

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
May 5, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, May 5, 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.

Council Members Absent: Kevin D. Palmer (Excused)

City Manager: Kurt Giles  
Deputy Clerk: Bobbie Marr  
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Valerie Kerr-resident and Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for May 5, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 21, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$328,640.21. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Board Minutes.**

City Council discussed the April 2026 Monthly Board Minutes. Member Hart requested that committees put a header on their minutes so the reader can tell which is which.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to receive the April 2026 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Audience Recognition.**

Valerie Kerr, a resident, stated that she appreciates everything that happens in town and everything getting done.

### **Consent Agenda.**

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

- a. Approval and Payment to Farabee for Upgrade to Tank Overfill Alarms.
- b. Payment to Fisher Scientific for Refrigerator/Freezer Combo and BOD Incubator for WWTP.
- c. Payment to Gametime for Buck-A-Bout for Penny Park.
- d. Payment to ROWE for engineering Services for DWSRF.

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

### **City Manager Report.**

**Public Safety Millage:** The Public Safety Millage was discussed. Manager Giles presented stats on the millage, what the city has paid the Fire District and fire stats regarding fire and rescue runs. In recent years, rescue runs have escalated dramatically, and it is time to consider raising the Act 33 millage.

Manager Giles reported that there is a potential sale of 111 South Mill and will request authorization from City Council if a tentative purchase agreement is reached.

Manager Giles reported on the sanitary storm sewer situation and PJ McGillis reports that April of 2026 had the highest total flow through the wastewater treatment plant, at 79 million gallons, since April of 2023 when it totals 81 million gallons. Reporting also included the three highest single days recorded since PJ has operated the plant for nearly 20 years.

### **City Clerk Report.**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Chief Report.**

Chief Ramereiz reported that the cadets will graduate from the Police Academy on Friday and will start their field training.

Chief Ramereiz gave a list of awards and scholarships that the city’s co-op students received.

**Council Comments.**

Mayor Echtenaw commented that he felt that some interest needed to be generated about running for the open council seat as a write-in candidate.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Leonard, supported by Azzam to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Bobbie Marr, Deputy Clerk