

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 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 as led by Cub Scout pack 261

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

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Steve Duchane, City Superintendent; Donovan Ennis, Police Chief; Karry Hepting, City Accountant; Tom Lutkenhoff, Code Enforcement Officer; Rebecca Blanchard, Building Administrative Assistant; Max McCrory, Police Officer; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were 38 people in attendance.

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

A. City Council Minutes of April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting: Approved

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Cedar opened the public hearing at 6:01pm. Joseph Lech, AEW Engineering consultant, provided an overview of the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Energy grant and loan program and timeline and the intended projects for submission. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) sewer rehabilitation project addresses critical and high rated structural repairs at an estimated cost of \$1.2million. Project impacts and mitigation were reviewed. Public comment included questions if the repairs will occur on Clinton. There are no repairs needed that would disrupt Clinton or anticipated on any newly paved roads. The cost per resident is estimated at \$4.28 per month/20 years. If approved for funding, the project would start in May 2027.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Plan addresses replacement of approximately 3 miles of 4 inch mains to 8 inch water mains and replacement of any lead or galvanized line associated with the main and would provide a 50-100 year fix to the infrastructure. The estimated cost of \$6.1million over a 2 to 3 year period. Project impacts and mitigation were reviewed. Public comment included clarification on who EGLE is, what would happen to the old mains, if residents would be refunded if principal forgiveness occurs, what effect would this have on a 100 year old home and if the project estimates include engineering fees. The cost per resident is estimated at \$5.32 per month/20 years. If approved for funding the project would start August 2027. For both projects, principal forgiveness may be possible from EGLE. Public hearing closed 6:21pm.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Cedar proclaimed April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day and encouraged all citizens to support efforts to care of our trees and woodlands and to support our community forestry programs.

PRESENTATION

FY25 Annual Financial Audit-Maner Costerisan- Jordan Smith, Maner Costerisan, presented the audit report and stated the city received a clean, unmodified opinion. General fund, revenues and expenditures, sewer, water, harbor, pension and OPEB funds were reviewed. The city is currently at or above the state minimum percentages for both pension and OPEB funding. Upcoming Accounting (GASB) pronouncements were reviewed.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution (26-10) CWSRF Sanitary Sewer System Improvements final project plan-

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND FINAL PROJECT PLAN AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE WHEREAS, the City of St. Clair recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing sanitary sewer system; and **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Clair authorized AEW, Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc., to prepare a Project Plan, which recommends the rehabilitation of certain locations within the sanitary sewer system that were identified to be in poor structural condition based upon recent sewer cleaning and television investigation programs. Structural defects identified include cracked or broken pipe, offset pipe joints and interior surface deterioration. Rehabilitation will include sectional removal and replacement of defective sewers and installation of cured-in-place pipe liners. The estimated cost to users for the proposed project is expected to be no greater than \$1.2 million dollars utilizing a low-interest loan over a 20-year period. **WHEREAS**, said Project Plan was presented at a Public Hearing held on April 20, 2026, and all public comments have been considered and addressed; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of St. Clair formally adopts said Project Plan and agrees to implement the plan; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Superintendent, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the improvements referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Plan as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a Clean Water Revolving Fund loan to assist in the implementation of the plan.

Volz moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution 26-10 as presented.
Ayes: Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Cedar
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution (26-11) DWSRF Water Main Replacement Program final project plan

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND FINAL PROJECT PLAN AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE WHEREAS, the City of St. Clair recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing water treatment system; and **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Clair authorized AEW, Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc., to prepare a Project Plan, The purpose of the proposed project is to replace all aging 4-inch water mains within the City's water distribution system with new 8-inch water mains and to replace known lead or galvanized water services connected to 4-inch water mains with copper water services to comply with current regulations for water distribution systems established by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). The estimated cost to users for the proposed project is expected to be approximately 6.1 million dollars utilizing a low-interest loan over a 20-year period. **WHEREAS**, said Project Plan was presented at a Public Hearing held on April 20, 2026, and all public comments have been considered and addressed; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of St. Clair formally adopts said Project Plan and agrees to implement the plan; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Superintendent, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the improvements referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Plan as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a Clean Water Revolving Fund loan to assist in the implementation of the plan.

Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution 26-11 as presented.
Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Cedar
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution (26-12) Flock Cameras-This performance Resolution is required by the Michigan Department of Transportation for purposes of issuing to a Municipality an 'Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way', and/or an "Annual application and permit for miscellaneous Operations within State Highway Right of Way'. **RESOLVED WHEREAS**, the (County, City, Village, Township, etc.) hereinafter referred to as the "MUNICIPALITY," periodically applies to the Michigan Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT," for permits, referred to as "PERMIT," to construct, operate, use and/or maintain utilities or other facilities, or to conduct

other activities, on, over, and under State Highway Right of Way at various locations within and adjacent to its corporate limits; NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the DEPARTMENT granting such PERMIT, the MUNICIPALITY agrees that: 1. Each party to this Resolution shall remain responsible for any claims arising out of their own acts and/or omissions during the performance of this Resolution, as provided by law. This Resolution is not intended to increase either party's liability for, or immunity from, tort claims, nor shall it be interpreted, as giving either party hereto a right of indemnification, either by Agreement or at law, for claims arising out of the performance of this Agreement. 2. If any of the work performed for the MUNICIPALITY is performed by a contractor, the MUNICIPALITY shall require its contractor to hold harmless, indemnify and defend in litigation, the State of Michigan, the DEPARTMENT and their agents and employee's, against any claims for damages to public or private property and for injuries to person arising out of the performance of the work, except for claims that result from the sole negligence or willful acts of the DEPARTMENT, until the contractor achieves final acceptance of the MUNICIPALITY Failure of the MUNICIPALITY to require its contractor to indemnify the DEPARTMENT, as set forth above, shall be considered a breach of its duties to the DEPARTMENT. 3. Any work performed for the MUNICIPALITY by a contractor or subcontractor will be solely as a contractor for the MUNICIPALITY and not as a contractor or agent of the DEPARTMENT. The DEPARTMENT shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities by vendors and contractors of the MUNICIPALITY, or their subcontractors or any other person not a party to the PERMIT without the DEPARTMENT'S specific prior written consent and notwithstanding the issuance of the PERMIT. Any claims by any contractor or subcontractor will be the sole responsibility of the MUNICIPALITY. 4. The MUNICIPALITY shall take no unlawful action or conduct, which arises either directly or indirectly out of its obligations, responsibilities, and duties under the PERMIT which results in claims being asserted against or judgment being imposed against the State of Michigan, the Michigan Transportation Commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officers, agents and employees thereof and those contracting governmental bodies performing permit activities for the DEPARTMENT and all officers, agents, and employees thereof, pursuant to a maintenance contract. In the event that the same occurs, for the purposes of the PERMIT, it will be considered as a breach of the PERMIT thereby giving the State of Michigan, the DEPARTMENT, and/or the Michigan Transportation Commission a right to seek and obtain any necessary relief or remedy, including, but not by way of limitation, a judgment for money damages. 5. The MUNICIPALITY will, by its own volition and/or request by the DEPARTMENT, promptly restore and/or correct physical or operating damages to any State Highway Right of Way resulting from the installation construction, operation and/or maintenance of the MUNICIPALITY'S facilities according to a PERMIT issued by the DEPARTMENT. If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA. 6. With respect to any activities authorized by a PERMIT, when the MUNICIPALITY requires insurance on its own or its contractor's behalf it shall also require that such policy include as named insured the State of Michigan, the Transportation Commission, the DEPARTMENT, and all officers, agents, and employees thereof and those governmental bodies performing permit activities for the DEPARTMENT and all officers, agents, and employees thereof, pursuant to a maintenance contract. 7. The incorporation by the DEPARTMENT of this Resolution as part of a PERMIT does not prevent the DEPARTMENT from requiring additional performance security or insurance before issuance of a PERMIT. 8. This Resolution shall continue in force from this date until cancelled by the MUNICIPALITY or the DEPARTMENT with no less than thirty (30) days prior written notice provided to the other party. It will not be cancelled or otherwise terminated by the MUNICIPALITY with regard to any PERMIT which has already been issued or activity which has already been undertaken. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following position(s) are authorized to apply to the DEPARTMENT for the necessary permit to work within State Highway Right of Way on behalf of the MUNICIPALITY.

Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution 26-12 as presented.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – Report heard on Cox road sidewalk. Questions asked on Gearing property & bulk water usage.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Report heard from Clerk Sturdy. Chief Ennis introduced new Officer Max McCrory and provided reminders of pedestrian walkways and intersection safety.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve appointment to Cemetery Board of Trustees-

Gottler moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve appointment as recommended.

Approve temporary sign permit-St. Clair Art Association Art Fair

Volz moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve temporary sign permits for up to 30 yard signs to be placed for a maximum of 20 days prior to and on the dates of the event.

Approve special event permit application- St. Clair Garden Club Farmers Market

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair Garden Club to conduct their annual Farmers Market Wednesdays 7am-1pm June-October. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

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

Approve special event permit application-SAR Jonathan Barron Dedication

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the Sons of the American Revolution to hold a dedication ceremony on July 18 at 1pm at Hillside Cemetery. 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 special event permit application-BWORA powerboat races

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit and lease for the Blue Water Offshore Racing Association to host the 32nd annual powerboat races July 24-26, 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 permit application and lease with the lease edited to remove the parking area at the foot of Fourth Street.

Approve special event permit application- Spark and Shine Fun Run

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the Life of Christ Fellowship church to hold their first 5k Spark and Shine fun run on August 22, 2026. This route requires usage and lane shifts of M29 and local streets. 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-Rotary Club Turtle Race

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Ennis requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair Rotary Club to conduct sales in Rotary Park and hold their annual Turtle Race event on September 13, 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 permit application as presented.

Approve use of right-of-way-1309 Clinton Ave

Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve limited use of the existing public right of way consisting of 1.33 square feet north of the existing private property line for outside seating patio utilization to current adjacent property owner, CocoBella's Bakery, located at 1309 Clinton Ave.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – April 8 and April 15, 2026

Check registers listing the bills for the period ending April 8, 2026 (check numbers 63433-63473) in the amount of \$135,541.36 and for the period ending April 18, 2026 (check number 63474-63521) in the amount of \$162,540.08 were presented for Council review.

LaPorte moved, Gottler seconded, CARRIED, approve payments of April 8 and April 15, 2026 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Questions asked about noise from Cargill. Comments heard about legality of private property yard sign code enforcement and request to review current sign ordinance and consider changes for home occupations or business owner. Questions asked about Cox sidewalk project and if M29 pedestrian islands will be lighted.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Thank you to Clerk Sturdy and team for 4/18/26 Community Clean out and shred event.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:09pm.

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor