

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
August 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, August 18, 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, and Keith Risdon-Utilities Director

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for August 18, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Public Hearing-Establishment of O.P.R.A District.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and asked for public comments.

There were none.

Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Palmer supported by Hart, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,319,556.22. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the July 2026 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Azzam supported by Leonard, to receive the July 2026 Monthly Reports and place them on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

There were none.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan-Valve Replacement Project.
- b. Payment to Crawford Contracting for DWSRF Loan Project.
- c. Payment to Deere & Company for Zero Turn Lawn Mowers.
- d. Payment to Michigan Cat for Backhoe Purchase.
- e. Payment to Dice Excavating, Inc. for Disposal of Street Sweeping Debris.
- f. Payment to Powell for Custom Brackets and Bearings for Dam Gates.
- g. Payment to T.H. Eifert, LLC for Methane Gas Burner Repairs.
- h. Payment to T.H. Eifert, LLC for Valve Replacements.
- i. Payment to Waste Management for Disposal of Street Sweeping Debris.
- j. Payment to Worthy Electric for Electrical Installation for Union Street Pump Station Generator.

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

Maintenance Inspection of Crawford Water Storage Tank-Dixon Engineering.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the proposal from Dixon Engineering Inc. for the Maintenance Inspection Proposal for the Crawford Street Water Storage Tank in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,150 and for the Giddings Water Storage Tank in an amount not-to-exceed \$4800.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the proposal from Dixon Engineering Inc. for the Maintenance Inspection Proposal for the Crawford Street Water Storage Tank in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,150 and for the Giddings Water Storage Tank in an amount not-to-exceed \$4800. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2026-17-Establishing O.P.R.A District.

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 18th day of August, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Azzam, Hart, Leonard, Palmer, Echtenaw.

Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 146 of the Public Acts of 2000, the City Council for the City of St. Louis has the authority to establish “Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District” within the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, 137 N MILL STREET LLC has filed a written request with the clerk of the City of St. Louis requesting the establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District on its property located in the City of St. Louis hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of St. Louis sets forth a finding and determination that the district meets the requirements set forth in section 3(1) of Public Acts 146 of 2000; and

WHEREAS, written notice has been given by mail to all owners of real property located within the proposed district, and to the public by newspaper advertisement in the Morning Sun and/or public posting of the hearing on the establishment of the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2026 a public hearing was held and all residents and taxpayers of the City of St. Louis were afforded an opportunity to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest of the City of St. Louis to establish the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District as proposed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Louis that the following described parcel of land situated in the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, to wit:

137 North Mill Street Parcel # 29-53-010-128-30

WD L 598 P 203 COM AT NE COR OF BLK 34, TH S 73 FT 6 IN, W 55 FT 2 IN, S 4 FT 6 IN, W 109 FT 10 IN, N 78 FT, E 165 FT TO POB EX W 50 FT OF N 73.2 FT, BEING PART OF LOTS 11 & 12, BLK 34, CITY OF SAINT LOUIS

be and here is established as an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District pursuant to the provision of Act No. 146 of the Public Acts of 2000 to be known as 137 North Mill Street Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act District No. 2026-03.

AYES: Palmer, Hart, Azzam, Leonard, Echtenaw

NAYES: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the city had received a proposal from Granger for 1-2 years of solid waste/trash remove. Giles stated that he and Aeris Ripley, the Alma City Manager, had to do some homework on the contract and they hoped to have a recommendation for the contract in September.

City Clerk Report.

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

Police Chief Report:

Chief Ramereiz reported that the two trainees, Coty and VanDyke, are in their last week of field training, then they will start their 80 hours of shadow training.

Chief Ramereiz reported that they had hosted two weeks of CAD training here at city hall. The training was Police, Fire, and EMS. With the city's facilities they were able to host a mock demonstration. Ramereiz thanked the city and council for having such excellent training facilities available for them to use.

Council Comments.

Member Leonard reported that he has received lots of complaints about all the construction in town.

Member Azzam gave compliments to Officer Jasmine VanDyke for her professionalism at a recent accident he was in downtown. Azzam commented that she was informative and handled the situation very well. Azzam stated she is top notch.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:27p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk