

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
December 1, 2020

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor James Kelly on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Conference Call. Public participation was made available by conference call or in-person at City Hall.

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

Council Members Absent: None

City Manager: Kurt Giles – City Hall Council Chambers
City Clerk: Mari Anne Ryder – via Conference Call – Arcada Township
Police Chief: Richard Ramereiz – City Hall Council Chambers

Others in Attendance Via Conference Call:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director (City of Mt. Pleasant), Mark Abbott – Public Works Superintendent (Bethany Township), Ralph Echtenaw – St. Louis Sentinel (City of St. Louis)

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 17, 2020.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Kubin, Reed, Collison, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$299,806.01.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Reed, Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Monthly Board Minutes.

No minutes were available.

Audience Recognition.

There were no comments.

Consent Agenda.

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

- a. Cable Consortium Minutes - Receive.

Moved by Collison, supported by Reed, to approve Consent Agenda item “a.”

Roll Call:

Ayes: Collison, Reed, Kubin, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

New Business.

Resolution 2020-17 – Establishing Rules for Remote Meetings.

Manager Giles requested members approve to adopt Resolution 2020-17. A Resolution Establishing Rules for Remote Meetings.

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

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed into law Act 228, Public Acts of Michigan, 2020, which amends the Open Meetings Act (the "OMA") with immediate effect; and

WHEREAS, Act 228 amends the OMA to allow public bodies to conduct electronic "virtual" meetings with remote participation for any reason through December 31, 2020, and anytime during 2021 under specific circumstances; and

WHEREAS, under Act 228, public bodies are required to establish certain procedures to accommodate the absence of any member of the public body due to military duty, a medical condition, or a statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster declared pursuant to law or charter by the governor or a local official or local governing body that would risk the personal health or safety of members of the public or the public body if the meeting were held in person; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish rules to authorize and allow its members and members of the public to attend meetings of the City Council held remotely by telephone or other electronic means as required by Act 228.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council immediately authorizes its members and members of the public to attend remote meetings of the City Council by telephone or other electronic means and establishes rules as follows:

1. NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

- A. For every meeting to be held remotely pursuant to this Resolution, the City Clerk shall post at the City Hall Office, 300 North Mill Street, St. Louis, MI 48880, and, if the City Council directly or indirectly maintains an official internet presence, then post on the homepage of the City's website in a conspicuous location, the following:
 - a. Notice of the meeting posted at least 18 hours before the meeting begins.
 - b. An explanation of why the City Council is meeting remotely.
 - c. Information on how members of the public may contact members of the City Council to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Council at the meeting.
 - d. The dial-in conference number or other necessary information for members of the public to utilize in order to access the meeting remotely.
 - e. The agenda for the meeting at least 2 hours prior to the meeting.
 - f. Procedures by which persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting.

2. CONDUCT OF THE MEETING:

- A. The telephone or other electronic technology being utilized shall, at a minimum, (i) allow the members of the Council to hear and be heard by other members of the Council, and (ii) assure that general public participants can hear members of the Council and can be heard by members of the Council and other participants during a public comment period. The Council may use technology to facilitate typed public comments during the meeting submitted by members of the public participating in the meeting that may be read to or shared with members of the Council and other participants to satisfy the requirement under this subsection that members of the public be heard by others during the electronic meeting.
- B. Members of the Council attending remotely shall be considered present and in attendance at the meeting and may participate in the meeting as if physically present.
- C. Each member of the Council attending the meeting remotely must publicly announce at the outset of the meeting that the member is in fact attending the meeting remotely. If the member is attending the meeting remotely for a purpose other than for military

duty, the member's announcement must further identify specifically the member's physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village and state from which he or she is attending the meeting remotely. The member's announcement shall be included in the meeting minutes.

D. For closed sessions conducted under this policy, each Council member and authorized attendee of the closed session shall not allow anyone else to hear or view the closed session.

3. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

A. Immediately after calling the meeting to order, the City Manager or other designated facilitator shall ensure that the dial-in number or other means of conducting the meeting remotely is working. If the dial-in number or other means of conducting the meeting remotely is not working or cannot be reestablished, the meeting shall be immediately adjourned by the Mayor of the meeting without any decision or deliberation on any matter.

B. If any member of the public is attending remotely, each member of the public shall be provided an opportunity to provide public comment during a public comment portion of the agenda pursuant to the rules of the Council on public comment. Such opportunity shall be given by the Mayor or designated facilitator soliciting public comments at the appropriate point in the agenda. Members of the public breaching the peace or interfering with the ability of the Council to conduct the meeting may be removed from the meeting.

C. If any member of the public is attending, and a closed session is called by the Council as permitted by the Open Meetings Act, a separate call in number or other electronic means of remotely participating shall be available for the Council to utilize for a closed session that is not available to the public. The Council shall resume the public meeting following the closed session to adjourn the meeting or take other action as necessary.

4. This Resolution is intended to establish rules for and authorize participation by remote access by members of the Council and attendance by remote access by members of the public in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare during the Coronavirus outbreak while preserving meaningful access to meetings and communication for Council members and members of the public, including members of the press and other news media.

5. In the event of a conflict between this Resolution and the Rules of the Council the terms of this Resolution shall control.

6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution by and the same hereby are rescinded.

Ayes: Kubin, Leonard, Collison, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Resolution 2020-18 – Establishing 2021 Council Meeting Schedule.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2020-18. A Resolution Establishing 2021 Council Meeting Schedule.

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

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 2021.

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 5	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.

Ayes: Reed, Collison, Kubin, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Set Public Hearing on Plasti-Paint IFE.

Manager Giles stated a Resolution was adopted March 3, 2020 approving and IFE for Plasti-Paint. There was 20 percent more in additional cleanup costs. According to Greater Gratiot, a new application has to be filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury.

We have since learned from Greater Gratiot that the increased costs would not be eligible for the IFE, so we do not need to proceed further on the public hearing/amended application, so no hearing needs to be set tonight. Plasti-Paint will be above the original approved amount, but within the 10% limit.

Discuss Future Energy Optimization Program.

Manager Giles stated that Public Act 342 Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) requirements are set to sunset on December 31, 2021 and utilities will no longer be required to implement the EWR programs if there is no extension or amendment to PA 342 legislation. MPPA is seeking feedback from members if there is no extension or amendment to PA 342 would our utility opt to continue offering an EWR program in 2022-2025 so they can develop an RFP for the EWR Program implementation services.

Discussion was held.

All members were in consensus on continuing with the EWR.

City Manager Report.

Nothing to report.

City Clerk Report.

Nothing to report.

Police Chief Report.

Nothing to report.

Council Comments.

Member Collison asked if there has been any information regarding State Revenue Sharing. Manager Giles stated the amount of revenue to be received is still unclear.

Member Kubin stated he thought leaf cleanup went even better than previous years and thanked Mark and staff for the good job.

Member Leonard inquired on a purchase from Alma Hardware.

Member Reed asked about blight at a residence. Chief Ramereiz stated the residence is currently being remodeled.

Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Adjournment.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Collison, Leonard, Kubin, Reed, Kelly

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk