

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026- 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00pm by Mayor Cedar in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, 48079.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Steve Duchane, City Superintendent; Donovan Ennis, Police Chief; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were 17 people in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA – Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to approve Consent Agenda item A. as presented.

A. City Council Minutes of March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting: Approved

PRESENTATION

Community Foundation of St. Clair County-Mike McCartan presented the City with Community Foundation awards from the St. Clair Endowment funds towards the Community Pool heater, YAPS program, beautification and other summer events for a total of \$69,000.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution (26-06) Early Voting Plan- A RESOLUTION OF THE EARLY VOTING PLAN FOR STATEWIDE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH THE EARLY VOTING SITE FOR THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR **WHEREAS**, Michigan electors adopted Proposal 2022-2 to amend the Michigan Constitution on November 8, 2022 which in part requires each municipality to have at least one early voting site for statewide and federal elections to accommodate early voting; and **WHEREAS**, early voting must consist of a minimum of nine consecutive days of in-person voting starting the second Saturday before the election up to and including the Sunday prior to the election, with eight hours of in-person voting each day; and **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Secretary of State offers three options to municipalities to accommodate voters for the nine consecutive days of early voting including to enter into a County agreement and authorize the County to conduct early voting, enter into a municipal agreement and jointly conduct early voting with one or more other municipalities in the same County or offer early voting as a single municipality; and **WHEREAS**, St. Clair County is not currently offering to administer early voting with an Early Voting Center. The St. Clair Election Commission determined the best practice for City of St. Clair will be to conduct early voting as a single municipality; and **WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2026 the Early Voting Plan for the City of St. Clair was approved by the Election Commission; and **WHEREAS**, the Early Voting Plan includes all required items listed in MCL 168.720e as amended by PA 81 of 2023; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of St. Clair City Council authorizes the City Clerk and authorized assistants to implement the Early Voting Plan and establish the Early Voting Site which includes nine consecutive days of early voting starting the second Saturday before the election to the Sunday prior to the election and establishes one Early Voting site for all 3 wards at the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive and sets the standard time on each day to be 8:00am-4:00pm.

Volz moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (26-06) as presented.
Ayes: LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, Cedar
Nays: None

Resolution (26-07) 80/20 Cost sharing- RESOLUTION FOR ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE 80/20 COST SHARING MODEL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 4 OF 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, STATE OF MICHIGAN **WHEREAS**, under the 2011 Public Act 152 compliance option the City must certify to the Michigan Department of Treasury that the local unit provides medical benefits for its employees in compliance with 2011 Public Act 152; and **WHEREAS**, Section 4(1) of Michigan Public Act 152 of 2011 (MCL 15.564(1)) requires communities to annually elect one of four options relating to employer expenditures for employee medical benefit plans; and **WHEREAS**, the three options are as follows:
1) Section 3 – “Hard Caps” Option- limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
2) Section 4- “80%/20%” Option- limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
3) Section 8 – “Exemption” Option – a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the local governing body;
WHEREAS, the City previously adopted the 80/20 cost sharing model for the medical plan coverage years in order to achieve compliance with 2011 Public Act 152 of the State of Michigan and desires to continue that model for the current medical plan coverage year. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of St. Clair elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the 80/20 cost share model for employees for the 2026-2027 medical plan coverage year.

Volz moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (26-07) as presented.
Ayes: Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Cedar
Nays: None

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – Report heard on road project & Waste Management update requested.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Report heard from Clerk. Nominating Petitions and Affidavits of Identity are due by 4pm Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Authority, Board, Commission, Committee Chairman or Council Representative – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve special event permit application-St. Clair Little League Opening Day parade-

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair Little League to conduct their annual Opening Day parade Saturday, May 2, 2026. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event application as presented.

Approve special event permit application-St. Clair Marbleye Committee Fishing Tournament

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair River Marbleye Committee to conduct their annual Walleye Tournament the weekend of May 15-17, 2026. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event application as presented.

Approve special event permit application-SCHS PTO Class of 2026 Senior Cruise

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the SCHS PTO to host the Class of 2026 Senior Cruise and firetruck ride Sunday, May 17, 2026. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance & issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve the special event permit as recommended.

Approve temporary sign permit-SCHS PTO Class of 2026 senior banners

Volz moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve temporary sign permit for banner display on the boardwalk May 12 through June 2, 2026 as requested.

Approve special event permit application-American Legion Memorial Legion parade-

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the American Legion to conduct their annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony Monday, May 25, 2026. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event application as presented.

Approve special event permit application-St. Clair Art Association Art Fair & road closure

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair Art Association to conduct their annual Juried Art Fair on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, 2026. The application includes a road closure from Vine to Jay for the same date. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event application & lease as presented.

Approve special events permit application-St. Clair Recreation various events-

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the 2026 St. Clair Recreation Department summer events held of various dates throughout the summer. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event permit application as presented.

Approve special event permit application-4th of July fireworks display & road closure-

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the 2026 Fireworks display and road closure. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to approve special event permit application as presented.

Approve American Fireworks contract

Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve 2026 American Fireworks contract for \$45,000.

Ayes: Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Cedar

Nays: None

Approve extension of Vendor hours-

Paul moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve extension of Vendor Hours on July 4, 2026 from 9pm to 11pm or at end of fireworks display, whichever is earlier.

Approve recommendation of award-Clinton Avenue Resurfacing-

LaPorte moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve recommendation of award to Astec Asphalt in the amount of \$803,208.72 for Clinton Avenue resurfacing. Project slated to begin in May and conclude by June 1. AEW will be the inspector on the project.

Ayes: Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Cedar

Nays: None

Approve award for Real Estate Brokerage Services-

Volz moved, Westrick seconded, CARRIED, to approve award of contract to Jerry Emig, St. Clair Realty, for Real Estate Brokerage Services as proposed.

Ayes: Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Cedar

Nays: None

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – March 4 & 12, 2026

Check registers listing the bills for the period ending March 4, 2026 (check number 63229-63275) in the amount of \$168,106.18 and March 12, 2026 (check numbers 63276- 63328) in the amount of \$605,146.93 were presented for Council review.

LaPorte moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve payments of March 4 & 12, 2026 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Comments heard on support to pave Juliet Street. Comments heard from owner and manager of Ace Hardware on intent to sell Stihl products and conduct equipment repair and tune ups. Repairs would not include gas powered equipment.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Happy St. Patrick's day.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:40pm.

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor