

St. Charles City Council Meeting
March 9, 2026

The St. Charles City Council met in regular session on March 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m. at St. Charles City Hall. Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with the following Council present: Allison, Blomme, Gyles, and Kozak. Also present: Tourism Board Chair Mary Seibert, Fire Chief Rick Schaffer, Assistant Chief Travis Egli, and four guests.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Allison, second by Blomme, to approve agenda. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Council meeting minutes for 2-9-2026
- b. Treasurer's Report for February 2026
- c. Claims and Receipts Report for March 2026

Motion by Allison, seconded by Kozak, to approve consent agenda. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

3. SHERIFF/EM REPORTS

There were 45.18 patrol hours, 16 traffic stops, and 7 calls during February. The Emergency Management Report was submitted.

4. SIGN REPLACEMENT ST. CHARLES PARISH

Steve Bobst was present to answer questions the Council had. **Motion by Allison, seconded by Blomme, to approve the replacement of the information sign with a new LED sign at the Parish. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes**

5. PUBLIC FORUM

No one wished to speak.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Sewer – February report was submitted.
- b. Maintenance – Caulking has been applied around the window. Four work orders were discussed by the council.
- c. Fire/Rescue – The City of St. Charles will not be receiving South Township funds to support the Fire Department during the 2026 Fiscal Year. Due to a clerical error during the budget process, South Township residents were not taxed for Fire/Rescue services. Therefore, no funding is available for the Fire/Rescue Department in St. Charles during the 2026 fiscal year. Funding will resume in 2027. The Fire/Rescue Departments will be short approximately \$40,000 in their budget. Please see the statement from the Auditor's office at the end of the minutes.
- d. Library –February minutes were submitted.
- e. Gateway – Mayor Fitch and Councilman Allison will attend a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on March 24th at the Gateway. The Welcome Center area of the Gateway will plan to open in May using volunteers.
- f. Parks – **Motion by Allison, seconded by Kozak, to approve Stacy Schultz as a member of the Park Board. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.** The Park Board would like to remove the posts from the old teeter totters, remove the fire pit, and add a GaGa Pit. **Motion by Allison, second by Blomme, to approve the changes to the city park, providing the fire pit is allowed to be removed. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes**
- g. Mayor – Mayor Fitch made the Council aware of issues with the road on N. Cross Street. Mayor Fitch will work with maintenance on ideas and help with the issues on the road.
- h. Clerk – City Hall will be closed April 2nd.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Road Bids for FY27: Item was tabled until the March 26th Council meeting.
- b. Reminder of the Tax Levy meeting on March 26th at 6:30 pm.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A letter will be sent to a resident using the City's trash bin at Imes Bridge Park as their personal trash bin.

9. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

a. Budget work session for the fiscal year 27- No action taken.

10. ADJOURN

Being there was no further business; meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Motion by Allison, second by Kozak, to adjourn. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Brian Fitch, Mayor

Attest:

Tracy Kozak, Clerk

Statement Concerning South Township Fire Service Levy Funds:

The Auditor's Office discovered that South Township's FY26 budget was mistakenly certified without a fire service levy. This error occurred after South Township submitted the budget. Normally, the township charges rural residents a levy to pay the City of St. Charles for fire and EMS services under a shared services agreement. Because the levy was omitted during budget certification, taxpayers were never billed, and the township did not collect the funds, leaving it unable to fulfill the approximate \$40,000 that would have been paid. **No money is missing; the taxes were simply never charged.** Since the levy cannot be applied retroactively, the township cannot recover the funds for FY26. The township has been working with the current Auditor to verify that the FY27 budget is correct and a fire service levy will once again be applied to South Township.