

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
September 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor James C. Kelly on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor James C. Kelly, Roger L. Collison, William R. Leonard, Thomas L. Reed

Council Members Absent: George T. Kubin (excused)

City Manager: Kurt Giles
City Clerk: Mari Anne Ryder
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance:

Bobbie Marr – Finance Director, Max Clever – Spicer Group, Ralph Echtenaw – St. Louis Sentinel, Robi Rodriguez – Resident

Member Collison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 17, 2021. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Collison, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$710,047.05. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Board Minutes.

City Council discussed the August, 2021 Monthly Board Minutes.

Moved by Reed, supported by Collison, to receive the August, 2021 Monthly Board Minutes and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – Michigan Avenue Pump Station.
- b. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – Main Street Bridge Design.
- c. Payment to OHM for Professional Services – Sanitary Sewer Improvements.
- d. Payment to OHM for Professional Services – Water Main Replacement.
- e. Payment to Fishbeck for Professional Services – Well 12.
- f. Payment to State of Michigan for State Street Reconstruction Project.
- g. Payment to Central Asphalt for 2021 Pavement Improvement Project.
- h. Energy Optimization Report – Receive.

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

New Business.

Discuss Penny Park Playground Safety Surface.

Manager Giles stated there have been concerns regarding the use of rubber mulch in the City Parks. Keith Risdon has stopped the recent order that was placed for Penny Park until the matter of safety due to health concerns has been researched further. It was the consensus of the Council to leave the Pea Stone surface at Penny Park and re-evaluate in the spring.

Moved by Collison, supported by Reed to leave Penny Park as is and refer the matter to the Parks & Recreation Commission for further evaluation. All ayes carried the motion.

Set Public Hearing to Consider Industrial Facility Exemption (IFE).

Manager Giles requested members set a Public Hearing on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to consider a request from Jer-Den Plastics IFE.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to set a Public Hearing on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to consider a request from Jer-Den Plastics IFE. All ayes carried the motion.

Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commission.

Manager Giles stated a request was received from Chuck Oatten to be appointed on the Parks and Recreation Commission, which currently has two vacancies and recommended his appointment, stating that he would be a good addition to the Commission.

Moved by Reed, supported by Collison, to appoint Chuck Oatten to the Parks & Recreation Commission. All ayes carried the motion.

Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commission.

Manager Giles stated a request was also received from Elizabeth Upton to be appointed on the Parks and Recreation Commission, who is also a candidate for City Council and would also be a good addition to the Commission.

Moved by Leonard, supported by Collison, to appoint Elizabeth Upton to the Parks & Recreation Commission. All ayes carried the motion.

Authorization to Execute Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Grant Agreement.

Manager Giles requested members to authorize Keith Risdon or himself to execute the DWAM Grant Agreement.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to authorize Keith Risdon or Kurt Giles to execute the DWAM Grant Agreement. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2021-12 Energy Waste Reduction Program.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2021-12, Energy Waste Reduction Program.

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

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan (the “City”) began providing an Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) program for its electric utility customers during the City’s fiscal year 2009-2010. This program complied with the provisions of P.A. 295 of 2008 which, in this case, applied to municipal electric utilities such as the City. Since 2009, the City has continuously provided an EWR program which was also previously known as Energy Optimization or Energy Efficiency.

WHEREAS, P.A. 295 has been amended since its passage including, most recently, when P.A. 342 was passed. A provision of P.A. 342 is that the EWR mandate will be discontinued after December 31, 2021. Unless legislation occurs to extend EWR requirements for municipal utilities, our independent third-party verification contractor will complete their work and MPPA staff will submit filings to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in 2022 for the final time.

WHEREAS, the City has participated with a service committee of Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) who has contracted with an EWR implementation contractor and savings verification contractor to fulfill requirements of P.A. 342. It is understood, that absent any replacement legislation, municipal utilities who voluntarily offer EWR programs would no

longer be required to have independent verifications conducted or submit annual filings to the MPSC.

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the value of offering an EWR program and wishes to continue offering comparable services in calendar year 2022. For smaller municipal utilities, the most cost-effective method of providing such programs is through a joint venture as described herein. MPPA along with the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) are planning to solicit proposals from firms to provide comparable services. In addition to the scope of an EWR program, participating utilities have requested a new component to address “Green Energy or Environmentally Friendly” offerings.

WHEREAS, The City has charged its electric customers an Energy Optimization surcharge to fund the current EWR program. Charges have been in the amount of \$0.00225/kWh for residential customers, \$4.09 per month for General Service Rate B customers, \$70.20 per month for General Service Demand Rate C customers and \$452.02 per month for Primary Service Rate D customers. The estimated proceeds from this surcharge total \$69,300 annually and the annual energy savings goal is approximately 314,000 kWh.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Provided a comparable EWR/Green Energy program is available through MPPA, the City will continue collecting the above-described surcharges in calendar year 2022 and use the proceeds to fund energy incentives to customers and make payments to MPPA for work performed by contractors and other service committee-related expenses.

Ayes: Collison, Leonard, Reed, Kelly
Nays: None
Resolution Declared Adopted.

Purchase of Sensus Base Station.

Manager Giles requested members approve the purchase of a Sensus Base Station, which is part of our meter read system, from Etna Supply in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to approve the purchase of a Sensus Base Station, which is part of our meter read system, from Etna Supply in the amount of \$30,000.00. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles informed members of the following:

1. The plans and Specification for Well 12 have been sent out and are ready to be submitted to EGLE for permitting.
2. The Generators were tested and all went well. The Electric Department did a great job.

City Clerk Report.

Mari Anne informed members that Jackie Randall has been assigned to be the MERS Employee Delegate for the Fall Conference.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Reed asked if the DPW position has been filled. Manager Giles stated the Operator position has been filled, but the Supervisor position has not been filled yet.

Member Leonard asked who is acting Supervisor. Manager Giles stated Keith Risdon is.

Member Collison asked the status of the Cheesman Road bridge. Manager Giles stated he will find out when the bridge should be opened.

Member Collison asked the status of the sidewalk to Dollar General. Manager Giles stated Request for Proposals have been sent out.

Mayor Kelly stated he and the City Manager met with Gary Rayburn from the Healthy Pine River Group and Gary asked for more involvement with the City.

Public Comments.

Resident Robi Rodriguez addressed the Council regarding COVID and rights of the people, stating Civil Rights laws. That it is unconstitutional to require masks be worn and against HIPAA Laws to ask someone to show proof of vaccination.

Robbie Rodriguez stated she is considering running as a write in for the Mayor position in the November election.

Adjournment.

Moved by Collison, supported by Reed, to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk