CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026- 6:00 P.M. (amended)

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

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick
ABSENT: None
ADMINISTRATION: James T. Downey, Kane, Clemons, Joachim & Downey; Steve Duchane, City Superintendent; Don Ennis, Police Chief; Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.
AUDIENCE: There were 11 people in attendance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT- Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to add Items 5D) 500 Fred Moore Highway Attorney report & 12a) Closed session to Discuss Strategy Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Employees Represented by the Police Officers Labor Council, POLC.
Ayes: Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Cedar
Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA - Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve Consent Agenda items A. and B. as presented.

A. City Council Minutes of July 6, 2026 Regular & Closed Meetings: Approved
B. Cemetery Board of Trustees Minutes of June 2, 2026 Meeting: Received

RECOGNITIONS

St. Clair Cruisers-
Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director, shared information on the event and recognized Vern and Linda Cummings for their decades of volunteer service of the event. Proceeds from the event come back to the city Recreation Department and the Historical Museum. 2026 had a record number of cars at 365 cars.

Eagle Scout project- Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director, recognized Ian Justa for his Eagle Scout project and explained he built 7 children size picnic tables for Klecha Park. He also helped with the Arbor Day tree giveaway.

Woman's Life Chapter 814- Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director, accepted a $1,900 donation from the June 14, 2026 Community Pool Fundraiser.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance Adoption (2026-02) Virtual Currency Machines **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO AMEND CHAPTER 18 "BUSINESSES," BY ADDING ARTICLE IX "VIRTUAL CURRENCY MACHINES" TO ESTABLISH LICENSING AND OTHER OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR VIRTUAL CURRENCY MACHINES AND ASSOCIATED DEVICES. THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR ORDAINS: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Chapter 18 of the City Code is hereby amended to read as follows: CHAPTER 18—BUSINESSES** ARTICLE IX—VIRTUAL CURRENCY MACHINES AND OTHER ASSOCIATED DEVICES Sec. 18-601.-

Purpose. The operation of virtual currency kiosks, cryptocurrency or bitcoin ATMs, and similar virtual currency machines (VCMs) offers a quick and often anonymous way to convert cash into digital assets.The anonymity associated with the operation of VCMs poses an increased risk of fraudulent transactions that result in financial harm to residents within the City of St. Clair, especially senior citizens. Oftentimes, fraud involving VCMs includes requesting that the victim deposit a large sum of cash at a virtual currency machine, where the money is instantly converted to cryptocurrency—often irretrievable without resolution. Currently, there is little oversight into the operation of VCMs, resulting in widespread fraud. The purpose of this Article is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by licensing and regulating VCMs within the City. The City Council finds that notice requirements, currency limits, recordkeeping, and other consumer protections for ownership and operation of VCMs within the City are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of City of St. Clair residents by countering fraudulent transactions. Sec. 18-602.- Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning: ***Customer***. Any person who purchases or sells virtual currency through a virtual currency machine located within the City. ***New Customer***. A person who purchases or sells virtual currency through a virtual currency machine located within the City during the 14-day period following the date of the first virtual currency transaction undertaken by the person. ***Owner***. A person or entity who owns or operates a business or property on which a virtual currency machine is located. ***Premises***. The business or property on which a virtual currency machine is located.***Virtual Currency***. Any digital representation of value for which transactions are recorded on a cryptographically secured ledger or any similar technology or system. ***Virtual Currency Machine*** ("VCM"). A stand-alone machine, kiosk, ATM device, or similar equipment that can accept or dispense legal tender in exchange for virtual currency. ***Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator***. A person or entity who owns and/or operates a virtual currency machine. Sec. 18-603.-Virtual Currency Machine license required. (a) No person shall own, operate, or maintain a Virtual Currency Machine unless a valid Virtual Currency Machine License is issued by the City pursuant to this Article. After the effective date of this Article, for existing Virtual Currency Machines within the City, the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall either obtain the required license by September 1, 2026 to continue owning/operating a Virtual Currency Machine within the City or discontinue owning/operating a Virtual Currency Machine within the City. Sec. 18-604.-Application for Virtual Currency Machine License. Every applicant for a license to own, operate, or maintain a Virtual Currency Machine shall file an application under oath with the City Clerk's office upon a form provided by the City and shall pay a nonrefundable application and investigation fee. Such fee shall be set by the City Council through resolution and may be reviewed and amended periodically upon request of the City Clerk. The application and investigation fee must be reasonably related to the City's costs of processing such application. The application shall contain the following information: The proposed location of the Virtual Currency Machine and proposed Premises on which it will sit. The name and address of the Owner of the proposed Premises on which the Virtual Currency Machine will sit. The name and address of each Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator. If the applicant is a corporation, the names and residence addresses of each of the officers and directors of the corporation and of each stockholder owning more than 10% of the stock of the corporation; the address of the corporation itself and the name and address of a resident agent in the county. If the applicant is an LLC, the name and residence address of each of the members and the name and address of a resident agent in the county. If the applicant is a partnership, the name and residence address of each of the partners and the partnership itself and the name and address of a resident agent in the county. The history of ownership, operation, or maintenance of a Virtual Currency Machine of the applicant, including any person whose name is required to be given in Subsection (a)(3) of this section, stating whether such person previously operated a Virtual Currency Machine in this or another City or state, whether such person has had a Virtual Currency Machine license revoked or suspended or denied, and the reason. All criminal convictions of the applicant, including any person whose name is required to be given in Subsection (a)(3) of this section, other than misdemeanor traffic violations, including the dates of convictions, the nature of the crime, and the place convicted. The name and address of all Virtual Currency Machines owned, operated, or maintained by the applicant, including any person whose name is required to be given in Subsection (a)(3) of this section. Sec. 18-605.-License procedure.

Submission of application. Any applicant for a license required pursuant to this Article shall present the application containing the required information to the City Clerk's office. Investigation. Upon receipt of such application in the City Clerk's office, the application will be referred to the Chief of Police who shall perform an investigation of the applicant and the proposed Premise. Recommendation of Chief of Police. The Chief of Police shall recommend denial or approval of an application for the license within 30 days. In making such determination, the Chief of Police shall consider the following: (1) Penal history. All the applicant's convictions, the reasons therefor, and the demeanor of the applicant subsequent to his or her release. (2) License and permit history. The license and permit history of the applicant; whether such person previously operated a Virtual Currency Machine in this City or state or in another state under a license or permit; whether such person has had such license or permit revoked or suspended and the reasons for such action. Inspection of Premises. The Chief of Police shall inspect the proposed Premises for the Virtual Currency Machine and shall within 30 days make recommendations to the City Manager or designee concerning compliance with the requirements of this Article and all other applicable City ordinances and/or state statutes or regulations. An administrative search warrant to inspect the premises shall be sought by Chief of Police or his designee when there is a refusal of entry to perform any such inspection. Sec. 16-606.-Issuance of license. The City Clerk shall direct a license be issued for a Virtual Currency Machine if all requirements described in this Article are met, unless the Clerk finds: The correct license fee has not been tendered to the City and, if a check or bank draft is given, honored with payment upon presentation.The operation of the Virtual Currency Machine and/or the Premises, as proposed by the applicant, would be injurious to the health, safety, or welfare of the public; would be unlawful or fraudulent; would be unauthorized or beyond the scope the license; would be prohibited by City ordinance, rule, or regulation; or would be prohibited by state or federal law. The Virtual Currency Machine and/or the Premises, as proposed by the applicant, if permitted, would not comply with all applicable laws, including but not limited to the City's building and zoning ordinances. The applicant, if an individual; any of the stockholders holding more than 10% of the stock of the corporation; any of the officers or directors, if the applicant is a corporation; any of the partners, including limited partners, if the applicant is a partnership; any of the members, if the applicant is an LLC; or other person principally in charge of the operation of the business has been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude, theft, or dishonesty in any state. The applicant has knowingly made any false or fraudulent statement of fact in the license application or in any document required by the City in conjunction with the application process. The applicant has had a Virtual Currency Machine license denied, revoked, or suspended by the City or any other similar permit or license denied, revoked, or suspended by the City or any other local, county, or state agency within five years prior to the date of the application. The Premises proposed and/or methods of Virtual Currency Machine have or will detrimentally and unreasonably impact nearby property owners, businesses, or residents. The applicant presently owes a debt to the City by way of unpaid taxes, judgments, fines, tickets or otherwise. Sec. 18-607.-Approval or denial of license. ***Request for review of denial***. Any applicant denied approval of a license under this Article may, within five days of the date of denial, request in writing that the City Manager or designee review the application, stating the reasons the application should be approved. The City Superintendent or designee may deny, approve, or approve with special conditions any such application within fourteen (14) days from the date of the request for review. ***Fees***. The applicant for a Virtual Currency Machine License shall pay a license fee. Such fee shall be set by the City Council through resolution and may be reviewed and amended periodically upon request of the City Clerk. ***License period***. Every Virtual Currency Machine License shall be for a period of one year from the date the license is issued to the next September 30, unless otherwise provided. All licenses shall expire on September 30 unless previously revoked. ***Renewal of license***. The application to renew a Virtual Currency Machine license to shall be filed at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of expiration by presenting a sworn affidavit by the applicant stating that the matters contained in the original application have not changed or, if they have changed, specifically stating the changes which have occurred. Such renewal shall be annual and shall be accompanied by the annual fee as recommended by the City Clerk and adopted by the City Council through resolution. The application shall then be referred to the Chief of Police or designee who shall review and investigate the information provided in the renewal application. Sec. 18-608.-

Inspections after issuance. *Continued compliance*. After a license is issued, the Virtual Currency Machine License Owner/Operator shall continue to comply with this Article, all applicable state statutes and regulations, and other applicable City ordinances. *Access required*. Whenever an inspection of the Virtual Currency Machine or the Premises is required by ordinance or law or to ensure compliance with ordinance or law, the Owner of the Premises or any person in charge of the Premises shall admit any employee of the City who is authorized to make such inspection access to the Premises at a reasonable time admission is requested. *Penalties for access denied*. In addition to any other penalties that may be provided, the City Clerk may revoke the Virtual Currency Machine license if access to the Virtual Currency Machine is denied. *Violations*. In the event an inspection conducted pursuant to this section results in discovery of violation of this Article, the City Code of Ordinances, or any other law, ordinance, code, or regulation, the City Clerk may suspend the Virtual Currency Machine license if continued operation of the Virtual Currency Machine would result in a danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. Sec. 18-609.-Use of Virtual Currency License. *Posting and display*. Every Virtual Currency Machine shall conspicuously display the license required by this Article on the Virtual Currency Machine. *Fraudulent use*. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to fraudulently make use of a license issued in accordance with this Article. It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to counterfeit, forge, deface, or otherwise alter a license issued in accordance with this Article. *Non-transferable*. A Virtual Currency Machine license is not transferable, separable, or divisible. If the location of any licensed Virtual Currency Machine changes after issuance of the license, the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall provide ten days' notice to the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall then advise the Chief of Police to inspect the Property in accordance with Section 18-608. Sec. 18-610.-Virtual Currency Machine Regulations *Supervision of Premises*. Premises containing a Virtual Currency Machine shall be supervised at all times by the Owner or the Owner's agent when open for business. *Customer Service Hotline*. A Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall maintain, on a continuous basis while a Virtual Currency Machine can process transactions, a customer service helpline staffed by trained and responsible natural persons employed by or on behalf of the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator. The phone number for the customer service hotline shall be conspicuously posted on the Virtual Currency Machine. *Photo Identification Required*. The Virtual Currency Machine shall require photo identification for all Customers. T*ransaction limit*. The Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall not process any transaction greater than $5,000.00 within any 24-hour period. For a New Customer, the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall not process any transaction greater than $1,000.00 within any 24-hour period. *Disclosures and Warnings*. Before entering into any transaction with a Customer, the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall ensure that the Virtual Currency Machine discloses to the Customer in a clear, conspicuous, legible, and easily readable manner and verifies that the Customer acknowledges the warnings before proceeding to the transaction, by way of selecting yes or otherwise, the following information and warnings: All relevant terms and conditions of the transaction, including the amount of the transaction, the type or category of virtual currency, and the timing of any settlement of the transaction; The amount of any and all fees related to the transaction to be paid by the Customer; A warning that the transaction is final, that the amount of the transaction and the amount of any related fees are non-refundable, and that the transaction may not be reversed; The following warning: "STOP. If someone instructed you by phone, email, text message, or social media to deposit money into this machine, you may be the victim of a scam."; A consumer fraud warning that a Customer should never initiate a transaction involving sending money to a person or entity that they do not know or trust; and The customer service hotline required under Subsection 18-610(b) and a request that the Customer contact the hotline immediately upon suspicion of any fraudulent activity related to the Virtual Currency Machine or any transaction related to the Virtual Currency Machine. *Receipts*. In connection with any transaction processed at a Virtual Currency Machine, the Virtual Currency Machine must produce a written receipt containing, at a minimum, the Customer's name, the transaction amount and any related fees, the time and date of the transaction, the name and contact information for the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator, and the telephone number of the customer service hotline. *Daily log of transactions*. The Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall ensure that the virtual currency machine maintains a daily log of transactions that includes the name of the customer, the amount of the transaction and any

related fees, and the time and date of the transactions for all transactions within a 24-hour period. The daily log of transactions shall be electronically maintained by the Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator for a period of 90 days and, upon request, shall be made available for inspection by the City. *Notification Regarding Fraud or Suspicious Activity*. The Virtual Currency Machine Owner/Operator shall report any fraud, suspected fraud, frozen or reversed transaction, or suspicious activity to the Port Huron Police Department within 48 hours of being notified of such activity occurring. *Records of Service*. The Virtual Currency Machine owner/Operator shall maintain records of any service, including maintenance work and removal of currency, performed on the Virtual Currency Machine for a period of 90 days from the date of service and, upon request, shall be made available for inspection by the City. Records shall contain the scope of the work performed and the amount of currency removed from the Virtual Currency Machine. Sec. 18-611.-Procedure for revocation, suspension, or denied renewal. No license issued pursuant to this Article may be suspended, revoked, or denied renewal until after due notice and hearing before the City Clerk and Chief of Police or designee or other persons as assigned by the City Superintendent to determine if grounds for revocation, suspension, or to deny renewal exist. Notice of the hearing on the license revocation, suspension, or denied renewal shall be served in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. Service shall be made by serving notice on the licensee or by serving notice by first class mail at the address on the license application. The notice of hearings shall contain the following: The date, time and place of the hearing; A statement of the proposed action; The reasons for the proposed action; The names of witnesses known at the time who will be present; A statement that the licensee may present evidence on his or her behalf; A statement requiring the licensee to notify the City Clerk's office at least three days prior to the hearing date if he or she intends to contest the proposed action and to provide the names of witnesses known at that time who will speak on the licensee's behalf. Written notice of the revocation, suspension, or denied renewal, together with the reasons therefor, shall be served by the City Clerk to the address on the license application. The licensee may appeal the decision to the City Superintendent. within ten (10) days after the decision revoking, uspending, or denying renewal. The City Superintendent may grant a license following review of the written appeal. Sec. 18-612.-Penalty. Any person or entity who in any way directly or indirectly maintains, owns, or operates a Virtual Currency Machine without first obtaining a license and paying a fee to do so from the City or shall violate any section of this Article shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall constitute a public nuisance and nuisance per se. Secs. 18-613-18-700.-Reserved. SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. This Ordinance and each of the various parts, sections, subsections, sentences, phrases, and clauses hereof are declared to be severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase, or clause is determined to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is hereby provided that the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect. SECTION 3 REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.Any and all Ordinances of the City of St. Clair or any parts or provisions thereof, to the extent that they are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of the within Ordinance, are hereby expressly repealed. SECTION RATIFICATION. All other provisions of the code of Ordinances of the City of St. Clair, Michigan except as herein modified or amended are hereby expressly ratified and affirmed. SECTION 5. PUBLICATION. This Ordinance shall be published in accordance with the terms, provisions, and requirements of the City Charter of the City of St. Clair, Michigan, and in accordance with and to the extent required by the statutes of the State of Michigan. SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take immediate effect upon publication in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the City Charter of the City of St. Clair.

Gottler moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Ordinance (2026-02) as presented.
Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Cedar
Nays: None

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution (26-20) FY26 Budget amendment- **RESOLUTION AMENDING FY26 BUDGET BE IT RESOLVED**, that the revised budget for the 2025-2026 budget, attached as "Exhibit A" to this Resolution, be approved effective immediately.

Volz moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (26-20) as presented.
Ayes: LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, Cedar
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution (26-21) MDOT -Fred Moore Highway- **A RESOLUTION APPROVING MDOT CONTRACT NO. 26-5286 FOR THE CONCRETE REPAIRS ON FRED W MOORE HIGHWAY FROM HENRY STREET TO APPROXIMATELY 7TH STREET WHEREAS**, the City of St. Clair has been awarded $349,040 in grant funds through the Federal Surface Transportation Funds program to be applied to the eligible items of the project cost at a total projected funding cost of $441,300 for concrete pavement repairs, aggregate base conditioning, at-grade railroad crossing protection and permanent pavement markings along Fred W Moore Highway from Henry Street to approximately 270 feet east of 7th Street: and all together with necessary related work; and **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Clair desires to enter into a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties in agreeing to the concrete pavement repairs as indicated; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Clair City Council does hereby approve MDOT Contract No. 26-5286 for the concrete pavement repairs on Fred W Moore Highway from Henry Street to approximately 270 feet east of 7th Street; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the St. Clair City Council does hereby authorize the Street Administrator, Steve Duchane, to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (26-21) as presented.
Ayes: Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Cedar
Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – Report heard on 6th street water main bid and 7/18 storm response.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Report heard from Clerk on 8/4/26 election. Report heard from Chief on BWORA road closure Wednesday 6pm through Monday 9am.

Authority, Board, Commission, Committee Chairman or Council Representative – Harbor Council representative Kuffa announced 8/1 Mardi Gras party. SNAP donations accepted. Library Council Representative Volz commented the bike parade was great and the museum walk was a great addition, glad to see Cox Rd sidewalk progress and announced the summer reading program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve BS&A Cloud agreement
Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to approve one time implementation cost of $46,400 and a 5-year contract at $44,290 per year.
Ayes: Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Cedar
Nays: None

Approve purchase offer- Adams lot
Volz moved, Westrick seconded, CARRIED, to table the approval with the request of an accurate map of the parcel and an updated Purchase Agreement before consideration.
Ayes: Westrick, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Cedar
Nays: None

Consider time change for August 17 regular City Council meeting
Mayor Cedar explained a time conflict with a joint meeting between neighboring municipalities to discuss the SCAFA building and unity for the project.
Volz moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to move the Monday, August 17, 2026 meeting to Tuesday, August 18.

500 Fred Moore Highway Attorney report– Attorney Downey explained there is a deed restriction on the property regarding using the property for a public purpose. Discussion included clarity on potential litigation, location on parcel in question and length of new lease. Clarification made to negotiate with the current lease first and if they do not want to renew, then it will be advertised.
Minutes amended before 7/20/26 approval to include discussion topics also specifically included 'multi-year lease' and fair market value

Cedar moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to direct Administration to discontinue the sale and instead initiate negotiation of a market rate rent for that property with the current tenants.
Ayes: Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Cedar
Nays: Paul, Volz, Westrick

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – July 8 & July 16, 2026
Check register listing the bills for the period ending July 8, 2026 (check numbers 64011-64046) in the amount of $161,345.97 and July 16, 2026 (check numbers 64047-64104) in the amount of $327,326.23 were presented for Council review.
LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, approve payments of July 8 & July 16, 2026 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – None

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Cedar stated the 8/4/26 ballot includes the local road Millage renewal and the Classic Car Show was great.
Special event: BWORA 7/24-7/26.

CLOSED SESSION

Volz moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to grant request to discuss strategies Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Employees Represented by the Police Officers Labor Council, POLC.
Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Westrick, Gottler, Cedar
Nays: None

At 6:42pm, Council recessed into closed session and resumed regular session at 7:01pm

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:01pm.

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor