

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

January 23, 2023

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, January 23, 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, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

Absent - NONE

A quorum was present.

Others Present: Finance Director John Duncan, Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, City Attorney Jim McPhedran, Econ. Dev. Director Curt Bedei, Director of Public Works Patrick Watson, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski, City Engineer Brian Brown, City Attorney James McPhedran

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept and place on file the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held January 9, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to allow for meeting to go out of order and allow for public comment at this time.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

***EXHIBIT A – Public Comment in regard to Carus Chemical Fire 1/11/23.**

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from LaSalle Softball Little League to hold a Tag Day collection on Friday, April 21, 2023 and Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin Streets as well as Raccuglia Drive and Chartres St.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the request from LaSalle Little League to hold a Tag Day Collection on Friday, May 5, 2023 and Saturday May 6, 2023 at the intersection of Raccuglia Drive and Chartres St. And LaSalle Businesses.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request for a 2023 Raffle License from the Voluntary Action Center.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request for a 2023 Raffle License from the St. Margaret's Foundation.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a 2023 Raffle License from the Waltham PTCC.

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 December 2022 showing total fees collected of \$1,150.00 with total value of construction of \$64,500.00.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept and place on file the Monthly Police Income Report for December 2022 showing total fees collected of \$8,100.43

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for October 2022 of \$94,943.67 and Home Rules Sales Tax of \$85,655.74 for a total of \$180,599.41. 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 giving authority to Mayor Grove, Finance Director John Duncan, with oversight by City Attorney James McPhedran to draft a contract and enter into negotiations with Veolia for potential water tower maintenance plan.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee to grant the request for a handicapped parking space at 152 LaHarpe Street.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve and authorize Pay Request #6 for Vissering Construction Company totaling \$74,390.40 for work completed to date on Aerobic Digester Conversion project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and authorize Pay Request #7 for Municipal Well Pump totaling \$33,777.00 for work completed to date on New Well Supply, Well #13 project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve and authorize Pay Estimate for Hoerr Construction totaling \$255,395.50 for work completed to date on Aluminum Storm Sewer Lining Project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mayor Grove wanted to point out that this was for the inner lining and it is nice to be able to have done without tearing up the road and even in the winter weather conditions.

City Engineer Brian Brown stated that it was pretty impressive process. The project has to be cured with steam and Brown was concerned that it would create concern because it was happening during the Carus fire.

Alderman Lavieri asked how old the aluminum sewers were. Brown stated that they were installed in '72. Brown also mentioned how they have been inspected from 6th St. to Bucklin down to Rt. 6. He does hope to budget in next budget cycle to inspect the large arches next.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Ptak to approve and authorize Pay Request #3 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. totaling \$28,065.44 for work completed to date on 2022 Road Improvements MFT project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve and authorize Pay Request #3 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. totaling \$25,757.15 for work completed to date on 2022 Road Improvements – Rebuild Illinois (RBI) project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve and authorize payment for Cruz Concrete, Inc. Totaling \$27,498 for work completed to date on 2023 CSO-003 Meter Vault.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve and authorize payment for Vissering Construction Company totaling \$11,667 for work completed to date on 410 Baker Avenue project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Grove wanted to just clarify that the City did not have Carus discussion on the agenda because he knew that Brent would be updating the council under New Business. Mayor mentioned that the city will make it easier to notify the residents next time.

COMMENTS

Alderman Herndon wanted to recognize the LaSalle Fire Department and all the first responders.

Mayor Grove agreed with Herndon for the amazing response. The chemical fire ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with no injuries or fatalities.

Fire Chief Janick wanted to recognize all the hard work by the faces behind the scenes. Chief Janick also wanted to thank the over 50 departments that responded. Chief also mentioned that there were also approx. 150 responders that came through the community that day. This was due to the mutual aid box alarm system. Fire protection was provided to the City of LaSalle by MABAS resources from 11:30 p.m., January 11th and until 4:30 p.m. on January 12. They were able to downgrade some of the resources due to such great improvements in a short amount of time. He also wanted to thank all city staff and aldermen that were present that night.

Mayor Grove also mentioned the remarkable job done by all. Mayor mentioned that Chief had outfits replaced or in the process of that needed to be due to any damage. Mayor was also impressed that departments were able to get to La Salle quickly, talking with EPA and USEPA, and giving an update by 4 p.m.

Alderman Bacidore stated how he was impressed because once he heard the blast and took a ride to the area, the Fire Department was already there, spraying water on the fire.

Alderman Lavieri asked if Carus had a fire brigade on sight. Chief Janick stated that they do not.

Mayor Grove wanted to appreciate Brent Bader for the outstanding job he did as the face of the city and his job communicating out to all. Mayor mentioned how impressed the USEPA representative was also impressed of the work that Brent had done. Mayor was also appreciated of the time that Bader took to give time to the local reporters once they were done speaking with the national news.

Finance Director Duncan complimented Bader for all his hard work getting the information out to all. The bulk of the complaints tonight were due to communication, which Bader was in charge of. Duncan state how Bader did a fantastic job with figuring out what he can and cannot communicate at the time and some may have a different perspective of it. But Duncan does understand where the residents are speaking from.

Mayor Grove agreed with Duncan also. The city has a plan in place for such events and all the teams came together to do the best with that situation.

There were no more questions or comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and place on file bills for January 23, 2022 with Total Submitted: \$938,051.85 (Total Payroll \$177,571.07, Bills to be Paid \$663,042.25, Total Bills Paid \$97,438.53).

Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

8:28pm

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk

Exhibit A

Deputy Bader started the Carus Chemical fire discussion in regards to the topic of the shelter in place. Bader mentioned that Chief Janick put the shelter in place, recommending words to enforce upon arrival based on wind conditions and out of an abundance of caution not quite knowing exactly the full extent when he arrived on scene. This was done to kind of ensure the community safety as well as keep travelers away from the staging area. Over the coming hours more and more organizations got involved with LaSalle County Health Department, Illinois EPA, United States EPA, or LaSalle County emergency management agency. He continued on by stating that the city could have lifted that sooner, but ultimately they wanted to wait a little longer than we had intended just for every organization to share their perspective on lifting the recommendation. Ultimately, the EPA thought that was the right move to make.

Bader mentioned that he was brought into the situation roughly around 9:30 am by Chief Janick and Chief Smudzinski to coordinate media outreach. He had emailed out to all local outlets, both Notifications we put out thus far. With regard to that shelter in place, the city put it on social media, city website, the city's All Call phone system, as well as local media or state media and a few national outlets as well. Early on in the morning, the city did not have anything to report other than that there were no injuries at the time and that most of the employees had gotten out. Bader stated that there was one firefighter who later sustained an injury who was treated.

Bader referred back to his training on the disaster management plan and attended a press update at the scene with Chief Janick and notified the press that there'll be a follow up press conference at 4pm that same day. Bader thought it was wise to have one follow up once the fire was completely out to update everyone. Even if we didn't have all the test results back that we needed that day. The following day, January 12, the city did have a second conference at 2pm where the city had representatives from the EPA, Fire Department, LaSalle County EMA, LaSalle County Health Department and IDNR. The important news elements of that press release and check to see that Carus has taken the initiative to clean up personal property and that the EPA had found no issues regarding air water quality testing. By that next day, January 12th, Bader had become a city representative in emergency management meetings as well as a communications contact. The city took the lead on getting information out to the community that already assembled a media list and most residents were already trained to come to us for updates from the previous ones we put out there. We did talk to the EPA who was going to be taking over the site of the cleanup facility. Bader stated that the United States EPA and the Illinois EPA are currently overseeing that site specifically in helping Carus with the cleanup. Bader stated that all the decisions that are happening right now have to do with that retention pond. It was mentioned that there was a lot of material from the plant washed down into a retention pond so it was kept out of the rivers. IDNR is still checking the rivers looking for any sort of traces or fish kill or anything like that. We have not seen any, but they're currently working on ways that they can treat that water. So it's no longer a concern for the DNR with regards to the river. Bader and Chris Pozzi, with the LaSalle County Health Department, reached out to Carus to get more information on how the cleanup process and hotline had been going. As of Friday morning they had roughly 260 calls. The city will continue to get another update of those calls, Bader thought that roughly 65% were property related and 15% health related. When Bader mentions "health related", it does not necessarily mean that someone

called with respiratory issues. Many questions were in regard to is the drinking water safe or should I change my air filters? Bader stated that If anybody does call that hotline with any sort of health risks they are advised to call their provider to follow up. Bader did talk to Pozzi and kind of get an idea of what LaSalle County Health Department is seen with regards to health risks. Last week, the city only received one phone call. This was a person who was having difficulties with the Carus hotline. Bader reached out to LCHD and they have received zero calls. However, I asked her if there was any way that we can kind of get a feel for possible immediate health risks could have been. She had reached out to area hospitals to see if anybody was admitted with symptoms relating to the fire. Only one hospital reported anyone having any sort of symptoms related to the fire. It was a contractor that was on site that day, and he was treated.

Bader discussed how the City of Lasalle reached out to the communities of Morris and Rockton which both had large fires with material being dispersed into the cities. He had talked to representatives from both communities to kind of get a feel for what the City of La Salle is currently doing compared to what they did for outreach. The city felt they were doing as much as they could in comparison to the other communities that had dealt with this similar situation. They had to just handle the communications and refer back to all information given by the EPA. EPA was also on scene for both those fires as well.

Chief Janick was asked how many days it took to put out the Morris one. Janick responded by saying that it took several days.

Bader continued with his discussion between the other two communities. They both expressed to Bader that communication was going to be important. Bader informed the two communities that the city was currently working with EPA right now. Bader stated that the city had collected a large number of questions online and they had produced a Q&A. Bader mentioned that the EPA directly had a hand in assisting the city with the responses and they are currently on the website and have been shared on the city's social media pages. The city is still currently working with the EPA with regards to communication and any questions that Bader receives tonight will be forwarded to the EPA. Bader stated that he will do his best tonight to answer any questions but with regards to the scientific nature of the material, he will take down all that he can not answer and reach out to the EPA, or the USEPA or the IDNR. Bader mentioned that all the organizations that have been involved have been really great in understanding that the city needs the responses that are accurate, factual, and in a timely manner. City Engineer Brian Brown and Attorney McPhedran have been working on this and the city has hired a third party, environmental consultant, to come in and review the site. The city does trust that the EPA's findings are accurate. Bader feels that there is no harm for the city in having a third party come in and kind of hone in on certain areas of the town, specifically, in this case parks as well. They will take data samples to verify with EPA what has been found and to see if there is anything missing from their studies. This 3rd Party will look at the long term plan with regards to this such as potential remediation. The city wants to know if there is anything that the city needs to consider for the months or years ahead. The 3rd party was already here last week to start and we look forward to working with them in the future. This was not something that Morris or

Rockton did. The city will continue to share those updates and share those both from the EPA and USEPA and to get all the information out to the public. The city does have a disaster management plan which was reviewed two years ago. Bader has given the council members each a copy of it and plans on having the staff review it again. Bader asked for the council members to also review and share any thoughts or information. Bader asked if any other staff had anything else to add to the updates he provided.

Mayor appreciated Bader for all the gathering of information. He mentioned how it has been a fluid situation with the council and Chief Janick, Chief Smudzinski, and Bader and trying to get the right people involved to make sure the city gets the right answers. He felt the 4:00 pm press conference was a decent one. The city knew they didn't have all the answers then.

Mayor Grove mentioned that there was a difference in the two press conferences from the 4pm and the one the next day. Mayor stated that by the next day Carus had more of a plan to help; they acknowledged that by providing the city residents with a hotline. Mayor Grove was happy with Carus taking ownership of the issue.

Bader did mention that there were some homes already identified by Carus in which they were unable to clean, so Carus did refer them to their insurance company. Bader had spoken to two residents that had already gone through this process and were happy with that answer at the time. The city is and will remain in communication with Carus in regards to any and all of these concerns.

Alderman Crane asked about the third party and how any residents should contact them about questions, concerns or suggestions for them.

Bader thought that the residents should still call the city. Any questions about the material that Bader is unable to answer here, he will relay that message onto the appropriate party.

Residents can reach out to the EPA directly, the link to that website should be on the city website. Bader mentioned that they are answering residents' concerns themselves directly as well. The questions that go to them will probably be repurpose into another q&a soon.

Attorney McPhedran spoke in regards to why the city reached out to cities like Rockton and Morris. The city does have a massive disaster plan, but no plan can fit any particular set of circumstances. McPhedran and the city thought it to be helpful in the best interest of the citizens and to be sensitive to the community and that the city should reach out to others that have dealt with similar issues or perhaps even more serious issues depending on one's point of view. McPhedran stated that he also reached out to the Rockton and Morris City Attorney, to see if there was anything more that the city should be doing. To his knowledge the city of LaSalle is doing everything that they should be doing, if not more, because they hired out the 3rd party independent engineer.

Speaker #1 - Dani Piland. She is a Fourth Ward resident

Piland stated that she is here as a private citizen and speaking for many people who have brought their comments and concerns to her over the course of the past few weeks. Piland

stated she was here tonight as a resident and business owner and she is not there to represent any particular organization. Dani thanked the first responders and emergency personnel and the Carus employees who were able to contain the fire in its immediate aftermath. She thanked Chief Janick for authorizing the Shelter in Place Order. She said that the immediate action made herself and others feel like they were being taken care of and were safer. She stated that she was receiving numerous text messages and phone calls after the disaster probably because many know her as an activist and an organizer. Many of these community members still currently feel as though their questions have been dismissed by Carus and by city officials and the phrase "swept under the rug" has come up countless times. She felt that the early omission of this disaster on the council's agenda tonight speaks to a level of negligence. She thanked Brent for making sure that the administration devoted time this evening to this critical topic and for approving the moving up to the public comment section. She thanked Brent again for continuing to be a primary source of information. She wanted to present a summary of the concerns that have been shared with her. She understands that not all of these concerns can be answered by this group, but she hopes this will provide the city with enough information and time to adequately address the concerns. She felt the city failed to communicate appropriately in the wake of the Carus disaster and the administration's intent and credibility is in question. She stated that the FAQ sheet compiled by the city provided basic responses but did little by way of alleviating their deepest concerns. She feels that there has been a host of misinformation and a lack of transparency that has left many in the community feeling belittled and placated. Dani stated the Mayors action were in the interest of protecting Carus. Dani hopes that one of the things that comes out of the activism in the wake of this disaster in our community is meaningful policy change that holds corporations, particularly those that engage in operations that carry a high level of environmental and public health risks, accountable for their behavior. She, however, feels that the deepest disappointment from the people in this town, is to whom the city looks to for leadership. Piland is hoping to seek tonight a public acknowledgement of this administration's failure to communicate adequately with the community in the wake of the disaster, full transparency in the investigation process as it proceeds from here, and publication of the city's emergency management plan with feedback from LaSalle residents taken into consideration and third party consultation to ensure that plan is better prepared and executed to mitigate risk, keep residents safe, and communicate clearly. Additionally, she asks that the city schedule a town hall meeting that includes Carus Chemical, the Illinois EPA, the third party environmental engineering firm being detained by the city, and any other experts whose input may be valuable to alleviate the community wide distress still being suffered across the city. She then stated her concerns:

- 1.) The city failed to communicate meaningfully or clearly in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.
- 2.) The city's primary loyalty seems to be demonstrated through comments and actions including reliance on Carus to manage community concerns via the hotline, to Carus rather than the residents.
- 3.) The city has placed primary responsibility on residents to assess damage and initially, safety instructions were distributed to residents by city officials to neutralize chemicals on their own.
- 4.) Little trustworthy assurance has been offered on the following topics:

- a.) Whether other chemicals may have been involved in the fire.
 - b.) whether there are long term public health concerns.
 - c.) Whether environmental repercussions may be long lasting.
 - d.) What the timeframe for potential contamination might actually be.
- 5.) The city has thus far neglected to hold Carus responsible for what appears to be a failure to follow the training and protocols outlined in the Carus SDS.

She thanked the Council for its time and for its cooperation as the city moves forward together and the shared interests of supporting our community.

Alderman Bacidore asked if Ms. Piland classified herself as an environmentalist.

Piland stated she wasn't necessarily one today, but she would say broadly yes.

Ald. Bacidore asked if she was the owner of the Sanctuary. Piland stated that she was.

