

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
July 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, July 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: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Valerie Kerr-Resident, Marti Thelen-Resident and Keith Risdon-Utilities Director.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for July 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 July 7, 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 \$2,191,597.64. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the June 2026 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

Marti Thelen addressed the Council regarding a past-due utility bill she received. She expressed

concerns with the City's past-due notice, stating that she believed the bill could be formatted more clearly to identify the late fee separately rather than including it only in the total amount due.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Alta Construction Equipment for Bandit Woodchipper.
- b. Payment to Crawford Contracting for DWSRF Loan Valve Replacement Project.
- c. Payment to Insulgard Security Products for Security Upgrades.
- d. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversight Project.
- e. Payment to OHM for Consultant Construction Engineering Services for the DWSRF Grant Project I, Phase II.
- f. Payment to ROWE for Engineering Services for the DWSRF Project.
- g. Payment to Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.
- h. Payment to Malley Construction for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- i. Payment to OHM for Construction Engineering Services for North Main Reconstruction Project.

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

Proposal for FERC Assistance.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from NTH Consultants for Engineering Consulting Services for FERC filings with an amount not to exceed \$188,700.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the proposal from NTH Consultants for Engineering Consulting Services for FERC filings with an amount not to exceed \$188,700. All ayes carried the motion.

Street Closure-Historical Society Evening in the Park.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the street closure of Crawford Street between South Main and South Franklin Street for the annual Evening in the Park with the Historical Society on July 28th, 2026.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Azzam, to approve the street closure of Crawford Street between South Main and South Franklin Street for the annual Evening in the Park with the Historical Society on July 28th, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2026-16-Electric Rates.

COUNTY OF GRATIOT, STATE OF MICHIGAN

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on July 21, 2026 at the City Hall, in the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot at 6:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

Be it resolved that the following rates are effective for October 1, 2026 billing cycle and thereafter. In addition to the following rate adjustments, all customer classes are subject to a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) factor which will be used to balance power supply costs with customer charges. PCA factor shall be calculated monthly in accordance with the PCA Rider contained herein. The City continues to opt in to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) which has a currently approved rate of \$1.25/meter-month. This is a pass-through collection that is paid to the State of Michigan and avoids necessity for the City to develop and implement its own approved LIEAP.

Residential Service

Rate A-1

Distribution Service:

Customer Charge	@ \$13.70	per month
Energy Charge	@ \$0.05320	per kwh

Generation & Transmission Service

Energy Charge:	@ \$0.06850	per kwh
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Energy Optimization Charge:	@ \$0.00225	per kwh
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PCA	Variable	per kwh
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Residential Water Heater Service

Rate A-2

Distribution Service:

Customer Charge	@ \$13.70	per month
Energy Charge	@ \$0.05320	per kwh

Generation & Transmission Service

Energy Charges:

First 650 kwh	@ \$0.06850	per kwh
Over 650 kwh	@ \$0.06300	per kwh
Energy Optimization Charge:	@ \$0.00225	per kwh
PCA	Variable	per kwh

Residential Electric Heat (with or without electric water heater)

Rate A-3

Distribution Charge		
Customer Charge	@ \$10.20	per month
Energy Charge	@ \$0.05320	per kwh
Generation & Transmission Service		
Energy Charges:		
First 650 kwh	@ \$0.06850	per kwh
Over 650 kwh	@ \$0.06300	per kwh
Energy Optimization Charge:	@ \$0.00225	per kwh
PCA	Variable	per kwh

General Service

Rate B

Distribution Service:		
Customer Charge	@ \$28.00	per month
Energy Optimization Charge:	@ \$4.09	per month
Energy Charge	@ \$0.04120	per kwh
Generation & Transmission Service:		
Energy Charge	@ \$0.10620	per kwh
PCA	Variable	per kwh

General Service

Rate C

Distribution Service:		
Customer Charge	@ \$66.50	per month
Energy Optimization Charge:	@ \$70.20	per month
Demand Charge:		
All kw	@ \$4.35	per billing kw
Energy Charge		
First 180 kWh per kw	@ \$0.03160	per kWh
Over 180 kWh per kw	@ \$0.03160	per kWh

Generation & Transmission Service:

Demand Charge:

All kw @ \$ 10.70 per billing kw

Energy Charge:

All kWh @ \$0.044000 per kWh

PCA Variable per kWh

**Large Power
Rate D**

Distribution Service:

Customer Charge @ \$185.50 per month

Energy Optimization Charge: @ \$452.02 per month

Demand Charge @ \$12.00 per billing kw

Primary Service Discount @ \$1.56 per billing kw

Generation & Transmission Service:

Demand Charge

All kw @ \$9.00 per billing kw

Energy Charge

All kWh per kw @ \$0.060200 per kWh

PCA Variable per kWh

RATE EFFECTIVE FOR BILLS RENDERED
ON AND AFTER October 1, 2026

**The City of St. Louis Electric Department
ST. LOUIS, MICHIGAN
ELECTRIC SERVICE SCHEDULE
POWER COST ADJUSTMENT RIDER (PCA)**

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT RIDER (PCA)

Applicability:

The PCA will apply to all Electric Rate Schedules except non-metered and special contract rates.

Calculation:

The PCA will be calculated using the most recent six month's actual power cost and applied to each customer's monthly billed energy (kWh).

The PCA Adjustment shall be calculated according to the following formula:

$$PCA = ((P/S) + L) - B$$

P = Wholesale power supplier cost

Cost of power during previous six-month period calculated using the most recent six month's actual power cost plus periodic true up of accumulated positive or negative balance.

S = Number of kilowatt-hours sold during the same time period as factor "P".

L = System annual average losses (7.2%).

B = Average cost of power per kilowatt-hour recovered through base retail rates (\$0.06258).

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: Leonard, Palmer, Azzam, Hart, Echtenaw

Nays: None

Abstain: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 21st day of July, 2026.

Quote for Sludge Pump Rebuild.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Detroit Pump to rebuild the raw sludge pump in the amount of \$6,900.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Azzam, to approve the quote from Detroit Pump to rebuild the raw sludge pump in the amount of \$6,900. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the Joint School Board-City Council Meeting will be at city hall on August 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Manager Giles informed the council that the Parks and Recreation Committee denied the request for a wind phone to be installed at Lions Park.

Manager Giles reported that the owners of the former bank building at 137 North Mill are working on getting an OPRA for that location.

City Clerk Report.

Clerk Long reported that there are now three write in candidates for council positions.

Police Chief Report:

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard gave thanks to the crews that got the city looking nice for the July Celebration and all the volunteers who made the celebration possible, Leonard thanked Member Hart for her volunteer time at the dunk tank along with several St. Louis football players.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk