CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
June 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw, Robin W. Hart, Mayor Pro Tem William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer.

Council Members Absent: Member Fares E. Azzam joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

City Manager:	Kurt Giles
Clerk:	Jamie Long
Police Chief:	Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Kathy Roslund-Assessor, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Josh Leppien-Economic Development Director, Valerie Kerr-Resident, and Dave Owens-County Commissioner.

Mayor Echtinaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for June 16, 2026 All ayes carried the motion.

Reappraisal Report-Kathy Roslund.

Kathy Roslund, the Assessor for the City of St. Louis, gave a brief presentation on the Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family Reappraisal Report.

Public Hearing-Budget Adoption.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. and asked for public comments.

There were none.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Public Hearing-Budget Amendments.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. and asked for public comments.

There were none.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Hart, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 2, 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 $2,037,876.99. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the May 2026 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to receive the May 2026 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 items "a" through "j" as shown below:

a. Approval and Payment to Siefert Concrete for Pool Deck Replacement.
b. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversite Project.
c. Payment to Farabee Mechanical for Emissions Monitor Repairs to Engine #8.
d. Payment to Malley Construction for DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
e. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
f. Payment to OHM for Construction Engineering Services for North Main Street Reconstruction Project.
g. Payment to ROWE for Engineering Services for DWSRF Project.
h. Payment to Town & Country for Installation of Outlets for Oxidation Ditches and Selector Tank.
i. Payment to UFS for Electric PC & Rate Study Progress Billing.
j. Payment to Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard to approve Consent Agenda items "a" through "j". All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2026-12-Budget Adoption.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 16th day of June 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Palmer, Echtinaw
Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Palmer, and supported by Member Hart:

WHEREAS, the City Manager has submitted and filed with the City Council a proposed budget estimating revenues and expenditures for 2026-2027 fiscal year, as required by Chapter VII, Section 7 of the City Charter and Act 2, Michigan Public Acts of 1968, as amended, and

WHEREAS, the City Council in accordance with Act 621 Michigan Public Acts of 1978, as amended, has set the date June 16, 2026 for a public hearing at 6:00 o'clock PM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits, to receive citizen comment on the proposed budget as presented herein. A copy of the affidavit of publication of said public hearing is on file with the City Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council, after such hearing thereon and consideration thereof, does hereby adopt said budget as represented herein and fixes the tax of fifteen (15) mills for general operating purposes (subject to Headlee rollbacks and adjusted to 12.3368 mills) , to be raised by a general ad valorem tax upon owners of real and personal property in the City, by the authority granted, and in accordance with the Michigan Constitution, the General Property Tax Act 206, Michigan Public Acts of 1893, as amended, and City Charter, Chapter VII, subject to limitations therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Treasurer be authorized and directed to make such transfers between the various funds in accordance with the adoption of the budget as follows:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Taxes	$	930,191	General Government		
Federal Grants		-	Legislative	$	39,870
State Grants		925,945	Executive		63,561
Charges for Services		671,448	Clerk		43,268
Interest & Rents		38,300	Board of Review		5,720
Licenses & Permits		27,200	Finance		115,966
Other Revenue		12,800	Assessing		114,063
Other Financing Sources		-	Elections		34,409
			Hall & Grounds		216,403
			Corporate Council		14,000
			Public Safety		
			Building & Code Enforcement		143,023
			Public Works		
			Cemetery		127,272
			Public Works		257,794
			Community & Economic Development		
			Planning		37,725
			Development		89,312
			Industrial Park		15,933
			Blight		-
			Community Promotion		64,689
			Recreation & Culture		
			Pool		100,339
			Parks Maintenance		127,862
			Capital Outlay		75,900
			Debt		84,467
			Other Financing Uses		1,403,915
			Contingency		75,000
From Fund Balance		644,607	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	3,250,491	Total Expenditures	$	3,250,491

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Charges for Services	$	2,100	Other Financing Uses	$	-
Interest & Rents		5,700			
Other Financing Sources		-	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		-	To Fund Balance		7,800
Total Revenues	$	7,800	Total Expenditures	$	7,800

MAJOR STREET FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Federal Grants	$	385,000	Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	$	244,318
State Grants		722,695	Capital Improvements		1,419,600
Interest & Rents		30,000			
Other Revenue		16,000			
Other Financing Sources		-	Other Financing Uses		178,241
From Fund Balance		688,464	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	1,842,159	Total Expenditures	$	1,842,159

LOCAL STREET FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
State Grants	$	279,921	Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	$	248,830
Interest & Rents		24,000	Capital Improvements		474,500
Other Revenue		1,200			
Other Financing Sources		178,241	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		239,968	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	723,330	Total Expenditures	$	723,330

PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Taxes	$	157,817	Police	$	1,392,074
State Grants		26,900	Fire		196,983
Interest & Rents		50			
Fines & Forfeitures		1,700	Capital Outlay		-
Other Revenue		50	Debt Service		1,375
Other Financing Sources		1,403,915	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		-	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	1,590,432	Total Expenditures	$	1,590,432

CDBG HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION FUND

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Federal Grants	$	383,280	Community & Economic Development	$	383,280
		-	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		-	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	383,280	Total Expenditures	$	383,280

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Taxes	$	62,785	Community & Economic Development	$	61,964
Interest & Rents		10,420	Debt Service		-
Other Revenue		-	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		-	To Fund Balance		11,241
Total Revenues	$	73,205	Total Expenditures	$	73,205

T.A. CUTLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Taxes	$	248,000	Recreation & Culture		330,978
State Grants		11,042	Capital Outlay		30,000
Fines & Forfeitures		55,425			
Interest & Rents		30,000			
Other Revenue		16,511			-
Other Financing Sources		-	Other Financing Uses		-
From Fund Balance		-	To Fund Balance		-
Total Revenues	$	360,978	Total Expenditures	$	360,978

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager be authorized to direct transfers between department levels of up to $5,000 and to allocate available contingency to functions as needs arise.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Ayes: Palmer, Hart, Azzam, Leonard, Echtinaw
Nays: None
Absent: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Resolution 2026-13-Budget Amendments.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 16th day of June 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Palmer, Echtinaw
Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Azzam, and supported by Member Leonard:

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a budget estimating revenues and expenditures for 2025-2026 fiscal year on June 3, 2025, as required by Chapter VII, Section 7 of the City Charter and Act 2, Michigan Public Acts of 1968, as amended, and

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year, certain unforeseen and/or subsequently planned circumstances have arisen which has caused need to amend the budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Council in accordance with Act 621 Michigan Public Acts of 1978, as amended, has set the date of June 16, 2026 for a public hearing at 6:00 o'clock PM, or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits, to receive citizen comment on the proposed amended budget as presented herein. A copy of the affidavit of publication of said public hearing is on file with the City Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council, after such hearing thereon and consideration thereof, does hereby adopt said amended budget as represented herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Treasurer be authorized and directed to make such additional transfers between the various funds in accordance with the amendments to arrive at a final budget as follows:

GENERAL FUND

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES			
Taxes	$ 927,095	(3,012)	$ 924,083
Federal Grants	-	-	-
State Grants	901,245	50,667	951,912
Charges for Services	685,405	11,500	696,905
Interest & Rents	53,500	(6,719)	46,781
Licenses & Permits	32,645	1,805	34,450
Other Revenue	448,861	(394,435)	54,426
Other Financing Sources	-	-	
From Fund Balance	532,234	(349,989)	182,245
Total Revenues	$ 3,580,985	$ (690,183)	$ 2,890,802

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
EXPENDITURES			
General Government			
Legislative	$ 38,560	(4,369)	$ 34,191
Executive	90,289	676	90,965
Clerk	42,829	(920)	41,909
Board of Review	5,720	(1,908)	3,812
Finance	96,698	-	96,698
Assessing	95,120	7,692	102,812
Elections	18,400	(8,713)	9,687
Hall & Grounds	207,100	(20,349)	186,751
Corporate Council	10,000	2,000	12,000
Public Safety			
Building & Code Enforcement	101,582	13,150	114,732
Public Works			
Cemetery	113,800	18,745	132,545
Public Works	280,740	(30,492)	250,248
Community & Economic Development			
Planning	37,600	(35,300)	2,300
Development	506,457	(414,728)	91,729
Industrial Park	15,842	-	15,842
Blight	-	-	
Community Promotion	73,192	(22,135)	51,057
Recreation & Culture			
Pool	108,819	22,129	130,948
Parks Maintenance	123,538	25,915	149,453
Capital Outlay	79,037	(17,128)	61,909
Debt	84,453	-	84,453
Other Financing Uses	1,376,209	(174,448)	1,201,761
Contingency	75,000	(50,000)	25,000
To Fund Balance	-	-	
Total Expenditures	$ 3,580,985	$ (690,183)	$ 2,890,802

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

	ORIGINAL BUDGET		AMENDMENT NEEDED		FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES					
Charges for Services	$	2,100	400	$	2,500
Interest & Rents		5,400	2,200		7,600
Other Financing Sources		-	-		
From Fund Balance		-	-		
Total Revenues	$	7,500	$ 2,600	$	10,100
EXPENDITURES					
Other Financing Uses	$	-	-		
To Fund Balance		7,500	2,600		10,100
Total Expenditures	$	7,500	$ 2,600	$	10,100

MAJOR STREET FUND

	ORIGINAL BUDGET		AMENDMENT NEEDED		FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES					
Federal Grants	$	-	-	$	-
State Grants		638,896	-		638,896
Interest & Rents		17,000	23,167		40,167
Other Revenue		16,000	7,260		23,260
Other Financing Sources		-	-		
From Fund Balance		80,059	44,163		124,222
Total Revenues	$	751,955	$ 74,590	$	826,545
EXPENDITURES					
Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	$	233,664	49,490	$	283,154
Capital Improvements		361,000	25,100		386,100
Other Financing Uses		157,291	-		157,291
To Fund Balance		-	-		
Total Expenditures	$	751,955	$ 74,590	$	826,545

