

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan

March 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor James Kelly on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Public participation was made available by Zoom or call-in.

Council Members Present: Via Zoom Mayor James C. Kelly, Roger L. Collison, George T. Kubin, William R. Leonard, Thomas L. Reed (all members participated from within the City of St. Louis).

Council Members Absent: None

City Manager: Kurt Giles

City Clerk: Mari Anne Ryder

Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director, Mark Abbott – Public Works Superintendent, Linda Bader – Farmers Market Manager, Ralph Echtenaw – St. Louis Sentinel

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 2, 2021.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Collison, Leonard, Kubin, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$367,827.02.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Kubin, Reed, Collison, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the February, 2021 Reports.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to receive the February, 2021 Monthly Reports and place on file.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Collison, Leonard, Kubin, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Audience Recognition.

Ralph Echtenaw asked what the digging on Berea Street is for. Mark Abbott stated a resident had a failed sewer and the sewer lead had to be replaced.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Fishbeck for Professional Services – Well 12.
- b. Payment to Weiland Truck & Trailer for Dump Truck Repairs.
- c. Payment to Etna for Purchase of Electric Meters.
- d. Payment to Border States for Purchase of Transformer to be reimbursed by US EPA.
- e. Payment to Anderson Carpet for Finance Office Carpet Replacement to be reimbursed by the City’s insurance company.
- f. Thank you notes from Jo Ward – receive.

Moved by Reed, supported by Kubin, to approve Consent Agenda items “a” through “f.”

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Reed, Kubin, Collison, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

New Business.

Farmers Market – Linda Bader.

Linda Bader updated members on the plans for this seasons Farmers Market, stating the same precautions will be in place as last season. She is following Michigan Farmers Market Guidelines. Again, the market will be held Thursdays, June through October from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the south parking lot.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to give a standing approval the Farmers Market to be held Thursdays, June through October at City Hall in the south parking lot until such time it is deemed necessary for a change.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Reed, Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Purchase of Dump Truck.

Manager Giles requested members approve the purchase of a 2022 Dump Truck from Wieland International in the amount of \$78,797.24 and the Dump Truck Equipment from Schults Equipment in the amount of \$96,635.00 for a total amount of \$175,432.24.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison, supported by Kubin, to approve the purchase of a 2022 Dump Truck from Wieland International in the amount of \$78,797.24 and the Dump Truck Equipment from Schults Equipment in the amount of \$96,635.00 for a total amount of \$175,432.24.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Collison, Kubin, Leonard, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Set Public Hearing for Traffic Control Order #T-117-1-132.

Manager Giles requested members set a Public Hearing for Traffic Control Order #T-117-1-132, which states there shall be no parking on the east side of Maple Street (south east corner) 50 feet south from the right of way of Chestnut Street.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to set the Public Hearing for the Special Traffic Control Order #T-117-1-132.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Kubin, Reed, Collison, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

It was later discovered a Public Hearing is not needed.

Set Public Hearing for Special Assessment Renewal for May 18, 2021.

Manager Giles requested members set the Public Hearing for the 2021/2022 Special Assessment Renewal, which again will be 2 mills.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Collison, supported by Kubin, to set the Public Hearing for the Special Assessment Renewal for 2021/2022.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Collison, Kubin, Leonard, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Tax Collection Agreement.

Manager Giles requested members approve the Tax Collection Agreement between St. Louis Ithaca Pine River (SLIPR) Transit Authority and the City of St. Louis.

The agreement states that the St. Louis Treasurer agrees to collect/disburse the summer property tax levy for SLIPR.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to approve the Tax Collection Agreement between SLIPR and the City of St. Louis.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Reed, Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

FERC Financial Assurance Measure Comments.

Manager Giles asked members if they would be willing to consider supporting the City of Ann Arbor's position and any other MMEA members in opposing additional FERC Regulations that would affect municipal dam owners.

Discussion was held.

It was the consensus of the Council to not support this at this time due to the little amount of information they have.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles informed members of the following:

1. The City was successful in receiving the grant from Gratiot County Community Foundation for the basketball court upgrade at Lincoln Park.
2. There is a need for a Special Council Meeting next Tuesday if members are available to consider a Professional Services Agreement for lead and copper service lines replacement. Grant funds are available, and the regular meeting April 6th will be too late due to the grant application deadline.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz stated grant funds were awarded from the Gratiot County Community Foundation for a second camera at Clapp Park.

Council Comments.

Member Collison asked if the grant funds for the basketball court are to be designated for only Lincoln Park. Manager Giles stated yes.

Member Kubin informed Council he is seeking another 4-year term as Council Member.

Member Reed inquired on issues he was aware of at Clapp Park. Nothing has been reported.

Mayor Kelly stated he received a thank you note from the Methodist Church for keeping the City strong and will be sending a thank you note.

Public Comments.

Ralph Echtenaw asked about inoperable vehicles. Chief Ramereiz stated they are being dealt with.

Adjournment.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Collison, Leonard, Kubin, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk