

**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, April 10, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Excused Absence: None

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, March 27, 2017 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 are approved and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to grant the request of Frank Vonch, Executive Director of the Youth Service Bureau of the Illinois Valley to address the council regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Vonch thanked the Mayor and Council and all present who took a blue ribbon to wear to honor the month of April as Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness. Mr. Vonch provided information about child abuse and neglect and stated that YSB by the end of its fiscal year will provide foster homes for over 500 abused and neglected children. He added that cases are becoming more complicated and more intense than ever. The ribbon is the symbol of neglect and abuse and its blue color was chosen to signify the color of bruises.

PROCLAMATIONS

Clerk Brown read the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of La Salle. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to grant the request of Luke Tomsha to address the council regarding The Perfectly Flawed Foundation's Earth Day project and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Luke Tomsha explained the aims of his non-profit foundation, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation is the charitable side to his blog (www.perfectlyflawed.org) which outlines his 14 year journey with heroin and prescription opiate abuse. The aim of the foundation is to invest in children, individuals, families and communities affected by substance abuse. Mr. Tomsha stated that at this time \$11,000 in unsolicited private donations have been secured. He outlined the breakdown as to how the funds will be distributed. He stated that he has an independent financial board who will handle the distribution of funds according to his vision for the non-profit, with 50% going to children and families, 25% going to individuals who need help and the remaining 25% going to communities. He reviewed two events scheduled at this time, one being an Earth Day clean-up set for April 22, 2017. Volunteers are needed and welcome and will focus

on the I & M Canal. Secondly, A Perfectly Flawed Evening will be held on November 16, 2017 at Senica's Oak Ridge to raise money for the foundation. Mr. Tomsha indicated that the focus on the drug issue typically revolves around supply, but he believes we must look at the big picture and find different ways to approach this problem. He feels education from a user's perspective is a vital part in solving this crisis. Mr. Tomsha commended Officer Brian Zebron for reaching out to him to try to gain perspective from a user. Officer Zebron truly cares about drug enforcement and finding ways to seek a solution.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request of FOP representatives and members to address the council regarding police dogs and related matters. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Grove recognized several people in attendance and thanked them for being present. He recognized Retired La Salle Police Chief Tom Kramarsic, Retired La Salle Police Chief Jim Lewis, Retired La Salle Police Officer Dave Pytel, Former Peru Police Officer and La Salle Resident Bob Thompson, La Salle County Board Member Mike Kasap, La Salle Township Supervisor Mary Kay Pytel, Newly elected La Salle County State's Attorney Karen Donnelly and Retired Police Officer Kathy Knoll.

Mayor Grove explained that we are a council that does not expect people to sign in or provide a summary of what they want to talk about. We are open to comment, we listen and hear concerns. Sometimes we are able to act on those concerns and sometimes we are not. This council does not take issues lightly and this past week has been a difficult week personally. When it comes to making decisions about cuts, the council takes those decisions seriously. On Tuesday, Mayor Grove explained that he met with an AFSCME member to let them know their position had been eliminated. Later that day, he also met with the Building Inspector to let him know that the decision had been made not to bring him back in that role. Late that same day, a meeting was held with the a member of the FOP Patrolmen and Sergeants and Lieutenants unions. Mayor stated that he knew from a public perception point of view eliminating the canine program would be hot button topic. Officer Manicki as one of the two union members, was there to hear the news firsthand. He was told that the canine program would be discontinued in the City of La Salle effective immediately. Mayor stated that Officer Zebron who is referred to as the "dean of canine training" was on duty so was called up and was informed personally. Mayor stated than unlike those he met with earlier in the day, those two officers did not have to go home to their families to tell them they had lost their jobs. The officers will be allowed to keep the dogs, as the City recognizes that the dogs are part of their families. Mayor stated that if Officer Zebron wants to continue his role on a volunteer basis and if the public is willing to contribute, the Mayor had no issue with that. In terms of tonight's proceedings, the Mayor stated that he wants everyone to be heard, but asks that people remain respectful. He asked that anyone who wishes to speak comes forward and state their name and where they reside.

Mr. Dan Bailey from Springfield, Illinois works for the FOP Labor Council, the union who represents the Patrol Union and Command Union in the City of La Salle. He indicated the union has been provided by the City with two reasons for eliminating the K-9 program. One of those reasons is financial and the other being a lack of production. He responded that in regard to the financial reasons, they are not based on a lack of funds. He added that both the Command Union and Patrol Union have offered financial concessions to the City to offset any perceived financial problems the City may find itself in. Both unions offered to give up one dog to keep the other dog and also offered to give up incentive pay and other moneys they are currently contractually entitled to. These offers were immediately rejected by the City to the point of there not even being a consideration for them or for them to discuss them in good faith, so the problem cannot be financial.

In terms of the perceived lack of production, Mr. Bailey stated that a recent press released indicated that the K-9 program has done great work over two decades which the City touted on its website. Over 7,000 grams of heroin, 20,000 grams of cocaine and 900 grams of meth have been taken off the street. Many school sweeps were conducted so students can attend safe schools in La Salle. These canines have been funded by donations from citizens and drug funds. He asked the council, "Don't citizens who donated deserve to have the dogs they helped fund continue to fight crime?" Both dogs are in the prime of their careers with a combined eight years of experience between them. One trainer here in La Salle is

board certified and trains others throughout the state. Mr. Bailed continued by saying that further causing confusion, is the fact that La Salle has not provided squad car cameras for its officers which can cause issues when prosecuting cases involving drugs. Lack of production is not the problem, lack of cameras is the problem. Mr. Bailed contined by saying that as we all know numbers can fluctuate, based on moral, motivation and leadership. Numbers can be gotten off internal programs that just speak to actual canine sniffs, but may not speak to areas searched, suspect apprehension or when they go to schools. These numbers can be misleading o the actual impact the canines have. So then why choose to do this? He asked if it was retaliation or truly arbitrary. Mr. Bailey explained that the unions have two active grievances filed by both the patrol and command unions which will be taken all the way to a hearing. This could cost the City \$15,000. Further, they intend to take both grievances to hearing separately, because of different canines and different unions. However, this is not what they want otherwise all of these officers would not be here. All we want is the City to reconsider its choice to remove both canines. We will continue to work with the City in regard to reasonable concessions so that both or at least one dog can be kept. Please understand I am speaking for all officers. There was concern among officers that if they spoke up there would be push back from the City. If push back occurs, it will be closely scrutinized and grieved if necessary. The members and citizens of La Salle deserve the canine program.

La Salle County State's Attorney Karen Donnelly addressed the council. On behalf of the La Salle County State's Attorney's office a letter was read from Laura Hall, drug prosecutor. (Exhibit A)

State's Attorney Donnelly stated in regard to her role, that she lived in La Salle for five years, her husband is from La Salle and her mother-in-law still lives here. The importance of having the canine goes without saying. She stated that as we heard earlier from the Youth Service Bureau and Mr. Tomsha, drugs are making their way into our community. Without these dogs she added, her job becomes must more difficult. She stated that she believes it is necessary and vital that we have these canines. She stated, that I have approached every Police Department in the County and have also indicated to your Chief that I will do whatever I can to help. If it is budgetary reasons, I have money and will help. Whatever you need to keep the dogs on the streets, and help me do my job, I will help. I feel this act by the City Council in making this declaration about taking the dogs away has more to it. I hope that is not the reason for making this decision to take the dogs away from these two wonderful officers. I am trying to my job to keep you safe, your children safe and your families safe from these drug dealers. La Salle is known to be a big hub for drugs. Without these officers and their work and their dogs, I am afraid this situation can become severe. We do not want to see this happen. We need these dogs and I am asking that you to rethink your this decision.

Mayor Grove asked for the two arrest dates referred to in the letter she read from Ms. Hall. The State's Attorney stated that she did not have those with her, but could get them to Mayor Grove along with other statistics the council would like.

State's Attorney Donnelly stated that one thing to consider is the fact that whatever these officers seize as part of drug busts, the City gets a portion of that money. She stated that it is her understanding the dogs are not costing the City money. If it is an insurance issue and insurance is high, or any other budgetary issue, she told Mayor Grove to come see her and she will make it happen. She added that if it is for a reason other than that, heaven help all of us.

Mayor Grove inquired as to where those two previously mentioned arrests took place. It was confirmed they were City of La Salle arrests.

La Salle County Board Member Mike Kasap spoke on behalf of the La Salle County Coroner as one of its committee members. He provided statistics through last month. The coroner went on 100 calls. 10% of those calls were drug related. Post mortem services such as autopsies cost the county \$17,000. These autopsies are necessary because it provides drug overdose statistics for the county. Toxicology costs were \$13,645 and is done to determine which types of drugs were used. 30% of the annual budget for post mortem services have already been used and 20% of the annual budget for toxicology has already been used. These services must be provided to determine trends, to keep citizens safe and to work with law enforcement. He thanked the officers for their service and for the time to address the council.

Mayor Grove asked Mr. Kasap if La Salle County has a K-9 dog. Mr. Kasap stated that they do not, at least he cannot recall in his six years of service. It was determined that the County did have a dog in the past. Mayor asked Mr. Kasap why they longer have one. He stated that he did not know.

Assistant State's Attorney Matt Kidder stated that he has done this job over 18 years and has known Officers Manicki and Zebron for most of that time. He commented that based on his personal experience, they are of the highest integrity and fantastic officers and do good work. In his position, he sees work product from all departments across the county and reads hundreds of police reports a year. These officers are fantastic and do the best work we see. Having a canine available right now, as far as traffic stops, you have a set amount of time to operate in to find dope. You cannot call for it or have another department respond because you will lose time. It is important to have these dogs available to do this work. It is disheartening to hear the work Mr. Tomsha is trying to achieve and then to take three steps back to eliminate the canine program. They are both doing the same thing. It is a huge problem in our communities, heroin fuels overdoses and addiction, but also increases burglary, robbery and all other crimes. Vast majority of cases he handles are fueled by drugs. It is a real problem that we deal with on a daily basis. You hare hampering our ability to deal with these cases. Mr. Kidder asked the council to reconsider.

Mayor Grove stated that he totally agrees with Mr. Kidder's opinion on the two officers mentioned as well as all our officers. Mayor added, "that is why we are not eliminating officers."

Mr. Kidder reiterated that this program generates income and by getting rid of it, the City will lose income.

Jackie Bruski, La Salle resident, asked if anyone had the numbers as to how much revenue these dogs have brought in in their careers. She understands it could be a couple hundred thousand. The Mayor concurred with that estimate. Mrs. Bruski expressed than in her opinion that more than compensates for the costs to the City for kennel time, etc.

Lupe Gearica, La Salle resident and landlord, stated that she was very involved through the League of Women Voters to get the drug dogs into LP High School and was initially turned down, but is very happy the dogs are there today. She commented that by pulling the dogs, kids will be back on drugs. We are teaching kids on drugs and they are not learning anything. She believes this decline has already happened. As a widowed landlord, she stated that collecting rent is not easy. The police department has backed her. She has had to call when attacked doing an eviction by someone on drugs. She feels the drug dogs have kept this somewhat under control and would hate to see us lose that safety net. She stated that as taxpayers, we rely on the police and she asked that the council gives safety consideration. As citizens we try to keep our streets clean and report any activity to the police. She believes there has to be other ways or other cuts available.

Morgan (last name inaudible on recording) resident of La Salle, stated that the police are not losing their jobs, but can we say they are doing their job to the best of their ability without their dogs? She stated that someone said earlier in the meeting that it is difficult to tell right away if someone is on drugs unless you know what to look for. These dogs have been trained to know what to look for. She feels safer knowing these dogs were helping us.

La Salle Township Assessor, Mary Kay Pytel, stated that when she has to go door-to- door for her job there are many obstacles. One obstacle is recognizing drug houses. With the help of the police department and these dogs, these houses are more easily identified. She feels safer going house to house, knowing she can call the officers and police dogs. She continue by saying that she feels safer doing her job knowing that if she calls, they can be there quickly. She stated the dogs are very important to the City and asked the council why, if the dogs are not costing money, do we have to eliminate them.

