

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
August 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtenaw on Tuesday, August 4, 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
Deputy Clerk:	Bobbie Marr
Police Chief:	Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance: Josh Leppien- Economic Development Director, Tauheedah Maten-SBA and Karen Payton-SBA.

Mayor Echtenaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Hart, to approve the agenda for August 4, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

SBA Loan Presentation.

Karen Payton from SBA gave a presentation on the SBA Loans.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 21, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Azzam supported by Hart, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$390,511.56. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the July 2026 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to receive the July 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 “e” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Seifert Concrete for 2026 Sidewalk Replacement Project.
- b. Payment to MDOT for Reconstruction of Main Street from M-46 to Center Street.
- c. Change Order #6-Malley Construction for the DWSRF Grant Construction Project.
- d. Change Order #1-Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.
- e. Payment to NTH Consultants-FERC Assistance.

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

2026 Summer Paving Quotes.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quotes from Rite-Way Asphalt in the amount of \$21,435, for asphalt repairs, installation of a new walkway and Union Street repairs.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard, to approve the quotes from Rite-Way Asphalt in the amount of \$21,435, for asphalt repairs, installation of a new walkway and Union Street repairs. All ayes carried the motion.

Downtown Wi-Fi Upgrade.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote from Flegel Tech to upgrade the Wi-Fi infrastructure in the amount of \$5,499.99.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the quote from Flegel Tech to upgrade the Wi-Fi infrastructure in the amount of \$5,499.99. All ayes carried the motion.

Set Public Hearing-Setting OPRA District.

Manager Giles requested members to set the public hearing to establish the OPRA District for 137

North Mill Street for August 18, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Palmer, to set the public hearing to establish the OPRA District for 137 North Mill Street for August 18, 2026, at 6 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Replacement of Mini Split HVAC Unit in City Hall Server Room.

Manager Giles requested members to approve an authorization of up to \$9,400 to replace the mini-split cooling unit in the server room at City Hall.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Palmer, to approve an authorization of up to \$9,400 to replace the min-split cooling unit in the server room at City Hall.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that Mill and Center Streets and potentially Mill and Saginaw Streets will be evaluated and repairs will be made to the sinkholes.

Manager Giles reported that he had a meeting with FEMA regarding the storm damage in April and he is hopeful that the city may be eligible for reimbursement for repairs.

Manager Giles reported that the eviction order was carried out for 117 South East Street and the termination of Consumers natural gas service is in process and demo specifications are being written for bids.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz reported the trainees are doing well, they should be off training by the end of the month.

Council Comments.

Member Palmer asked if the city had heard anything back on the vacant lot purchase/sale. Manager Giles stated the buyer was getting finances in order.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Azzam, supported by Leonard to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Bobbie Marr, Deputy Clerk