

**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., Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeff Grove at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present-** Mayor Grove, Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

**Excused Absence:** Alderman Ptak

**PUBLIC HEARING-7:02 p.m.**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to open the public hearing regarding consideration of the proposed real estate tax levy increase for the City of La Salle.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Finance Director John Duncan explained the tax levy has two sides, the non-bond side and the bond side. If either side increases over 5%, a hearing must be held, hence the hearing today. On the bond side, there is a decrease in the property tax levy of 15.54% due to a bond falling off, but on the non-bond side we have an increase of 33.37% for the purpose of meeting our full Fire and Police Pension obligations, resulting in net increase on the total levy of 10.6%. Mr. Duncan reiterated that in regard to the pensions, the city has consistently underfunded the pensions and has not met its funding obligation for many years. There is a \$238,000 pension obligation increase alone from 2013 to 2014 that must be funded. The Police Pension is currently at a 39% funded value and the Fire Pension stands at a 50% funded value. There are multiple reasons why these pensions have not been fully funded with the top three including that the City has not made full contributions for many years, the mortality tables have changed and interest rates have dropped over the years. To meet full pension obligations the City must raise the levy significantly, as well increase the Social Security fund. The Mayor noted that the pension issue is something all communities are facing and many are trying to catch up. Mayor Grove indicated that it is a goal of this group to leave things better for the next group and meet our obligation going forward. Mayor Grove explained that the State pension system was established by constitutional amendment which is not easy to change. Mayor Grove stated that not all of the increase will go to pensions, but a large majority will.

There were no comments or questions from the public. Alderman Bacidore asked what rates other communities were at and John Duncan indicated all rates are available on the La Salle County website.

Attorney McPhedran indicated for the public and the record that an additional Public Hearing will be held on this issue on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 745 Second Street, La Salle, Illinois due to an error in the location and placement of the ad in the newspaper. In order to be fair to the public and in furtherance of complying with the state statute, anyone desiring to testify may do so on December 9.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to close the public hearing regarding the proposed real estate tax levy increase in the City of La Salle.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Closed 7:13 p.m.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING-7:14 p.m.**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to open the public hearing for the Consideration of potential vacation of a portion of City of La Salle public alley, commonly described as the southwestern portion of the alley diamond between 3rd (Route 6) and 4th Street within the City of La Salle, between Bucklin Avenue and La Fayette Street within the City of La Salle and related matters.

**AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Don Aleksy explained that this is relating to the Beck's Development. Previously, the city vacated the southeastern portion of the alley diamond and this is the southwestern portion of the diamond.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Grove personally thanked Mr. and Mrs. Becker, owners of Becks for their commitment to La Salle. The Becks thanked the City for their cooperation as well.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Herndon to close the public hearing regarding the alley vacation and return to regular session.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Closed 7:17 p.m.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 are accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

#### **PETITIONS**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request of the LaSalle-Peru Matmen for a 2014 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 of Alternatives Bridges Senior Center for a 2015 Raffle License. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request of the Utica Knights of Columbus to hold its annual "Hunger Blitz" project for the Illinois Valley Food Pantry on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at IV Food & Deli, and Save-a-Lot between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., with February 7, 2015 as a snow date. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to accept and place on file the Treasurer's Report for October 2014 showing cash balances in the LaSalle State Bank of \$2,181,280.89 and in the Hometown National Bank of \$4,550,125.04. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to proclaim December 13, 2014 as Wreaths Across America Day in the City of La Salle. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to proclaim December 2014 as Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month in the City of La Salle. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding the approval of a potential Consolidation Plat for the Beck's Development and related matters.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the petition of John S. and Victoria A. Sadowski requesting a variance for premises commonly known as 741 Edwards Avenue, within the City of La Salle related to construction of an accessory structure reducing the rear yard setback to 3 feet and related matters.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: Alderman Demes

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**BIDS**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the Min/Max proposal for the 2015 Property, Liability and Worker's Compensation bid from IML and related matters.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

While on the issue of insurance, Mayor Grove took the opportunity to commend Public Works, Fire and Police Departments and all City employees for reaching almost 150 safe days with no accidents.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve, pay and place on file Pay Estimate #2 from Cruz Concrete, Inc. for the 2014 Sidewalk Program totaling \$39,246.97.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

City Engineer Brian Brown gave a brief recap of the Sidewalk Program which has been completed until the spring. Mr. Brown also indicated that he continues to research methods to eliminate the sewer odor on First Street.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the publication of the 2015 Schedule of Regular Meeting of the La Salle City Council and its Committees. Each 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**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Schneider to approve the **Ordinance 2524:** an ordinance Vacating a Part of the Public Alley Commonly Known as Part of The Southwestern Part of the Diamond Within the Public Alley in Block 95 and related matters. (Beck's Development). 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**

**Ordinance 2524 - a Ordinance Vacating a Part of the Public Alley Commonly Known as Part of The Southwestern Part of the Diamond Within the Public Alley in Block 95 and related matters. (Beck's Development).**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Schneider to approve **Ordinance 2525** Approving Consolidation Plat of A Portion of Block 95 Within the Original Town, Now City of LaSalle and in Vicinity Thereof and related matters. 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**

**Ordinance 2525 - an Ordinance Approving Consolidation Plat of A Portion of Block 95 Within the Original Town, Now City of LaSalle and in Vicinity Thereof and related matters.**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to approve **Ordinance 2526** approving variance on certain premises owned by John S. and Victoria A. Sadowski regarding construction of an accessory building reducing rear yard setback to 3 feet on premises at 741 Edwards Avenue within the City of La Salle.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: Alderman Demes

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Ordinance 2526: an ordinance approving variance on certain premises owned by John S. and Victoria A. Sadowski regarding construction of an accessory building reducing rear yard setback to 3 feet on premises at 741 Edwards Avenue within the City of La Salle.**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve Ordinance 2527 an ordinance approving Country Aire Subdivision Phase I Improvements and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

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

NAY: None Absent: Alderman Ptak Abstain: Alderman Lavieri

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Ordinance 2527 - a Ordinance approving Country Aire Subdivision Phase I Improvements and related matters.**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Duncan to approve **Ordinance 2528** an ordinance authorizing Sale of Municipally Owned Real Estate at 1239 Crosat Street within the City of La Salle. 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**

**Ordinance 2528: an  
Ordinance authorizing Sale  
of Municipally Owned Real  
Estate at 1239 Crosat  
Street within the City of La  
Salle. (Vickie E. Morgan)**

**COMMENTS**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Duncan to allow Mr. Dominic J. Visione to address the council.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Dominic J. Visione, former La Salle resident, read a written statement regarding a recent water bill he received for \$878.43 for the former residence of his deceased father. The City had alerted Mr. Visione on November 20, 2014 of a dramatic spike in the water usage at this premises. It was later discovered that a toilet flapper valve did not close properly. Mr. Visione was not contacted for eleven days after the spike began. Mr. Visione approached the council to seek some type of adjustment due to the circumstances and encouraged the City to establish a procedure which provides some recourse in these types of situations. In response to Mr. Visione's statement, Finance Director John Duncan explained that it has been the consistent practice and policy of the City not to adjust water bills in these types of situations as it would be unfair to the city's water consumers who would have to absorb the costs. He indicated that Mr. Visione, knowing the home was unoccupied, could have shut the water off thus avoiding this type of problem. Mr. Visione criticized the city's monitoring system which took eleven days to notify him. Mayor Grove explained that it was not the system, but we missed it. Mr. Duncan added that although the system generates a report, notifying residents of unusual water usage is more of a courtesy than a policy. A human is not necessarily looking at these reports on a daily basis. Finance Director Duncan explained that the city had cost in treating the water, delivering the water and retreating the water regardless of how or if it was used, and there is not a fund to offset those costs, therefore the residents bears the responsibility of paying the bill.

Mayor Grove reminded everyone that the light display at Rotary Park opened the day after Thanksgiving and is open nightly from 5-10 p.m. until the end of the month. In addition, December 6th is the Miracle on First event, ending at City Hall with the drawing for the 50/50 raffle which is now over \$8,000.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan that bills submitted totaling \$770,282.41 (Total Payroll \$161,558.85, Bills to be Paid \$110,777.51, Total Bills Paid \$497,946.05) be accepted, paid and placed on file. 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**

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

**ADJOURNED 8:00 p.m.**



Carrie Brown, City Clerk