWTP Plug Valves.
- h. Payment to Bendzinski & Co. for Financial Advisor Services for the DWSRF Bond Project.
- i. Payment to Malley Construction, Inc. for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.

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

Resolution 2025-24-Meeting Dates.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Minutes for the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, held in the City Hall Council Chambers on the 18th day of November 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Saint Louis, Gratiot County, Michigan, pursuant to Act 261 Michigan Public Acts of 1968, and in accordance with Section 5.1 of the Saint Louis City Charter, hereby gives notice to the public of the regular meeting schedule for the calendar year 2026.

WHEREAS, The City Council, in accordance with Section 5.1 of the Saint Louis City Charter, is required to hold meetings, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of January following the regular City election, for the purpose of installation of newly elected Council Members. Regular meetings shall be held at least twice each month.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the dates for holding said regular meetings shall be as follows:

January 6	April 7	July 7	October 6
January 20	April 21	July 21	October 20
February 3	May 5	August 4	November 3
February 17	May 19	August 18	November 17
March 3	June 2	September 1	December 1
March 17	June 16	September 15	December 15

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council hereby establishes as its place and time for holding aforesaid regular meetings at the City Council Chambers, City Office Building, 300 North Mill Street, Saint Louis, Michigan at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

Ayes: Palmer, Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

Union Street Pump Station Generator Rental.

Manager Giles requested members to authorize the rental of an emergency backup generator for the duration needed while a new generator is in process for the Union Street Pump Station from CAT for a weekly rate of \$2,400 and an additional amount of \$375 for cabling, the overall amount is not to exceed \$24,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to authorize the rental of an emergency backup generator for the duration needed and the purchase and installation of a new generator for the Union Street Pump Station from CAT for a weekly rate of \$2,400 and an additional amount of \$375 for cabling, the overall amount is not to exceed \$24,000. All ayes carried the motion.

Union Street Pump Generator Purchase.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a new generator for the Union Street Pump Station with an amount not to exceed \$80,000, which includes the amount of \$12,950 for an electrical inspection from Worthy Electric.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart to approve the purchase of a new generator for the Union Street Pump Station with an amount not to exceed \$80,000, which includes the amount of \$12,950 for an electrical inspection from Worthy Electric. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that he and Josh Leppien attended a meeting with MPPA. The meeting was a discussion to enable municipalities to invest in a transmission ownership project.

City Clerk Report.

Clerk Long reported that a bill amending the open meeting act has been signed, so there may be some changes coming in the way we handle closed session meetings. Long reports she is currently reviewing the bill to see what changes will need to be made to be in compliance with the amendment.

Police Chief Report:

Chief Rameriz reported that Officer Collins' last day was today, as he accepted a position elsewhere.

Rameriz reported that Josh Coty has passed his background check and the grant funds had just opened so he would be submitting the necessary paperwork to apply for the grant to help with the costs for the police academy for Coty. The academy will be starting in January.

Rameriz reported that Officer Szafranski is in the interview process for a position at Central Michigan University.

Rameriz thanked the council for allowing them to get the necessary equipment they needed to do their jobs, specifically the stop sticks, as they were successfully deployed and helped to end a high-speed pursuit recently.

Council Comments.

There were none.

Public Comments.

Josh Leppien requested members of the council to volunteer to carry the St. Louis banner for the Christmas Parade, both Azzam and Echtenaw volunteered.

Closed Session-Land Lease Opportunity.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to go to closed session for discussion of a land lease opportunity at 6:55 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Azzam, Leonard, Hart, Palmer, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Return to Open Session.

Council returned to open session at 7:22 p.m.

Adjournment.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk