

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
September 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Council Members Absent: Fares E. Azzam (Excused)

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

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Keith Risdon-Utilities Director, Andrea Peak-AECOM, Diane Russell-EPA, Anna Nguyen-EPA, David Skuratovich-USACE, Coloring Contest winners and their families.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the agenda for September 15, 2026, with the addition of 11C, Setting Public Hearing for O.P.R.A Exemption for 137 N Mill and 11D, the Railroad Permit. All ayes carried the motion.

Presentation of Public Power Coloring Contest Winners.

Josh Leppien, Economic Development Director, presented awards for the Public Power Coloring Contest to winners from first to third grade St. Louis students including Leonardo Wright, Addy Hernandez, Noah Cojocar, and Rebecca Carrol and the overall winner, Ella Lowery.

EPA Presentation-Former Velsicol Plant Site.

Andrea Peak of AECOM gave a brief presentation on the former Velsicol Plant Site, touching on upcoming and completed projects at the site.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 1, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$694,929.39. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the August 2026 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were none.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Change Order #2-Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.
- b. Change Order #1-Green Tech Systems, for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- c. Payment to Green Tech Systems for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- d. Payment to Crawford Contracting for the DWSRF Loan Valve Replacement Project.
- e. Payment to Digital Ally for 5th year payment for Police Body Cameras.
- f. Payment to NTH Consultants for FERC Assistance.
- g. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversight Project.
- h. Payment to OHM For Construction Engineering Services for the North Main Street Reconstruction Project.

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

Resolution 2026-18-Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis maintains public records and information through various computerized information systems and databases; and

WHEREAS, advances in information technology allow certain public information to be made available electronically in forms beyond the traditional inspection and copying of individual public records; and

WHEREAS, the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act, Public Act 462 of 1996, MCL 15.441 et seq., authorizes a public body, upon authorization of its governing body, to provide enhanced access for the inspection, copying, or purchasing of public records that are not confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Act further authorizes the governing body to establish reasonable fees designed to recover over time operating expenses directly related to providing enhanced access; and

WHEREAS, the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act requires a public body to adopt an Enhanced Access Policy before providing enhanced access to the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a consistent Citywide policy governing enhanced electronic access while preserving all rights of access to public records provided by the Michigan Freedom of Information Act and other applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of St. Louis hereby adopts the following:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for providing enhanced access to designated non-confidential public records and electronic data maintained by the City pursuant to the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act, Public Act 462 of 1996, MCL 15.441 et seq.

Nothing in this policy is intended to restrict or diminish a person's right to inspect or obtain copies of public records under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act or other applicable law.

2. Definitions

Enhanced Access means a public record's immediate availability for public inspection, purchase, or copying by digital means, as provided by the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act.

Enhanced Access Data Product means a standardized electronic database, dataset, export, file, or other electronic information product specifically designated by City Council as available through enhanced access.

Operating Expenses include direct costs associated with creating, compiling, storing, maintaining, processing, upgrading, or enhancing information or data in a form available for enhanced access, including applicable computer hardware and software costs, system development, employee time, and the actual cost of supplying the information.

3. Authorization

The City Council hereby authorizes the City to provide enhanced access to public records and electronic data products specifically designated by City Council.

No City database, dataset, electronic record, or data product shall be subject to an Enhanced Access fee unless specifically designated by City Council.

The City is not required to provide enhanced access to a particular public record or electronic data product unless enhanced access to that record or product has been authorized by City Council.

4. Confidential and Exempt Information

Enhanced access shall be limited to information subject to public disclosure.

Information that is confidential by statute, exempt from disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, protected by privilege, or otherwise prohibited from public disclosure shall not be included in an Enhanced Access Data Product.

Designation of a database or electronic system for enhanced access does not mean that all information contained within that system is public.

The City may establish standardized electronic exports that suppress confidential or exempt information while providing enhanced access to publicly releasable information.

5. Enhanced Access Data Products

City Council may designate standardized electronic data products for enhanced access by resolution.

Such products may include information maintained within:

- Assessing/CAMA systems;
- Financial management systems;
- Geographic Information Systems;
- Cemetery systems;
- Tax systems, where not otherwise governed by a specific statutory fee; and
- Other municipal information systems containing publicly releasable information.

Designation of additional products and establishment of applicable fees shall require approval by City Council.

6. Customized Requests

Nothing in this policy requires the City to create a customized report, compilation, database query, spreadsheet, data arrangement, or electronic product that the City is not otherwise required to create under applicable law.

The City may provide a standardized Enhanced Access Data Product in the electronic format in which that product is maintained or generated.

7. Fees

City Council shall establish reasonable fees for designated Enhanced Access Data Products by resolution.

