

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
February 1, 2022

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor Thomas L. Reed, Roger L. Collison, George T. Kubin, William R. Leonard, Elizabeth A. Upton

Council Members Absent: None

City Manager: Kurt Giles
City Clerk: Mari Anne Ryder
Police Officer: Jon Rugenstein

Others in Attendance:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director, Bobbie Marr – Finance Director, Steve Warren – OHM

Member Kubin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 18, 2022. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$457,085.04. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the January, 2022 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Collison, to receive the January, 2022 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Change Order No. 5 from Fisher Contracting – Michigan Avenue Pump Station.
- b. Payment to Fisher Contracting – Michigan Avenue Pump Station.
- c. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – Main Street Bridge.
- d. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – DWAM.
- e. Payment to Rehmann for 3-year Support Renewal.
- f. Payment to BS&A for Annual Service/Support.

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

New Business.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2022-02 – Poverty Exemption, which sets the guidelines used in the determination of Poverty Exemptions.

Resolution 2022-02 – Poverty Exemption.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Leonard, and supported by Member Kubin:

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of St. Louis, Gratiot County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit*.

- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed \$5,000. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one business day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
- 8) The applicant should appear before the board of review for purpose of answering any questions the board may have to make a proper determination.

The following are the 2022 federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions

Size of Family Unit	2021 Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660
For each additional person	\$5,540

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

Ayes: Leonard, Kubin, Collison, Reed

Nays: None

Absent: Upton

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Proposal for Engineering Services – Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan.

Manager Giles requested members approve the Proposal for Engineering Services from OHM for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan in the amount of \$109,000.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Collison, to approve the Proposal for Engineering Services from OHM for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plan in the amount of \$109,000.00. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles informed members of the following:

1. The bid opening for Well 12 is scheduled for March 2nd. The pre-bid meeting is February 10th.
2. The bid opening for the Solid Waste contract is scheduled for February 16th.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Collison stated he appreciated the Water Rate Comparison that members received from Manager Giles.

Public Comments.

Finance Director Bobbie Marr stated she and Library Director Jessica Little attended the Gratiot County Commission Meeting. The Library Millage was the topic. Jessica did a nice job representing the library and explaining where millage funds are used.

Adjournment.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk