

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
December 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday December 2, 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.

Council Members Absent: Member Kevin D. Palmer joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director and 6 students.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to approve the agenda for December 2, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 18, 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 \$266,743.44. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the November 2025 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to receive the November 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” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Chrouch Communications for the Ford Police Interceptor Upfitting.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to approve Consent Agenda item “a” . All ayes carried the motion.

Quotes for the Diesel Generator Fuel System Upgrades.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Farabee Mechanical for labor and materials to repair the diesel fuel systems in the amount of \$124,902.49.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote from Farabee Mechanical for labor and materials to repair the diesel fuel systems in the amount of \$124,902.49. All ayes carried the motion.

Police Academy Sponsorship.

Chief Ramereiz requested members to approve the sponsorship of Jasmine VanDyke for the police academy at Delta College, in the amount of \$9,359.

Discussion was held. Member Hart asked about requiring the candidates to maintain employment with the St. Louis Police Department. Chief Ramereiz informed council that there is now a requirement for the officers to remain with the St. Louis Police Department for 4 years after they complete the academy or they will be responsible to pay back the sponsorship. Several students inquired on the requirements to be eligible for the sponsorship.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve the sponsorship of Jasmine VanDyke for the police academy at Delta College, in the amount of \$9,359. All ayes carried the motion.

Authorization for MPPA-Sale of Excess Capacity.

Manager Giles requested members to sell excess capacity on the City’s behalf for MISO Planning Year 2026/27. Preliminary sale volume is set for up to 1,000 kw at not less than \$7.50/KW-month.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to sell excess capacity on the City's behalf for MISO Planning Year 2026/27. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the city has received a request from Consumers to work on Saturday and Sundays to get the gas main project completed. Giles has reviewed the Code of Ordinances and there is not anything that would prohibit them from doing that. Giles did recommend that Consumers avoid the church areas on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Manager Giles also received a notice from Consumers that the city's franchise agreement with Consumers Energy is coming to an end and the city will need to adopt a new ordinance to renew that agreement and council should expect to vote on that ordinance in a future meeting.

Manager Giles reported that the city-wide leaf collection came to an early end due to the snowfall over the weekend.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that the artwork display at City Hall from Gratiot County Substance and Suicide Prevention Program, is now in the main hallway for everyone to view.

Chief Ramereiz reminded the council of the annual Santa Parade that will take place on Thursday, December 4. Barricades will be in place on city streets starting at 3 p.m. to help ensure the safety of all parade attendees.

Council Comments.

Mayor Echinaw inquired about the fatal accident that occurred last week. Chief Ramereiz stated that it is an ongoing investigation by the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department and he could not give many details. Several students inquired on the details as well. Chief Ramereiz explained the investigation process.

Member Azzam reported that the DPW crew did a great job with getting the streets cleaned, however his yard on Locust Street did have some minor issues left by the plow blade.

Public Comments.

One student asked why the snow plowing crew leaves the large pile of snow in the streets after plowing. Chief Ramereiz explained that in order for our crews to get to the entire city in a timely manner, the snow is piled there and after all the streets are cleared, the trucks come and remove the snow and haul it to another location.

One student asked if it was illegal for the snow plowing crew to leave the tall piles of snow in the road after plowing. Chief Ramereiz explained the process and reason why it was legal procedure.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk