

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
April 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, April 21, 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: Sara Piaskowski-Market Manager, Brooklyn Mathews-resident, Cole Baldwin-resident, Ryan Warner, Valerie Kerr-resident, Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for April 21, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 7, 2026. 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 \$558,390.39. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the March 2026 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to receive the March 2026 Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audience Recognition.**

There were no comments.

### **Consent Agenda.**

Mayor Echinaw requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items “a” through “d” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Altec for Repairs to Truck #11.
- b. Payment to Clever Surveying & Engineering for As Needed GIS & Training Services.
- c. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- d. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversight Project.

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

### **Quote for Gearboxes for Dam Gates.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Cone Drive Solutions for Gearboxes for Dam Gate operations in the amount of \$11,533.76.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Palmer, to approve the quote from Cone Drive Solutions for Gearboxes for Dam Gate operations in the amount of \$11,533.76. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Appointment to Housing Commission.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the appointment of Brooklyn Mathews to the St. Louis Housing Commission Board.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the appointment of Brooklyn Mathews to the St. Louis Housing Commission Board. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-Michigan Health Department.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-Michigan Health Department. This would include our municipal building as a Point of Dispensing Location in their emergency preparedness plans and allow for reimbursement of any related costs the city may incur.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the MOU with the following modification to Item 3 under Facility owners' responsibility and otherwise approved as presented. *3. Allow the Facility to be visited by members of the Agency, local law enforcement and if applicable, the National Guard or other local, state or federal agencies during normal business hours, except during elections, or other agreed upon hours by all concerned parties, for the purpose of developing and maintaining a site plan for a POD.* All ayes carried the motion.

### **Rejection of Bids for Union Street Lift Station Bypass Project.**

Manager Giles requested members to reject the bids for the Union Street Lift Station Bypass Project, as the bids came in substantially higher than expected.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to reject all bids for the Union Street Lift Station Bypass Project. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Installation of Outlets.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the installation of outlets around the oxidation ditches and selector tank from Town & Country Electrical, in the amount of \$11,240.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the installation of outlets around the oxidation ditches and selector tank from Town & Country Electrical, in the amount of \$11,240. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Quote for Oxidation Reduction Potential Instrument for the Anaerobic Selector.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for an Oxidation Reduction Potential Instrument for the Anaerobic Selector from Hach, in the amount of \$11,609.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quote for an Oxidation Reduction Potential Instrument for the Anaerobic Selector from Hach, in the amount of \$11,609. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Temporary Street Closure-Farmers Market.**

Manager Giles requested members to approve the temporary street closure for the 2026 Outdoor Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from June 4<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held. Market Manger, Sara Piaskowski, gave a brief presentation of the up-and-coming season.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the temporary street closure for the 2026 Outdoor Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from June 4<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles reported that after the severe weather last week, a sanitary overflow from April 15<sup>th</sup> through April 17<sup>th</sup> occurred along with wastewater backups.

Manager Giles reported that he and Josh Leppien spoke with Chuck Sandro from the Healthy Pine River Group and they plan to submit a notice of intent to apply for a grant for a watershed implementation program and has listed the City of St. Louis as partners in the project.

Manager Giles reported that there was a closure on the Main Street Bridge that began on April 15<sup>th</sup>, going through the weekend. This closure was due to a void under the catch basins. DPW did make temporary repairs and the bridge opened back up. The goal is to maintain the area until the Main Street Projects are completed.

**City Clerk Report.**

Clerk Long reported that only Ralph Echtenaw and Robin Hart had submitted packets to run for the council and mayor positions.

**Police Chief Report:**

Chief Ramereiz reported recruits are doing great and they will graduate on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Comments.**

Member Leonard thanked Brooklyn Mathews for joining the Housing Commission.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

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

Jamie Long, Clerk