

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
January 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor James C. Kelly on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mayor James C. Kelly, Roger L. Collison, George T. Kubin, Bill Leonard, Thomas L. Reed

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 – DPW Superintendent, Bobbie Marr – Finance Director, Ken Berthiaume – Berthiaume and Company, Ralph Echtenaw – St. Louis Sentinel, seven high school students

Member Leonard led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2018/2019 Year End Audit Presentation – Ken Berthiaume, Berthiaume and Company.

Mr. Berthiaume explained the audit process and stated there were no significant findings and the City is in full compliance with all State requirements.

The City was given a status of Unmodified Opinion, which is the best finding that is given.

Mr. Berthiaume reviewed the various accounts with City Council Members.

Members thanked Bobbie Marr and staff.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to receive the Audit ending June 30, 2019 and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Republic Services Introduction and Update.

Matt Biolette, Municipal Services Manager for Republic Services was unable to attend and will reschedule for another time.

City Council Minutes.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 6, 2020. All ayes carried the motion.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held January 15, 2020. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Reed, supported by Collison, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$1,133,538.80. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the December, 2019 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to receive the December, 2019 Monthly Reports 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 “f” as shown below:

- a. Payment to Jett Pump & Valve for Pump at Mi Ave. Pump Station.
- b. Payment to Berthiaume & Company for Audit ending June 30, 2019.
- c. Payment to Rowe for Professional Services – Water Main Upgrades.
- d. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – Maple Street.
- e. Payment No. 1 to Malley Construction – Maple Street.
- f. Energy Optimization Report – Receive.

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

New Business.

Appointment to Board of Review.

Manager Giles requested members approve the request from the Assessor to appoint Terry Root to the Board of Review to fill the vacant position left by Bill Leonard.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to appoint Terry Root to the Board of Review. All ayes carried the motion.

Resolution 2020-02 – Banking Policy.

City Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2020-02. The Resolution removes previous Mayor Pro Tem Allen and adds current Mayor Pro Tem Kubin.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Louis maintains a number of bank accounts with a number of financial institutions, and

WHEREAS, this Council believes it best practice for the City to have multiple persons authorized to sign banking transactions; however, each transaction would require two signatures to authorize and validate opening, closing, withdrawal, draft, check or wire of or from a demand account of any financial institution with which the City does business under Employer #38-6004592, except the Saint Louis Housing Commission, and

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the City of St. Louis by filing with the foregoing banking institutions a copy of this resolution the City of Saint Louis hereby institutes the above best practice and authorizes signatures of any two of the following persons occupying the following offices are authorized to transact business on its bank demand accounts:

Mayor	City Treasurer
Mayor Pro-Tem	City Clerk
Deputy City Clerk	City Manager
Finance Director/Treasurer	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the persons currently holding said offices are:

James C.Kelly, Mayor	George T. Kubin, Mayor Pro Tem
Kurt R. Giles, City Manager	Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk
Bobbie J. Marr, Finance Director/Treasurer	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager be authorized to access any and all information regarding any account held under Employer #38-6004592.

Ayes: Reed, Collison, Kubin, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted this 21st day of January, 2020.

Resolution 2020-03 – Set Asset Standards.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2020-03 which sets the maximum Asset Standards to be eligible for a Poverty Exemption.

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

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Maximum Asset Standards is required of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994 the City of St. Louis, Gratiot County states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall include an asset level test; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis adopts the following Maximum Asset Standards for a household to be eligible for a **POVERTY EXEMPTION**. The below asset levels **DO NOT** include the value of your homestead. (Per Tribunal ruling 08-13-97, Docket #236230, and the equity of the homestead should not be included within the asset test to be valid).

Combined assets to the total household may not exceed \$5,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated Maximum Asset Standards in granting or denying an exemption and that if your household assets exceed the above stated Maximum Asset Standards you are NOT eligible for a POVERTY EXEMPTION.

Ayes: Reed, Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Kelly

Nays: None

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Resolution 2020-04 – Poverty Exemption.

Manager Giles requested members adopt Resolution 2020-04 which adopts the guidelines for poverty exemptions.

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

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 2020 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	2020 Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,490
2	\$16,910
3	\$21,330
4	\$25,750
5	\$30,170
6	\$34,590
7	\$39,010
8	\$43,430
For each additional person	\$4,420

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: Kubin, Reed, Collison, Leonard, Kelly

Nays: None

Resolution Declared Adopted.

Letter of Authorization.

Manager Giles requested Council Members approve the purchase of Energy through MPPA July, 2020 through December, 2020 in the maximum commitment amount of \$188,579.20

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Reed, to approve the purchase of Energy through MPPA July, 2020 through December, 2020 in the maximum commitment amount of \$188,579.20

All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles informed members of the following:

1. The RFP for the Revenue Bond Proposal is January 29th at 1:00 p. m.
2. The Employee Appreciation Dinner is 3/19/2020.

Manager Giles asked which members plan to attend the MML Conference in March. Mayor Kelly and members Kubin, Reed, Collison plan to attend.

City Clerk Report.

None.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz informed members of the following:

Central Dispatch Statistics:

- 36,678 calls for service in 2019.
- 869 were assigned to Fire Services
- 3,332 were assigned to MMR
- 34,779 were assigned to Law Enforcement
- 1,590 were assigned to Rescue Services

- 15,290 Traffic Stops

All of this is done by typically only two people per 12-hour shift. On average the dispatchers handled 4.19 incidents per hour.

- 17,818 incoming 911 calls in 2019
- 25,862 non-emergency phone calls
- a total of 43,680 answered phone calls

Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) is the leading training solution that increases an organization's and individual's odds of survival during a violent intruder event.

A.L.I.C.E Training is scheduled for January 31st 1:30 – 3:30 at City Hall, Council members are invited to attend.

Council Comments.

Member Reed stated he will miss the next three meetings.

Discussion was held on downtown parking, snow plowing.

Member Leonard stated that is amazing to him that the public isn't more aware of what the council does, where the council's at, who are the council members, and he doesn't know what to do about it.

Member Collison stated he attended the conference for Newly Elected Officials and got a lot out of it. He thanked Mark Abbott for showing him around the town/projects. He learned a lot and would like to also tour the Electric, Water and Wastewater Departments.

Mayor Kelly thanked new members Collison and Leonard for their willingness to take on the responsibility of being a Council Member.

Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Adjournment.

Moved by Reed, supported by Leonard, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk