

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
July 7, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, July 7, 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
City Clerk:	Jamie Long
Police Chief:	Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Calvin Martyn-DPW Superintendent, Jan Bunting-County Commissioner, Valerie Kerr-Resident and Jose Velasquez-Ayala.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve the agenda for July 7, 2026, with the removal of 11G-Resolution 2026-16-Electric Rates. All ayes carried the motion.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 16, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Palmer, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$406,781.74. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the June 2026 Monthly Board Minutes.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Farabee Mechanical-Emissions Testing and RICE NESHAP Compliance.
- b. Payment to Seifert Concrete for 2026 Sidewalk Replacement Project.

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

Zoning Ordinance Update.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from ROWE Professional Services for a Zoning Ordinance Update in the amount of \$49,000. The City may apply for grant funds from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to help support this project.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Azzam, to approve the proposal from ROWE Professional Services for a Zoning Ordinance Update in the amount of \$49,000. All ayes carried the motion.

Street Closure for July Celebration Activities in Clapp Park.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the street closure on Saginaw and Franklin for July Celebration Activities in Clapp Park from 11am to 5pm, which includes set up and tear down.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the street closure on Saginaw and Franklin for July Celebration Activities in Clapp Park from 11am to 5pm, which includes set up and tear down. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote for a 420XE Cat Backhoe.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a 420XE Cat Backhoe from CAT, in the amount of \$152,268.59. A trade-in allowance of approximately \$50,000 for the current backhoe would reduce the total purchase cost to \$102,268.59.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart to approve the purchase of a 420XE Cat Backhoe from Michigan CAT, in the amount of \$152,268.59, with a trade-in allowance of approximately \$50,000 reducing the total

purchase cost. All ayes carried the motion.

Quote for a CAT 930M Wheeled Loader.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a CAT 930M Wheeled Loader from Michigan CAT in the amount of \$263,341.09. A trade-in allowance of approximately \$145,000 for the current backhoe would reduce the total purchase cost.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard to approve the purchase of a CAT 930M Wheeled Loader from Michigan CAT in the amount of \$263,341.09. A trade-in allowance of approximately \$145,000 for the current backhoe would reduce the total purchase cost.

Ayes: Hart, Leonard, Azzam, Echtenaw. Nays: Palmer. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2026-14-Solid Waste Rates and Conditions.

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on July 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Ferris Azzam, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer, Robin Hart.

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard:

Solid Waste Rate Schedule

These monthly rates shall be effective as of October 1, 2026, billing and thereafter:

Trash and Recycling Collection \$17.66, Hazardous Waste Collection \$0.54 and Yard Waste Collection \$16.66.

Be it further resolved that the owners or occupants of all residential dwellings within the City of St. Louis are required to subscribe to all components of Solid Waste Service on a continual basis.

AYES: Azzam, Leonard, Hart, Palmer, Echtenaw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Resolution 2026-15-Water and Wastewater Rate Schedule.

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on July 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw, Ferris Azzam, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer,
Robin Hart.

ABSENT: None

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

Water Rate Schedule

Be it resolved that the following rates shall be effective for all bills due and payable October 1, 2026, and thereafter:

(a)	Gallons per month	Charge per 1,000 Gallons
	Commodity Charge	\$5.85

A separate meter may be installed, at the customers' expense, to measure water used FOR cooling purposes. If water is used for cooling purposes, and the water is not discharged to a sanitary sewer, wastewater charges are not applicable.

- (b) To the above commodity charge established in subsection (a), there shall be added a readiness to service (RTS) charge to cover fixed costs, based on meter size as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly RTS Charge
5/8 inch	\$30.34
3/4 inch	\$30.34
1 inch	\$58.09
1 ¼ inch	\$82.40
1 ½ inch	\$97.96
2 inch	\$145.48
3 inch	\$245.32
4 inch	\$391.53
6 inch	\$730.45

8 inch	\$1128.84
Monthly Water Flat Fee:	\$64.23
Outside City Water (2x):	\$128.46

(c) For non-metered flat rate customers, within the City, the charge shall be a minimum of \$62.06, which shall include the monthly service charge.

(d) For flat rate customers, outside the City, the charge shall be a minimum of \$124.12 per month, which shall include the monthly service charge or base rates.

(e) For customers outside the corporate limits, the charges shall be double the city commodity rate and service charge based on meter size when no other rate agreement exists between the City and the Township.

(f) All other charges in effect shall remain the same.

Sewer Rate Schedule

(a) The monthly sewer bill shall be based on the water usage at the following rates:

Commodity Charge	\$7.02/1,000 gallons
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Monthly RTS Charge Based on Water Meter Size:

5/8 inch	\$39.11
3/4 inch	\$39.11
1 inch	\$63.56
1 ¼ inch	\$81.08
1 ½ inch	\$91.65
2 inch	\$124.88
3 inch	\$181.23
4 inch	\$268.44
6 inch	\$435.06

8 inch	\$618.86
Non-metered customers	\$78.75
Non-metered, non-City residents, when no rate agreement exists between the City and Township	\$157.50

(b) All other charges in effect shall remain the same.

Be it further resolved that Rates and Fees are established based on all utility customers paying for and receiving service continually. If no water/wastewater or electric energy consumption occurs during any billing period, customers will remain responsible for paying readiness-to-serve charges and applicable fixed monthly fees associated with utility service.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Ayes: Hart, Palmer, Azzam, Leonard, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 7th day of July 2026.

Sale of Vacant Parcel-410 South East Street.

Manager Giles informed council members that a verbal offer has been made for the vacant parcel located at 410 South East Street for \$2,000. No formal purchase agreement has been done yet. Member Leonard suggested making a counteroffer to the buyer and see where it goes.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reminded members of the council that the July Celebration activities kick off with the car cruise in on Wednesday. Garage sales, Miranda and the M-80's and fireworks also will be happening throughout the weekend.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported that the police recruits, Coty and VanDyke are doing well in their field training.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard has heard some great feedback on the new ballistic glass installed in city hall.

Member Palmer stated that he would like to find a way to lower costs on the utilities and reduce burden on the residents.

Public Comments.

Jan Bunting discussed several issues currently happening in our area, including a lack of workers and businesses being unable to find employees, a shortage in state funds and embezzlement at the county level.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, City Clerk