Mayor Grove asked Mrs. Pytel if she has the addresses of the houses that were potential drug houses. She indicated she will provide them to the Mayor. Mayor stated that we all need to know that everyone can say things, but we must have verification of the facts.

State's Attorney Donnelly stated that we need the dogs to go to these houses to get probable cause to go in. The Mayor stated that he wants to know how many times we have done that. The only information the City can gather is from the data that has been input into our system. He asked the State's Attorney to provide any statistics she may have.

Diane Martin, resident of Hennepin and employee of the La Salle County Circuit Clerk's office in Ottawa stated that today there was a motion to suppress of a traffic stop with a lot of drugs. The main part of the motion to suppress had to do with how long it took for the dog to get there. The officer was writing a warning ticket for the soon to be defendant and the attorney made the argument that the officer was taking too long to write the warning ticket while the drug dog was on the way. Ms. Martin asked Mayor Grove, "How is La Salle going to be able to do that if they have to rely on someone else's dog?" Mayor Grove asked Ms. Martin what the County does? She answered that they use the State Police dogs. Mayor asked if it takes a while for the State dog to arrive. She said yes, they have to take their chances. Mayor asked why the County got rid of their dogs. Ms. Martin replied one of the dogs died, one of the officers retired and one of the officers moved on and the dogs were never replaced. She does not believe it had to do with the dogs or how well they were working. She stated that his drug bust came down to within it being suppressed because was taking too long. Mayor Grove confirmed that the case she is referring to was a traffic stop on Route 80. Mayor Grove stated that he spoke to a State Police officer and was informed they have two dogs which were on midnights. It was asked if the City of La Salle dogs were on midnights. Mayor Grove stated he believes we had dogs on both shifts. He was asked how many drug busts happen during the day? Mayor said he believes they happen all the time. Ms. Martin stated that the drug busts typically happen at night. Mayor Grove stated that his understanding is that if one of our officers is not on duty we call another department for the dog. Ms. Martin's point is that you can potentially lose that bust. Mayor asked if there was a police dog in Hennepin and Ms. Martin confirmed that there was. He asked if they provided mutual aid. It was confirmed that the dog was the Putnam County dog and is stationed in Hennepin.

Former Police Officer and La Salle Resident Bob Thompson asked that we do not forget about perception. La Salle has worked very hard at building a perception that it is as a place to come into and build and restore. Now, this will change the perception of us being a pro-active law enforcement agency with two of the best canines.

Retired Utica Police Officer of 29 years, Richard Maltas stated that he has worked with Brian Zebron and the dogs. In drug enforcement class they teach you that if you see a town with a canine unit, dealers will not come into your area and set up a drug house. Eliminating the dogs opens the door to drug dealers to come into La Salle to set up camp.

Mayor Grove recognized Mr. Maltas for his active role in his community.

Vanessa Trench resident of La Salle, stated that the dogs give the community piece of mind. These dogs are not just family to the officers they are family to the community.

State's Attorney Donnelly asked who made the initial decision. Mayor Grove stated that he made the decision. Mayor Grove explained that it is the time of year where we do budgets. The City's budget starts May 1. All the moves that were made were triggered by him with the support of the council. Attorney Donnelly asked if line items were looked at and what asked what the expense is for the dogs?

Mayor Grove stated that they met twice with the FOP. The thought was to make sure an agreement is worked out with the FOP that Brian Zebron gets to keep the dog even though it is technically the City of La Salle's dogs. Mayor indicated that grants covered half of the vehicle costs and the food is donated. Mayor said, like businesses owners, we had to look at cost benefit and the moves made were business decisions. Mayor asked if there was anyone present who wanted to discuss the two gentlemen who lost their jobs.

Comments were made in response to the Mayor that it was heard that the duties of those who lost their jobs were passed to others and money will be paid to those individuals to cover those duties. The public asked the Mayor where the cost savings was in those moves. Mayor Grove stated there was still cost benefit.