LOCAL STREET FUND

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES			
State Grants	$ 248,127	-	$ 248,127
Interest & Rents	16,200	11,640	27,840
Other Revenue	-	1,200	1,200
Other Financing Sources	157,291	-	157,291
From Fund Balance	326,851	(55,352)	271,499
Total Revenues	$ 748,469	$ (42,512)	$ 705,957
EXPENDITURES			
Highways Streets & Bridges Maint.	$ 233,969	27,820	$ 261,789
Capital Improvements	514,500	(70,332)	444,168
Other Financing Uses	-	-	
To Fund Balance	-	-	
Total Expenditures	$ 748,469	$ (42,512)	$ 705,957

PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES			
Taxes	$ 135,797	(1,945)	$ 133,852
State Grants	17,400	62,327	79,727
Charges for Services	-	140	140
Interest & Rents	50	800	850
Licenses & Permits	-	50	50
Fines & Forfeitures	250	2,620	2,870
Other Revenue	-	20,694	20,694
Other Financing Sources	1,376,209	(174,448)	1,201,761
From Fund Balance	-	2,184	2,184
Total Revenues	$ 1,529,706	$ (87,578)	$ 1,442,128
EXPENDITURES			
Police	$ 1,358,936	(93,007)	$ 1,265,929
Fire	169,405	-	169,405
Capital Outlay	-	5,429	5,429
Debt Service	1,365	-	1,365
Other Financing Uses	-	-	
To Fund Balance	-	-	
Total Expenditures	$ 1,529,706	$ (87,578)	$ 1,442,128

CDBG HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES			
Federal Grants	$ -	16,720	$ 16,720
From Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Revenues	$ -	$ 16,720	$ 16,720
EXPENDITURES			
Community & Economic Development	$ -	16,720	$ 16,720
To Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	$ -	$ 16,720	$ 16,720

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDMENT NEEDED	FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES			
Taxes	$ 60,914	-	$ 60,914
Interest & Rents	8,958	1,274	10,232
Other Revenue	-	2,700	2,700
From Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total Revenues	$ 69,872	$ 3,974	$ 73,846
EXPENDITURES			
Community & Economic Development	$ 47,679	2,046	$ 49,725
To Fund Balance	22,193	1,928	24,121
Total Expenditures	$ 69,872	$ 3,974	$ 73,846

T.A. CUTLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

		ORIGINAL BUDGET		AMENDMENT NEEDED		FINAL BUDGET
REVENUES						
Taxes	$	248,000		26,309	$	274,309
State Grants		10,934		339		11,273
Fines & Forfeitures		56,330		146		56,476
Interest & Rents		45,000		(9,000)		36,000
Other Revenue		17,911		4,187		22,098
Other Financing Sources		-		-		
From Fund Balance		-		-		
Total Revenues	$	378,175	$	21,981	$	400,156
EXPENDITURES						
Recreation & Culture		305,655		(23,350)	$	282,305
Capital Outlay		45,000		(22,107)		22,893
Contingency		27,520		(27,520)		-
Other Financing Uses		-		-		-
To Fund Balance		-		94,958		94,958
Total Expenditures	$	378,175	$	21,981	$	400,156

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer amounts between departments within a fund's budget a sum not to exceed $ 25,000 per department to allow for any needed year-end adjustments from the estimates, and/or to allocate contingency as available.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:
AYE: Azzam, Leonard, Hart, Palmer, Echtinaw
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

Resolution declared adopted this 16th day of June, 2026.

Quote for Custom Brackets and Bearings for Dam Gates.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Powell Fabrication for custom brackets and bearings for the dam gates in the amount of $6,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Azzam, to approve the quote from Powell Fabrication for custom brackets and bearings for the dam gates in the amount of $6,000. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote for Zero Turn Mowers.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of three zero turn mowers with a trade in of three 2023 models from Hutson, in the amount of $23,368.24 after the trade ins.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve the purchase of three zero turn mowers with a trade in of three 2023 models from Hutson, in the amount of $23,368.24 after the trade ins. All ayes carried the motion.

As Needed GIS Engineering and Assistance.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the letter of agreement with Clever Surveying & Engineering, for a not to exceed cost of $39,780 for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the letter of agreement with Clever Surveying & Engineering, for a not to exceed cost of $39,780 for fiscal year 2026-2027.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that discussion around the county wide transportation milage has begun with County Officials, City of Alma Officials, and SLIPR Representatives. The county wide transportation would depend on voter approval and a department of transportation grant.

Mayor Echtinaw asked about a light pole he saw getting repaired in front of Delta Chiropractic. Manager Giles reported that it was a pole that was damaged in the high winds.

Mayor Echtinaw asked Manager Giles again about having a School Board Joint Meeting. Manager Giles reported that there was a tentative date in August but he would reach out to the school.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report:

Nothing to report.

Mayor Echtinaw commented on the stat increases from last year to this year on the Chief's report.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard commented on how well the Flag Day Ceremony went and commended Member Azzam on the speech he gave for the ceremony.

Public Comments.

Dave Owens, Commissioner for District 1, introduced himself to the council.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk.