

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan  
January 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas L. Reed on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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 Chief: Richard Ramereiz

Others in Attendance:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director, Phil Hansen – DDA Director, Ken Berthiaume – Auditor, Jamie Long – Finance Department, Ralph Echtinaw – St. Louis Sentinel, four St. Louis High School students & 2 parents

City Clerk Mari Anne Ryder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Hearing – 5-year Parks & Recreation Plan.**

Mayor Reed opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Reed asked for Public Comments.

Member Collison stated the plan is put together very well and he appreciates the Parks Commissions efforts and all that were involved.

Mayor Reed thanked Phil Hansen for the work he put into the plan.

Mayor Reed closed the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

## **Resolution 2023-02 Parks & Recreation Plan Adoption.**

The following preamble and resolution was offered by member Leonard, and supported by member Collison:

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives, and the desired actions

to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2023 and 2027 and,

**WHEREAS**, the plan is written for the benefit of the residents of City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District,

**WHEREAS**, an online input survey was made available to the public May 10, 2022 to May 31, 2022 and,

**WHEREAS**, the draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comment from December 16, 2022 to January 15, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, a public meeting was held on January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm, at the St. Louis City Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis has developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, on January 9, 2023 the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City of St. Louis City Council adopt the Recreation Plan, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** on this day that the City of St. Louis adopts said Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District.

Yeas: Leonard, Collison, Kubin, Upton, Reed

Nays: None

Absent: None

Resolution Declared Adopted

**Audit Presentation – Ken Berthiaume.**

Ken Berthiaume reported fiscal year end June 30, 2022 audit findings with the Council.

The City was given an Unmodified Opinion, which is the best opinion there is, and thanked members for his work as City Auditor.

Members thanked Ken and thanked Finance Director Bobbie Marr for the great job she and her staff do.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton, to accept the Fiscal Year End June 30, 2022 Audit and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

### **City Council Minutes.**

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 3, 2023. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Claims & Accounts.**

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Collison, supported by Kubin, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of \$617,288.68. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Monthly Reports.**

City Council discussed the December, 2022 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Collison, supported by Upton, to receive the December, 2022 Monthly Reports 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 “i” as shown below:

- a. Change Order No. 4 from Crawford Contracting for m-46 Watermain Upgrades.
- b. Payment No. 7 to Crawford Contracting. for M-46 Watermain Upgrades.
- c. Payment to Berthiaume & Co. for June 30, 2022 Audit.
- d. Payment to Fishbeck for Professional Services – Existing Well Abandonment.
- e. Payment to Etna for Annual Hosting Fee.
- f. Payment to Spicer for Professional Services – Orchard Hills Well Water Disconnect.
- g. Payment to Rite-Way Asphalt for Asphalt Repairs.
- h. Payment to RS Technical Services for Purchase of Chlorine Gas Induction Pump.
- i. Payment to Theka for 2022 Generator Trouble Shooting.

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

### **New Business.**

### **Appointment of City Clerk.**

City Manager Giles stated due to the retirement of City Clerk Mari Anne Ryder, management is recommending City Council Members appoint Jamie Long as City Clerk. Jamie's resume was sent to members and the mayor has talked with Jamie.

Mayor Reed stated he agrees with the decision to appoint Jamie Long as City Clerk beginning January 27, 2023.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Leonard, to appoint Jamie Long as City Clerk. All ayes carried the motion.

Members welcomed Jamie.

### **Re-Appointment to Greater Gratiot Board of Directors.**

Manager Giles requested members re-appoint himself as City Manager and Phil Hansen as DDA Director to the Greater Gratiot Board of Directors.

Moved by Collison, supported by Leonard, to re-appoint City Manager Kurt Giles and DDA Director Phil Hansen to the Greater Gratiot Board of Directors. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Proposal from OHM – Land Surveying Electric Plant/Pool Area.**

Manager Giles requested members approve the Proposal from OHM for Land Surveying the Electric Plant/Pool area in the amount of \$9,988.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Kubin, supported by Upton, to approve the Proposal from OHM for Land Surveying the Electric Plant/Pool area in the amount of \$9,988.00. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Proposal from OHM – SPARKS Recreation Grant.**

Manager Giles requested approval of the Proposal from OHM for submittal of a SPARKS Recreation Grant in the amount of \$9,100.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Leonard, to approve the Proposal from OHM for submittal of a SPARKS Recreation Grant in the amount of \$9,100.00. All ayes carried the motion.

### **Power Purchase Commitment Authorization.**

Manager Giles requested members approve the Power Purchase Commitment Authorization through MPPA, which is capacity from a battery energy storage system. The commitment is for 10 years, and the forecasted financial commitment is \$111,586.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Upton, supported by Kubin, to approve the Power Purchase Commitment Authorization through MPPA in the forecast financial commitment of \$111,586.00. All ayes carried the motion.

**Other Business.**

There was none.

**City Manager Report.**

Manager Giles said the Goal Setting Session is Wednesday and due to the amount of information from each department, the Capital Improvement Plan has been printed for them to start reviewing and the rest will be available by Thursday.

Members will be e-mailed when the packet is ready.

**City Clerk Report.**

City Clerk Mari Anne Ryder stated it has been a pleasure serving Council Members as their clerk and thanked them for allowing her to be clerk for the last 12 of her 25 years as an employee.

**Police Chief Report.**

Nothing to report.

**Council Comments.**

Member Collison asked why the fireworks were not on July 4<sup>th</sup> again this year. Phil Hansen stated there were a lot of positive comments on having the later in July. A lot of people are out of town for 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, the availability of fireworks due to supply chain and workers makes it harder lately to have them on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Member Kubin expressed his appreciation to the clerk.

Member Leonard stated he is a firm believer in hiring within.

Mayor Reed expressed his appreciation to the clerk and congratulated her.

**Public Comments.**

There were none.

**Adjournment.**

Moved by Leonard, supported by Upton, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk