

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
December 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtinger on Tuesday December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtinger, 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 Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director and 5 students. Mayor Echtinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for December 16, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2025. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$513,540.58. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the November 2025 Monthly Reports. Manager Giles made note on a typo that Member Palmer had discovered on water usage.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to receive the November Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Ratify Authorization to Action Traffic Control for Emergency Guardrail Repairs.
- b. Payment to Altec for Repairs to #2, 2012 Digger Derrick.
- c. Payment to OHM for Union Street Pump Station-Bypass Connection.
- d. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Design Project.
- e. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- f. Payment to Theka Engineering Solutions for Calibration and Testing of Relays for the Diesel and Hydro Generators.
- g. Payment to Dice Excavating, Inc. for Disposal of Street Sweeping Debris.

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

CDSMI Update & Meter Address Verification Assistance.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the letter agreement for Professional Services with Clever Surveying & Engineering for a not-to-exceed cost of \$12,800 for the CDSMI Update and Meter Address Verification Assistance.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the letter agreement for Professional Services with Clever Surveying & Engineering for a not-to-exceed cost of \$12,800 for the CDSMI Update and Meter Address Verification Assistance. All ayes carried the motion.

Consideration of Final Offer for the Fredrickson Farm Communication Tower Site Lease.

Manager Giles requested members to consider the final offer for the Fredrickson Farm Communication Tower Site Lease for \$1,500 per month with a 1.5% escalation.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard supported by Hart, to decline the final offer for the Fredrickson Farm Communication Tower Site Lease for \$1,500 per month with a 1.5% escalation.

Ayes: Leonard, Hart, Azzam, Echtinaw Nayes: Palmer
Motion Carried.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the City Hall customer counter will be closed additional days this holiday season. The additional closures are December 26th, and January 2nd, these are not paid holidays and if employees wish to take these days off, they will be required to use their vacation or personal time.

City Clerk Report.

Clerk Long reported that there are several board openings including Board of Review, Library, Housing Commission, and Parks and Recreation. Mayor Echtinaw commented that he had a conversation with Jeff Needham regarding joining a board.

Police Chief Report:

Chief Ramereiz reported that they have hired two crossing guards and over the next several weeks they will be doing their training, background checks, physicals, and drug screenings. Ramereiz reported that they will begin their duties after the holidays and schools go back in session.

Chief Ramereiz reported that Joshua Coty is all set to start the police academy and Jasmine Vandyke is just waiting for MCOLES approval, both plan to start the academy in January.

Council Comments.

Member Azzam pointed out that the City Council picture in the hallway has not been updated with Robin's picture.

Public Comments. There were none. **Adjournment.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to adjourn 6:23 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk