

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
May 19, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, May 19, 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
Deputy Clerk: Bobbie Marr
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: The Coty Family, The VanDyke Family, Jasmine VanDyke, Josh Coty, Brett Morell, Matt Vanhall and Josh Leppien.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the agenda for May 19, 2026 with the addition of the presentation of the Police Academy graduates, Josh Coty and Jasmine VanDyke and the pinning ceremony. All ayes carried the motion.

Pinning Ceremony.

Police Chief Ramereiz conducted a pinning ceremony recognizing and welcoming newly appointed police officers VanDyke and Coty to the department.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 5, 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 \$1,703,080.77. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the April 2026 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to receive the April 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 “i” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Cone Drive for Gear Boxes for Dam Gates.
- b. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- c. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversight Project.
- d. Payment to ROWE for Engineering Services for the DWSRF Project.
- e. Approval and Payment to The AED Store for AED’s covered under the Luneack Grant Funding.
- f. Payment to PVS Chemical for Ferric Chloride.
- g. Payment to Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.
- h. Change Order #4-Malley Construction for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- i. Payment to Malley Construction for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.

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

2027-2029 MECA Safety Training Program.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the 2027-2029 Safety Training Program Agreement with the 2027 program fee of \$13,680 and with the future price adjustments not to exceed 5% annually for the 3-year term.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the 2027-2029 Safety Training Program Agreement with the 2027 program fee of \$13,680 and with the future price adjustments not to exceed 5% annually for the 3-year term. All ayes carried the motion.

Valve Replacements.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the installation of 8 plug valves for the process and digester buildings from T.H. Eifert, in the amount of \$29,480.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Palmer, to approve the installation of 8 plug valves process and digester

buildings from T.H. Eifert, in the amount of \$29,480. All ayes carried the motion.

Waste Gas Burner.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the repairs for the Methane Gas Burner from T.H. Eifert in the amount of \$10,760.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the repairs for the Methane Gas Burner from T.H. Eifert in the amount of \$10,760. All ayes carried the motion.

Set Public Hearing for Public Safety Special Assessment.

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the Public Hearing for the Public Safety Special Assessment for June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve setting the Public Hearing for the Public Safety Special Assessment for June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Wind Phone Discussion.

Manager Giles opened the discussion for an installation of a wind phone, which was requested by a resident. Member Hart reported on her research on wind phones. Discussion was held on potential locations within the city. Some council members agreed that this project should not be a city function and that the requestor would need to have their own funding and leg work. Overall consensus was that the development of such project would not be a city function. The requesting party should provide a formal proposal including plans, funding sources and potential locations for future council consideration.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles gave an update on the East Street Property condemnation.

Manager Giles reported that the Fire Academy Graduation (GITEC) is tonight at 7 p.m. Chief Coty gave a brief explanation of the program.

Manager Giles reported that the Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 25th and also that Veteran flags were going to be placed on graves on May 21st.

Manager Giles reported the generation test at the power plant had been completed successfully.

Manager Giles reported that the County Commissioners are discussing county wide transit.

Manager Giles gave storm updates and commented on the good response from all of the departments; it was appreciated.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report:

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Hart reported that a resident contacted her and would like a dog waste station at the library.

Member Azzam reported that people want benches by the playground at Lions Park.

Member Palmer wanted to make sure that the Ricky Rosas temporary memorial gets back to his mother, as it was previously taken out of Clapp Park. Chief Ramereiz stated that they are planning to do that Memorial Day Weekend.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Bobbie Marr, Deputy Clerk