

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
745 SECOND STREET, LA SALLE, IL.
7:00 P.M., Monday, February 16, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grove at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present- Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

Excused Absence: Alderman Ptak, Attorney McPhedran

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Monday, February 1, 2016 are accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

PETITIONS

Mr. Mike Robbins was unable to attend the meeting to address the council as requested.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request from Knights of Columbus Council 792 to conduct a Tootsie Roll candy sale on September 16-18, 2016 at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin Avenue and at area businesses as long as established policies are followed. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and deny the request from Tom Riordan on behalf of Firefighters and Friends Fighting for Gary for a monetary donation to the Gary J. Eccles Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and deny the request for a monetary donation to the La Salle County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) 9th Annual Chocolate Festival as the Police Department already donates. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and deny the request for a monetary donation or prizes to the Illinois Valley Junior Achievement Bowl-a-Thon on Saturday, February 27, 2016. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Duncan to grant the request from Amanda Andreoni of Marien Mae Events to install a non-illuminated, single face wall sign at 713 First Street and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request from Lynn Cawley to install a banner on the side of the building located at 718 First Street and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request of Trinity Catholic Academy for a 2016 Raffle License. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground and replace poles at: 1545 Rockwell Road, NE corner of O'Connor Avenue and Zinc Street, SE Corner of 9th and La Harpe Streets, Canal Street the first pole west of Joliet Street, Canal and Marquette Streets, 1300 O'Connor Avenue, SW Corner of 14th Street and Zinc Streets and 125 Tonti Street, Unit R to retire gas service for demolition. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Demes to grant the request of the Knights of Columbus Council #1775 to hold its annual "Hunger Blitz" project at IV Food Center and Save-a-Lot from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2017 with Saturday, February 11, 2017 as a snow date. In addition, that the Knights of Columbus continue to petition the council on a yearly basis for the approval of this project. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for January 2016 showing total fees collected of \$1,107 and total value of construction of \$85,684.40. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept and place on file the Treasurer's Report for January 2016 showing total cash balances in the La Salle State Bank of \$5,719,907.49 and in Hometown National Bank of \$54,302.16. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept and place on file the Illinois Department of Transportation Report showing the Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for January 2016 totaling \$20,946.36. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept and place on file the Illinois Department of Revenue Report showing sales tax collected for November 2015 of \$72,811.79 and referendum approved sales tax of \$31,963.08 for a total of \$104,774.87. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Lavieri reported that the Waterworks Committee reconvened concerning the shared water line issue at 1202 Second Street and 152 La Harpe Streets. Alderman Lavieri indicated that at this time the attorneys for the seller, buyer and the City have conferred and it appears an agreement has been met and the issue will be worked out. No further action is needed at this time.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to enter into a three year contract with Homefield Energy at rate of 6.042/kwh for municipal electric aggregation.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion Carried 7-0

Mike Mudge of Rock River Energy Services reviewed the City's program over the last year which resulted in savings to the community of \$110,200 with five more months left in the contract. Last year the City selected a contract with a rate of .0533/kwh. Ameren's rate came in at .06768/kwh, so it was a very good decision by the City. The new rate with Homefield Energy will begin in July. Alderman Duncan and Alderman Bacidore asked if the letters sent to residents could be simplified. Mr. Mudge indicated that some information in the letters is required by the Commerce Commission and State statute. He summarized the procedure indicating that residents who choose to remain in the aggregation program do not need to do take any action. If they want to opt-out and stay with Ameren as their supplier or another supplier, there will be a procedure outlined in the letter guiding them through that process. Residents are able to terminate their enrollment with Homefield at any time without termination fees. This would be true as well if the Ameren rate were to fall below the contracted rate with Homefield during the three year contract period.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and second by Alderman Herndon to accept and place on file Financial Audit Report for City of La Salle for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2015 related matters.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion Carried 7-0

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Reynolds stated that he has closely followed the spending on video gaming in La Salle. He stated that spending remains consistent regardless of the number of locations. He brought forth a motion to freeze the number of video gaming locations licensed by the City including both parlors and other establishments. He believes issuing more licenses only depletes even further the amount of gambling money spent in La Salle. His viewpoint is that existing businesses are hurt as revenues continue to decrease because of the oversaturation of video gaming locations. Mayor Grove stated potential business owners most likely investigate the market in La Salle and can make an individual decision to open here or not. Lengthy discussion followed with the alderman expressing various viewpoints on the matter.

Mayor Grove asked Alderman Reynolds to state for the record his place of employment. Alderman Reynolds stated that he is an employee of Suzi's Video Poker & Slots in La Salle. Mayor Grove stated, that in his opinion, Alderman's Reynolds employment may be a conflict of interest when it comes time to vote on this issue.

Jerry Reynolds stated that at the IML Conference in Chicago he learned that many communities are addressing this issue and some are adding a stipulation that requires 1,000 feet of separation between gaming establishments.

Finance Director John Duncan provided some statistics regarding wagering activity and gaming revenue in the City. He reported that the gaming revenue and wagering activity has remained consistent regardless of the number of machines or locations since October of 2014. He added that during this same time period, the number of gaming machines increased from 71 to 94. He explained that the City currently has 23 sites with 19 as either taverns, restaurants, gas stations/truck stops and clubs. The City currently has four gaming parlors and has three licenses pending.

Mayor Grove suggested the council waits until there is a full council to vote on this issue and when Attorney McPhedran is present. Alderman Reynolds withdrew his motion and asked that it be readdressed at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to approve and place on file Amendment Number 2 in the amount of \$9,440 for Professional Service Agreement with Clark Dietz, Inc. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider
NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

Motion Carried 7-0

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS

Chris Covert, on behalf of CASA, thanked the Police Department for their monetary support to help abused and neglected children.

Mike Kasap encouraged all to attend the Wine and Beer Tasting at Senica's Oak Ridge On Friday, February 26, 2016 sponsored by La Salle Rotary. All proceeds go to Rotary Park.

Alderman Schneider stated that he was happy to read in the News Tribune that other communities are taking La Salle's lead and addressing rental licensing.

Mayor Grove thanked the Public Works department for the great job done after the snow this past weekend.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon that bills submitted totaling \$512,223.01 (Total Payroll \$176,353.08, Bills to be Paid \$242,407.35, Total Bills Paid \$93,462.58) be accepted, paid and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Schneider
NAY: None Absent: Alderman Duncan Abstain: None

Motion Carried 7-0

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to adjourn the meeting.
Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:48 p.m.



Carrie L. Brown, City Clerk