CITY COUNCILPROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
November 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw, 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: Shelly Brown, Kasey Zehner, Samantha Mariuz, Greg Kolhoff, Kevin Taylor, Brett Morell, and three students.

Mayor Echtinaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the agenda for November 17, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Brownfield Presentation.

Samantha Mariuz of Fleis & Vanderbrink gave a brief presentation of the rehabilitation project at 137 North Mill Street.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 28, 2026, and the Regular Meeting held on November 3, 2026. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of $582,532.24. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the October 2026 Monthly Reports.

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

Audience Recognition.

There were none.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Echtinaw requested approval/receipt of Consent Agenda items "a" through "i" as shown below:

a. Change Order #3-Crawford Contracting for Construction Improvements for the DWSRF Loan Project.
b. Change Order #4-Crawford Contracting, for the DWSRF Loan Project.
c. Payment to OHM for Professional Services for the DWSRF Loan Construction Oversite Project.
d. Payment to Dixon Engineering Inc. for Maintenance Inspections of Storage Tanks.
e. Payment to Elite Pipeline Services for Storm Sewer Repair.
f. Payment to NTH Consultants for FERC Assistance.
g. Payment to R-Value for DPW Building Heat Expansion.
h. Payment to York for Reconditioning of Hydro Generator.
i. Payment to Burford Plumbing & Rite Way Asphalt Paving for CBDG Homeowner Rehabilitations.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Leonard, to approve Consent Agenda items "a" through "i". All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of New Police Patrol Vehicle.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the purchase of a 2027 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle with Arrowhead Upfitters, serving as the primary vendor, along with purchases from additional vendors, for a total amount not to exceed $73,500.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Hart, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase of a 2027 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle with Arrowhead Upfitters, serving as the primary vendor, along with purchases from additional vendors, for a total amount not to exceed $73,500. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2026-25-Establishing 2027 Meetings.

Minutes for the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, held in the City Hall Council Chambers on the 17th day of November 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Ralph R. Echtinaw, William R. Leonard, Kevin D. Palmer, Robin W. Hart

Absent: None

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

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Saint Louis, Gratiot County, Michigan, pursuant to Act 261 Michigan Public Acts of 1968, and in accordance with Section 5.1 of the Saint Louis City Charter, hereby gives notice to the public of the regular meeting schedule for the calendar year 2027.

WHEREAS, The City Council, in accordance with Section 5.1 of the Saint Louis City Charter, is required to hold meetings, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of January following the regular City election, for the purpose of installation of newly elected Council Members. Regular meetings shall be held at least twice each month.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the dates for holding said regular meetings shall be as follows:

January 4	April 6	July 6	October 5
January 19	April 20	July 20	October 19
February 2	May 4	August 3	November 2
February 16	May 18	August 17	November 16
March 2	June 1	September 7	December 7
March 16	June 15	September 21	December 21

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council hereby establishes as its place and time for holding aforesaid regular meetings as the City Council Chambers, City Office Building, 300 North Mill Street, Saint Louis, Michigan at 6:00 o'clock P.M except the first meeting in January shall be at 7:00 P.M. as stated in the City Charter.

Ayes: Palmer, Hart, Leonard, Echtinaw

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted this 17th day of November 2026.

Discussion of Appointment of City Council Member to Fill Vacancy.

Member Leonard thanked all of the applicants for their interest in filling the vacant seat on council and gave a brief speech about what it takes to be a council member.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to appoint Greg Kolhoff to council.
Ayes: Leonard, Hart, Echtinaw Nays: Palmer, motion carried.

Quote for 46KV Fuses for Gibson Substation.

Manager Giles requested members to approve the quote for 46KV Fuses for the Gibson Substation from Irby Utility, in the amount of $9042.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Hart, to approve the quote for 46KV Fuses for the Gibson Substation from Irby Utility, in the amount of $9042.00. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles reported that the city has received notice on health insurance renewals and a 17% raise in rates is expected. Giles reported that other options will be looked at to try to find the best option for employees.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report:

Chief Ramereiz reported that the investigation into the police officer involved accident is still ongoing. Ramereiz reported that the officer that was involved has been discharged from the hospital and is doing well.

Council Comments.

Member Palmer reported that he appreciates all of the community interest in the open council position.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Adjournment.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Hart, to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Jamie Long, Clerk