

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

November 27, 2023

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, November 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove presiding with proper notices being duly and continuously posted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present - Mayor Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

Absent – Alderman Thompson

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Crane to allow for Alderman Thompson to attend the meeting remotely via phone.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

ROLL CALL

Present - Mayor Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

Absent – NONE

A quorum was present.

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Finance Director John Duncan, City Attorney Jim McPhedran, Econ. Dev. Director Curt Bedei, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski, Building Inspector Andy Bacidore, Fire Chief Jerry Janick

COMMENTS

Resident Dawn Hicks asked if any councilmembers have looked at any of the air monitor results. Alderman Jeppson stated that he does look at the results every day. She then asked if he was aware of why there were gaps in times. She recorded gaps in the results on November 23rd from 5 to 9pm and on November 25th from 5 to 7pm. Alderman Jeppson was unaware of this issue.

Hicks also asked what the safety plan was for the city and what happened at the meeting. Alderman Crane stated that both him and Resident Eric Dyas brought up some concerns from the public. He stated that their concerns were quickly addressed. Crane also stated that there is no other scheduled meeting. They, however, are more than willing to talk and are willing to have another meeting if the committee calls for one.

Crane stated that there is a safety plan. The city's safety plan collaborates with Carus' plan. The community will find out the plan when Carus chooses to release to the public.

Dawn Hicks also asked who is in charge of sending out informative city letters. Deputy Bader stated that it depends on the communication. Hicks stated that some residents have received some letters, while others have not. Mayor Grove stated that he has sent out the letters that Hicks is referring to and are paid for by Mayor Grove. Hicks asked if Mayor Grove was just sending out to certain people. Mayor Grove stated that he is not going to discuss and it is a private, personal matter. Hicks stated that she has three daughters and her one daughter that does not have the same last name as her received the letter that she is referring to. She asked how the city is all supposed to be on the same page, if not everyone is getting the same information.

Mayor Grove stated that the letters are Jeff Grove letters and not City of LaSalle letters. He stated that they do contain some city information but it also has his personal information. He is hoping to send these letters out to residents that he wants to reach out to. He stated that he does try to go off of the most current updated voter registration list. Mayor Grove stated that he personally pays for postage on these letters.

Mayor Grove asked Resident Eric Dyas what he took about from the safety meeting. He stated that there was some good that came from the meeting. They learned about the handling of the school situation. He felt that it fell back onto the superintendent when it came to relaying the messages to the teachers and staff. Dyas did find out that there are set places in the community that will be used for evacuation if necessary. Alderman Crane stated that he believes it to be the Regional Superintendent that may have been the one not properly communicating to the LaSalle Superintendent, Brian DeBernardi. Mayor Grove asked Mr. Dyas to share this information from the meeting with his neighbors since he feels like many are just hearing about this for the first time.

Resident Jamie Hicks started out by discussing the mailer that was sent out to certain homes. He states that the mailer was dated September 23rd with name Mayor Jeff Grove and all information had to do with city of LaSalle businesses or information. He questioned why the mayor is picking and choosing who gets the letters. Hicks asked Mayor if he licked every envelope that he sent out and the mayor stated that he did not have to answer his question. Hicks stated that he will be finding out and getting down to the legal ramifications of what the mayor is doing. He stated that the mayor is providing public information to certain people for a certain reason. Mayor Grove stated that he has been sending those out for 15 years.

Hicks continued by stating that the council and law enforcement should not be playing favorites over one person to another, or a company, over the people of LaSalle. He said that the mayor and law enforcement are putting politics over public safety. He doesn't understand why all residents don't deserve to get this letter. He said that Mayor Grove promoted the community meeting but not the meeting that Carus had with three people. Hicks continued by saying that the Mayor has been playing favorites with Carus since day one. Hicks also mentioned that the City is unable to get a news crew around the area because of an email between Mayor Jeff Grove and the county. The email states from Mr. Grove, "LaSalle County has been dealing with this resident for quite a while now through recent FOIA requests, emails, phone calls, some of which have been threatening".

Mayor Grove asked who the author was of that email. Hicks responded by saying that the mayor will find out when it is time. Hicks states that the mayor is behind this investigation with his phone.

John Duncan stated that Hicks was at four minutes with his comments.

Hicks said the Mayor doesn't want to share who actually broke into Carus' Apollo warehouse and wants to continue to keep Hicks phone as part of the investigation. Hicks asked for Mayor Grove's phone records and asked the Mayor what he is hiding. Mayor Grove said he is not hiding anything. Mayor Grove wished Jamie and Dena Hicks a belated Happy Anniversary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held November 13, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to go out of order of the agenda.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to go to Executive Session regarding pending and/or potentially imminent litigation and related matters: Collective bargaining and related matters, and acquisition and/or sale of city real estate and related matters and the employment, discipline, appointment, performance and/or compensation of non-union and/or union personnel and related matters pursuant to the Open Meetings Act including 5-ILCS 120 Section 2(c)1-2,5,6,11 thereof. **(6:45pm)**

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to exit executive session and return to regular session **(7:21pm)**.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, approve, and place on file Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for August 2023 showing total fees collected of \$102,177.46 and Home Rule Sales Tax of \$89,645.58 for a total of \$191,823.04. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding replacement of lights at the Water Treatment Plant, Civic Water Tower, Canon Water Tower and Booster Station.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Grove stated to audience that the following item was the topic that the council when into executive session for. Mayor Grove also stated that this vote would need supermajority, being 6 of 9 votes.

City Attorney McPhedran mentioned that the following motion would give the Mayor, Finance Chair Ptak, and Economic Development Director Bedei the authority to

negotiate for potential acquisition of property. For such an ordinance to purchase the property would take supermajority, being 6 of 9 votes to pass this vote, with Mayor being including in the vote.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to give Mayor Grove, Finance Chair, and Economic Development Director the authority to got through neogitations to approve the action including but not limited to potential ordinances regarding potential acquisition of real estate, commonly known as approximately 45 acres across from 3020 E 8th Road in Utica, LaSalle County, Illinois and/or portions thereof (Premises are actually in LaSalle City Limits).

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Herndon, Bacidore, Thompson, Reynolds, Mayor Grove

NAY: Alderman Crane, Ptak, Lavieri, Jeppson

Absent: None **Abstain:** None

MOTION DENIED: 5-4

Alderman Lavieri stated to the public that the reason the council did go to executive session was to discuss the bid amount and did not want the bid amount released to the public until the purchase.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve an ordinance levying for Corporate Purposes for the City of LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Finance Director John Duncan mentioned that this tax levy was the exact same levy that was discussed to meetings ago. There were no changes to it.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve a resolution abating principal and interest on \$695,000 Taxable General Obligation Bonds, Series 2010 (Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds), of the City of LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois for the tax levy year 2023.

Finance Director mentioned that this was a bond that the city took out in 2010 that the city does abate from the taxes. It is not on the property taxes. This is paid for out of the general fund. It is the last bond that the city has. This bond was a 20 year bond that will be paid on till 2030. The city pays about \$50,000/year with about \$300,000 left.

City Attorney Jim McPhedran stated that passing this resolution to abate means that the city is following through with their commitment from years ago and this will not increase ones' taxes.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve an ordinance authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Master Agreement 2022). Each and every alderman has a copy.

Fire Chief Janick stated that this was an updated agreement with MABAS. Janick stated that MABAS covers over 1,200 Illinois departments along with departments outside of Illinois. MABAS also covers 2,200 units of government between Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio. This agreement has been updated to be more uniform between states.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Deputy Clerk Bader stated that Julie and Building Inspector Andy Bacidore have been the main two behind negotiating majority of the agreement with GOVpilot. Bader did state that after three years, both residents and city officials were not taking full advantage out of some of the modules within the program. Bader stated that they did condense the modules down from 11 to 5 modules. This decreased the cost to approximately \$20,000. Alderman Lavieri did state that he has always had an issue with the GOVpilot program.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve an ordinance authorizing entry into a Revised Renewal Agreement with Property Pilot, LLC d/b/a GovPilot related to software. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills from November 13, 2023: Total Submitted: \$1,299,834.27 (Total Payroll \$200,083.41, Bills to be Paid \$564,564.35, Total Bills Paid \$535,186.51. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED

7:34

pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Quinn, City Clerk