Fees shall be calculated to enable the City to recover overtime only those operating expenses directly related to providing enhanced access, consistent with the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act.

Fees may take into consideration applicable direct costs associated with computer hardware and software, system development and maintenance, creating, compiling, storing, maintaining, processing, upgrading and enhancing electronic information, employee or contracted personnel time, and the actual cost of supplying the information.

8. Relationship to FOIA and Other Public Record Laws

This policy does not limit a person's right to inspect or obtain copies of public records pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq., the General Property Tax Act, or other applicable law.

Where another statute specifically governs the availability of a public record or establishes a fee for that record, the applicable statutory requirements shall control.

9. Disclaimer

Electronic information provided through enhanced access is provided for informational purposes.

The City makes no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose of information provided through enhanced access.

The City assumes no responsibility or liability arising from the use, misuse, interpretation, or reliance upon information provided through enhanced access.

10. Administration

The City Manager or designee is authorized to administer this policy and establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy and applicable law.

11. Effective Date

This policy shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council. The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 15th day of September, 2026.

Resolution 2026-19-Establishing Enhanced Access Data Products and Fees.

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted an Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy (Resolution 2026-18) pursuant to the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act, Public Act 462 of 1996, MCL 15.441 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act authorizes the City Council to establish reasonable fees for providing enhanced access to designated public records; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains assessment, property, and cemetery information electronically through specialized computerized information systems; and

WHEREAS, the City incurs operating expenses associated with creating, compiling, storing, maintaining, processing, updating, enhancing, and providing electronic information; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to designate standardized electronic data products for enhanced access and establish reasonable fees designed to recover over time a portion of the eligible operating expenses directly related to providing such enhanced access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of St. Louis hereby designates the following Enhanced Access Data Products and establishes the following fees:

1. ASSESSMENT/CAMA PUBLIC DATA EXPORT

Full City Assessment/CAMA Public Data Export — \$1,000

A standardized electronic export of publicly releasable assessment information maintained within the City's Assessing/CAMA system, including available parcel, assessment, land, building, and property-characteristic information included within the City's standardized public data export.

Subsequent Update During the Same Assessment Year — \$250

The City will provide the standardized data product in the electronic format in which it is maintained or generated by the City's information system.

Confidential information, information exempt from disclosure, and information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law shall not be included.

2. CEMETERY PUBLIC DATA EXPORT

Full Cemetery Public Data Export — \$1,000

A standardized electronic export of publicly releasable information maintained within the City's computerized Cemetery database.

The City will provide the standardized data product in the electronic format in which it is maintained or generated by the City's information system.

Confidential information, information exempt from disclosure, and information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law shall not be included.

3. STANDARD FORMAT

Enhanced Access Data Products shall be provided in the City's standardized electronic format.

The City is not required by this resolution to convert, reformat, reorganize, customize, or otherwise alter an Enhanced Access Data Product to meet the specifications or preferences of a purchaser.

A request for a customized compilation, query, report, spreadsheet, or data arrangement shall be considered separately under applicable law and is not included within the fees established by this resolution.

4. FUTURE DATA PRODUCTS

Additional standardized electronic data products and applicable fees may be designated by subsequent resolution of the City Council.

The City's Financial Management system, including standardized accounts payable/vendor transaction data, is not designated as an Enhanced Access Data Product by this resolution.

Staff is authorized to review the Financial Management system and available software exports to determine whether a standardized City-specific public data product can be developed that appropriately distinguishes City of St. Louis transactions from transactions processed on behalf of separate entities and excludes confidential or exempt information.

Any future designation of a Financial Management Enhanced Access Data Product and establishment of a fee shall be presented to City Council for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or designee is authorized to administer the Enhanced Access Data Products and Fee Schedule consistent with the City's Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy and applicable law.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption. The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Ayes: Hart, Leonard, Palmer, Echlinaw

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Azzam

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 15th day of September, 2026.

Addition to Agenda-Set Public Hearing for O.P.R.A Exemption for 137 North Mill.

Manager Giles requested members to approve setting the public hearing for the O.P.R.A exemption for 137 North Mill Street for October 6, 2026.

Discussion was Held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve setting the public hearing for the O.P.R.A exemption for 137 North Mill Street for October 6, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Addition to Agenda-Permit Application Fees for Fiber Optic Railroad Crossing at Woodside Drive.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the permit application fees for fiber optic cable crossing at Woodside drive from Mid-Michigan Railroad, in the amount of \$8,000.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the permit application fees for fiber optic cable crossing at Woodside drive from Mid-Michigan Railroad, in the amount of \$8,000. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Nothing to Report.

City Clerk Report. Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report:

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Nothing to report.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to adjourn at 6:45.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk