

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
March 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 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 Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: There were none.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the agenda for March 17, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 3, 2026. 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 \$504,344.64. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the February 2026 Monthly Reports. Mayor Echtenaw inquired about the uptick on blight reports. Chief Ramereiz stated that as the snow melts, these infractions become more visible and also they have been receiving some complaints on our website complaint form as well.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to receive the February 2026 Monthly Reports and place them 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 Cummins Sales & Service for a Transfer Switch for the Union Street Pump Station.
- b. Payment to Clever Surveying & Engineering for As Needed GIS & Training Services.
- c. Payment to Joint Michigan Apprenticeship Program for Joh Rugenstein (Year 3) of Apprenticeship Program.
- d. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- e. Payment to OHM for Design Phase Services for North Main Street.

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

### **Quote for Repairs to Bucket Truck #11.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Altec for repairs to truck #11-2020 Bucket Truck in the amount of \$13,435.33.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote from Altec for repairs to truck #11-2020 Bucket Truck in the amount of \$13,435.33. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reminded council members of the Employee Appreciation Dinner on Thursday.

Manager Giles reported that the MSHDA grant program applications were made available recently and Josh has been getting a lot of applications. Giles reported that Josh has been working closely with MSHDA to make sure everything is in order.

Giles reported that he had a request for updates on the food pantry and stated that there will be updates reported in the future.

Mayor Echtenaw requested an update on 117 South East Street. Giles reported that the judge excused himself from the case, due to a conflict of interest with the county. The case is moved to Ionia, which will be done remotely on April 14th.

**City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

**Police Chief Report:**

Chief Ramereiz reported that Josh Coty and Jasmine Vandyke are still doing great at the Police Academy, both are top students. Ramereiz reported that they are getting ready to do more hands-on training.

Ramereiz reported that there is quarterly police training this week with Alma. Thursday is statewide training and it will take place St. Luis at city hall. Ramereiz reported having 25 police officers registered, from all over the state.

Ramereiz reported that he has been receiving regular email complaints from a resident, Brian Buysse, regarding truck bumper heights. Ramereiz informed the council that these complaints are not considered high priority. Ramereiz is waiting for some legal clarification from the prosecutor on vehicle weight ratings as they relate to the allowed bumper height.

**Council Comments.**

There were none.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

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

Jamie Long, Clerk