Diane Martin asked Chief Uranich what his personal stand is on the matter. Chief Uranich stated that he has to follow the bidding of the Mayor and Council. Chief Uranich stated that he expressed his personal opinion when the decision was made and expressed many of the points raised during the meeting tonight. Chief Uranich said that when I talked to the officers we are all proud of the work we do. Ms. Martin asked if he was going to let this go down without a fight. Chief Uranich stated that in a similar situation when the department lost two officers, he hoped to get them replaced, but due to costs the council stated that was not going to happen. Chief said this too was a situation where he is at the bidding of the Mayor and City Council. Mayor Grove stated that the Chief did not make this decision. Ms. Martin stated that she understands this but this is his department and it is his job to protect our community. Chief Uranich stated that we do that every day to the best of our ability.

Alderman Herndon stated that he appreciates the open comment, but we have a very good police department and a number one Chief and he hoped that she would not put pressure on this Chief. In closed meetings, he has given his opinions on this matter.

Mary Klinefelter, resident of La Salle for 58 years, implored the Mayor to reconsider his decision. She stated that the Mayor has worked so hard and successfully to bring this City to another level and indicated that he has given it his heart and soul. Mrs. Klinefelter continued by stating to the Mayor, "please do not give up on our children by getting rid of these the dogs." She added that the Mayor has been given the offer of money, so she is not sure what else is involved beside budget, but she cares about our children and our community and asked that the Mayor continue to take us forward.

Mayor Grove appreciated the comments, but stated that it is also the council and the public that has helped bring the City around. There are tough decisions to make and this is one of them. The Mayor stated that he is more concerned about the two people who lost their jobs. He added that we had to make cuts. The Mayor stated that we did not cut officers and maybe suggested that perhaps that would have gone over better. He added that perhaps we can look at that next budget year, but for now this is the situation we are in. He told Mary Claire, that when he ran for Mayor he knew he could not always make everyone happy but hoped to turn things around. Mayor stated the City has a \$1.2 million dollar deficit. Our budget is based on income of 6.7 million dollars. The police department accounts for over 3.5 million dollars of this budget.

Lupe Gearica stated that as an investor in the City, all investors should be allowed to have a say otherwise you will chase investors out. She continued that investors have to see something progressive in this town. Mayor responded that some people think the town is progressing. Mrs. Gearica stated that she is not one of them. The Mayor responded that Mrs. Gearica is a landlord in town who is not always doing what she needs to do and sometimes landlords need to take responsibility. Ms. Gearica implied that the tone of the Mayor's comments is why he is chasing people out of town. Mayor stated the reason for unhappiness is that the City is holding landlords accountable. She stated the Mayor has not returned her calls regarding the Building Inspector. The Mayor responded that the Building Inspector is no longer with the City. Mrs. Gearica stated that at the last election she supported him, but will not next time. Mayor Grove told her that was her privilege.

Jeanette Maurice, La Salle resident, stated that everyone refers to these as dogs. She continued, "They are not dogs, they are canine officers." She referred to Chief Uranich's comment that two officers were not replaced because of budget issues and added that in reality we have lost four officers. She stated that she feels badly for those who lost their jobs, but these are not just dogs. These are officers.

Dawn Pantenburg, resident of La Salle, stated that we have signs that say "Believe in La Salle." She asked the Mayor to let us be proud of our town.

Melinda Magerkurth is a resident of Utica and new to the area. She stated that they are very fortunate to live near one of these dogs. She stated that she felt very protected when she heard two suspects had fled to the forest behind her home. When she looked out and saw the dogs searching for the suspects she felt very protected. She loves this community and is happy to be a resident there and hopes and prays the Mayor will not take the dogs away.

Jordan (last name inaudible), a resident of Ottawa, stated that we know heroin is an epidemic in this area and is killing people. He stated that he knows the Mayor is concerned about the two people who lost their jobs, but taking these dogs away can take away lives not just jobs.

Diane Martin stated that these dogs do not only find drugs, but they also track suspects and missing people.

Crystal Smith, resident of Peru stated that she feels horrible for the people who lost their jobs, and stated that maybe the City should have cut officers because the dogs are trained to find the drugs in ways that officers can't. She asked the Mayor how we are going to keep drugs out of La Salle.

Mayor Grove stated that another reason for eliminating dogs in addition to the cost benefits is the redundancy of local services. As many know we have begun a central dispatch. This shows the teamwork to work cooperatively with other area communities. As far as dog coverage, there are other dogs in the area that our department is available to use. Similar to mutual aid, we can use resources nearby to help. Peru has two dogs, State Police have two, Mendota has one or two and Princeton has two.

Mayor Grove continued by explaining that the decriminalization of marijuana effects the need for the dogs. Currently, if you get caught with marijuana in La Salle it is a City Ordinance violation with a fine of \$150. Mayor added that there is a bill pending in Illinois that would legalize marijuana. The Mayor stated that in making this decision we looked at what the need will be moving forward with those drugs. Mayor stated that he does not believe La Salle is the only hub for drugs, it is all over and is not getting better. In speaking with representatives of local schools, LSD is now like marijuana and used nonchalantly and scary. Mayor stated that much comes back to personal accountability and people need to take ownership of their own families. Mayor said community efforts have been attempted to combat the drug epidemic, but has lost momentum. We need to continue to build on education and a healthy fear of the police. The City is looking at the whole industry and consider what is going to happen. Mayor asked how were we able to prosecute cases in the past prior to cars having cameras. Mayor Grove stated that we are getting cameras at the strong suggestion of our State's Attorney. The City was part of the SAFE team at one time, but when Officer Zebron's dog passed, we did not re-join the team with the new dog. At that time, there were many stops on Route 80 and the State's Attorney was willing to prosecute cases without cameras. In regard to usage, Mayor stated that the only numbers he had to go off of was the data input into our system by the officers and dispatchers. The Mayor and the council can only use the data we have to base its decisions on.

Mayor Grove stated that he and the group of people before them is not a group out to get people. They acknowledge that the dogs are officers and happily and willingly opened City Hall to honor the passing of Officer Zebron's dog. But, they still have to make the tough decisions.

The Mayor referenced a situation where a dispatcher gave the city notice of retirement, so the City moved forward and hired another dispatcher to begin training in preparation for the retirement. Then the person who gave their retirement notice came back to the City and stated they decided to stay longer. The council chose to keep the dispatcher hired and let them train side by side and took on the extra payroll because it was the right thing to do for the individual. Mayor said he is very proud of this council and many times the public does not know the good things the council does. Mayor stated he takes it personally when comments are posted on social media without all the facts. The Mayor stated that this is not an easy position, but he will never do anything just to be popular or win the next election. If this decision costs him that, he feels that he has done the best he can do for the 9,700 residents of La Salle. He asked people to step back and look at the whole picture. Mayor referenced comments made about the

cost of the Wayfinding signs recently installed. Mayor stated that we will continue to make decisions that move the City forward. We will be progressive with the hope that the money we invest will reap benefit in the end by getting new business in La Salle which ultimately will help reduce our deficit.

Mayor Grove again stated that the decision to eliminate the canine program was based on the decriminalization of marijuana, usage and financial reasons. Mayor acknowledged the public relations benefit of the dogs.

Multiple people in the crowd asked the Mayor what the actual costs are of having the dogs.

Mayor Grove reviewed costs. He stated that the costs associated with this program includes both the handler and costs of the dog. He explained that each FOP handler, based on our current contract, receives one hour of comp time or overtime per day for having the canine. This is also referred to as "kennel time." This is time to train, feed, exercise or whatever is needed to care for the dog. The officer is still on the clock. The officer has the right to choose either of these options.

If the officer takes this pay in the form of Comp Time 100 % of the time costs break down as follows:

- Working 12 hour shifts, each employee works 182 days per year
- Officers also receive one sick day per month or 12 per year
- Officers receive four personal days per year
- An officer of ten years receives twenty vacation days
- Canine comp time would equate 365 hours or 45 days

Therefore, 182 days of work, less 12 sick days, less 4 personal days, less 20 vacation days, less 45 comp hours for kennel time leaves the officer actually only working 101 days per year. This does not account for time taken off for training, school demonstrations and other commitments outside of normal work duties.

If the officer chooses to take "kennel time" as one hour of overtime, they are paid this overtime for 365 days because the officer has the dog year round.

547.5 hours x 30.86 per hour equals \$16,895.85.

In addition, each handler receives a \$2,000 stipend for having the dog, therefore approximate costs to the City is \$18,895.85 per handler.

In terms of the costs of the dog itself, cars must be outfitted to accommodate the dogs. Mayor Grove explained that in the past we have gotten grant money, but it only covered half of the cost. In addition, he added there are costs associated with workers compensation and liability. Mayor Grove stated that he would be happy to share these numbers if anyone wanted a copy. Mayor stated he knows he will not change anyone's mind, but wanted to get more information out for the public to consider and understand how we came to this decision.

Canine Officer Brian Zebron stated that he did not plan on speaking, but as a handler, he truly does not believe he is making the kind of money the Mayor outlined and asked to review the Mayor's numbers. Mayor Grove stated that the numbers provided are based on the way the contract is written out. The amount of money made by the officer could vary based on their choice to use comp time or overtime.

Officer Mark Manicki stated that the Village of Dalzell absorbs half his kennel time and he only receives a half hour a day not an hour. Mayor stated that one contract gives a \$1,200 stipend and one gives a \$2,000 stipend, and the Mayor stated that we have honored the \$2,000 stipend for both.

Diane Martin asked how much revenue does each dog bring in. Mayor Grove stated we get different revenue from the State of Illinois so it is difficult to know how much revenue is brought in by La Salle arrests. He stated we receive a check and it cannot be easily broken down. Mayor stated that revenue is less than it has been less in the past year than in previous years.

State's Attorney Karen Donnelly asked if the council would be willing to reconsider its decision if she put the numbers together to show the council what the dogs are bringing in and to show that it is in excess of what you are paying.

Mayor Grove replied that our decision has been made.

State's Attorney Donnelly stated that she hopes this is not in retribution for anything these officers have done because we do have an investigation into one of your officers, again I hope it is not retribution for anything they have done because we do have Grand Jury subpoenas that will be going out and your top police officer is on the top of our list.

Mayor Grove stated that unfortunately this is not the time to debate anything like this, but it is her call to talk about it. Mayor stated that we are very happy to accommodate any questions and are confident in how we handled that case a long time ago. Mayor was unsure as to why there would be retribution but would like to see what she is talking about.

Mark Klinefelter, resident of La Salle, wondered how the Mayor puts value on safety. Mayor confirmed that costs for the handlers is approximately \$18,000. Mr. Klinefelter asked if the Mayor went to the County for assistance with funding before deciding to cut the \$18,000 out of the budget. Mayor stated that he did not. Mr. Klinefelter indicated that he heard these dogs were donated by local businesses. Mayor Grove stated that that was true and that he had discussions with those businesses and donors and thanked them. Mr. Klinefelter indicated that there might be others who would be willing to donate to this program.

Mayor stated that if everyone wants to make donations to our general fund, Mayor said will try to bring back all the people we lost. It was asked if the dogs would be brought back and the Mayor said probably not.

Brief discussion followed regarding the process of other police departments covering and how the mutual aid process works. Mayor stated that any costs incurred through mutual aid are absorbed by each community.

Mary Klinefelter asked Mayor Grove if the police department or Officers Zebron and Manicki were to start a fund designated for the canines, and the public donated to the fund, could he assure us the canines would be brought back. Mayor Grove said we are not going to bring the canines back, the decision has been made. Mrs. Klinefelter stated to the Mayor that he gave up on the children. Mayor said he was sorry she felt that way but respects her opinion.

Mary Kay Pytel asked about the Building Inspector position. The Mayor indicated that the Building Inspector position would not be brought back. Mayor stated that the duties will be covered. Mayor stated the estimated savings with all the cuts are approximately \$200,000. Mayor indicated when appointments are made at the next meeting, the issue of coverage will be addressed at that time. The salary will be public as are all salaries.

Comments were made that the fact that dog revenue is going down indicates that the dogs are doing their job. Mayor Grove said our internal numbers are going down, but drug use is not going down. The Mayor was asked if the dogs were multi-functional. The Mayor stated that they were. A gentleman from Ottawa and father of two children with autism asked if the Mayor was aware what these dogs can do in terms of tracking people who wander. He stated that these dogs are trained to do that. Mayor stated that we will still have access to dogs who are able to do that.

Aldermen Mark Schneider read a statement. (Exhibit B)

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to grant the request of Ameren Illinois to break ground at 1608 St. Vincent Avenue to replace gas service and related matters.
Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to refer the request of Utica Silica to lower the speed limit from 25 mph to 10 mph on the paved portion of N.3029th Road leading to the sand mine and plant to the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee. Each and every alderman has a copy
ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider
 NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Motion Carried 8-0

Alderman Bacidore announced that the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee will meet on April 24, 2017 at 6:45 p.m.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request from Jose Medina on behalf of LP Football to hold a Tag Day collection on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin and at IV Food and Deli and Save a Lot. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request from Guylene Strange on behalf of LP Cavalettes to hold a Tag Day collection at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin and at La Salle businesses on June 17 and 18, 2017. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request Blood, Sweat and Gears Car Club for 2017 Raffle Licenses and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Schneider to grant the request of the La Salle VFW to hold its annual Poppy Distribution on Thursday, May 25-27, 2017 at La Salle businesses and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

A straw vote was taken regarding a request for a Sign Permit from Designs and Signs for a 240 inch by 34 inch non-illuminated wall sign for Amia Boutique located at 633 Third Street. Each and every alderman has a copy. All were in favor of granting the request.

APPOINTMENTS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to appoint Lynda Kasik as Director of Parks and Recreation for a four year term.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Duncan to authorize, pay and place on file Pay Estimate #2 and Final to Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. for the 2016 Sidewalk Improvement project totaling \$50,630.60. Each and every alderman has a copy.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

Alderman Bacidore inquired if the Council will receive an update from Peter Limberger concerning the status of the Kaskaskia Hotel project. Mayor Grove stated we should have an update at the end of May.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to pass and place on file **Ordinance 2682**: an ordinance further regulating Parking within the City of La Salle Repealing Provision Regarding Handicapped Parking at 1107 Sixth Street, 122 Wright Street and 228 Chartres Street. Each and every alderman has a copy.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

Ordinance 2682: further regulating Parking within the City of La Salle Repealing Provision Regarding Handicapped Parking at 1107 Sixth Street, 122 Wright Street and 228 Chartres Street

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to pass and place on file **Ordinance 2683**: an ordinance Further Regulating Traffic within the City of La Salle and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

Ordinance 2683: Further Regulating Traffic within the City of La Salle. (install north/south stop sign at 6th and Marquette Streets.)

COMMENTS

Jordan Crane thanked the Mayor for acknowledging the people that lost their jobs. He stated that they are important to the community as well. Mayor Grove stated that he appreciated how the City was able to work with the AFSCME on these difficult issues.

Jerry Reynolds said he was asked how many chickens are allowed. He was informed that residents with a permit are allowed to have a maximum of ten female hens. He had a complaint about a home in the Third Ward on Illinois Street that may have more than the limit. Clerk Brown said permits renew on May 1, so it will be further investigated.

8:53 p.m. Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to exit regular session and enter into Executive Session regarding pending and/or potential 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, appointment, performance and/or compensation of non-union personnel and related matters pursuant to the Open Meetings Act including 5-ILCS 120 Section 2(c) 1-3,5,6, and 11 thereof.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

9:41 p.m. Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Duncan to exit Executive Session and resume regular session.

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

Motion Carried 8-0

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri that bills submitted totaling \$276,661.08 (Total Payroll \$169,763.00, Bills to be Paid \$70,028.29, Total Bills Paid \$36,869.79) be accepted, paid and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL: AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider
NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None
Motion Carried 8-0

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

ADJOURNED 9:42 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Brown".

Carrie L. Brown, City Clerk