Bacidore then stated that a few months ago they were pumping raw storage down the alley out

into the street. Piland was unaware of this. Bacidore stated that Director of Public Works

Watson was present and asked him if he remembers this situation. Watson stated that he did

remember this. Piland was unaware of this and she would be happy to look into it. She asked

Mr. Bacidore if he had any more details for her in regards to this matter. Bacidore doesn't

understand how she was unaware of sewage backing up in her basement. She was unaware of

this issue and will take it up with her plumber. Members from the audience mentioned that the

council or public were not here to discuss this issue. Alderman Bacidore agreed to move on.

Bader mentioned to Piland and the other audience members that the Q&A wasn't meant to answer all questions but Bader was willing to take all questions or concerns tonight and compile another round for the city's website. Piland mentioned that she would provide Deputy Clerk Bader with a copy of her statement after the meeting. She also intends to provide all other concerns that she heard about by the end of the week to Bader also.

Alderman Herndon stated that he was surprised to hear that she has received all these concerns from the 4th Ward people and the two aldermen of the ward have received little response from the people. Piland stated that she does not know Alderman Herndon very well at all, but she is well acquainted with Alderman Crane. She believes that the lack of response from the 4th ward to the Alderman comes in part from a skepticism of the people in this room.

She believes it is very common right now for people to have skepticism of our elected officials.

Ald. Herndon mentioned how any resident can call, text or email and they can stay private with any comments.

Audience member asked why we are attacking Dani instead of talking about what they are there for tonight.

Alderman Crane tried to reword what Herndon was saying and that their phones are always on, anyone in the public can contact them and are always welcome

to call them at any time, day or night. Mayor stated that as long as the messages get out to

somebody to get to the council, that's all he cares about. The city can only try to address it and

if the city does not, then it's on the city for not doing something. Dani stated that was her point to this. People are hoping for when they come to her with their questions and concerns they know

she will voice all the concerns.

Alderman Reynolds stated that when the explosion happened, someone was not able to just call up and state what happened, what caused it, and what the city is going to do. The city does not get that information right away. Reynolds mentioned that most would want to get all the facts before making any comments. He feels the city does not have all the facts just yet. Dani understands his perspective. But she felt that the entire population of the City of LaSalle and surrounding communities were literally concerned for their lives. She also stated to set aside the long term environmental public health and property damage concerns, the one big concern that has been directly expressed to her was so little by way of clear communication. She felt the responsibility is on this administration and even if one doesn't have all of the information, but have a plan in place for what to do if disaster strikes and if the city may have a limited amount of information to work with. She believes the shelter in place was a great example of something that somebody in a position of leadership did with limited information in the interest of protecting residents. Alderman Reynolds feels that the moment the city does get any information, the city does pass it on to the residents. Reynolds believes that with any incident many people know things quickly with limited facts to back it up. He says that before the city does go out to the public, and to say what is happening, the city wants to try their best to have all the facts.

Piland points out that the communication process that Reynolds just described is possibly part of the problem. She suggested that maybe the disaster management plan was inadequate. She also suggested that the relationship between whoever was responsible for communicating with Carus and the city liaison may have an inadequate relationship. She also believes that there are possible failures within Carus. She asked for the council to stay focused on a few things. She would like to see how the city can improve their response. She wants to see that the city council can ensure that the residents feel safer and comfortable, and try to begin to restore credibility and trust with that community, and how the city can move forward.

Bader mentioned that the city is always looking for ways to improve communication. That is why they reached out to Morris and Rockton to see what they have done. He suggested for all to feel free to share any ideas to the council or detail communication methods used in other communities that La Salle can use as guidance.

Speaker #2 - Jamie Hicks, LaSalle resident for 25 years and lives on Porter Avenue. He wanted to first discuss the emergency alert system. There is an area wide emergency alert system and he was unsure as to why the city did not choose to use that system. He questioned why the city chose to notify their residents through the code red system when they knew that not all the residents were signed up. The code red system was not even working accurately. People that were signed up were not getting the alerts but some people like his wife never signed up and she was receiving them. He was upset that nobody knew what was going on with me after informing the police station and health department that he had granular products on him. He was unsure as to why it took the city till 10:13am to call a Shelter in Place. If the city puts it out on the emergency alert system, it goes up wirelessly and everyone would have received it. He also does not understand why the council did not listen to him. He was also upset with two aldermen for laughing in the background when Hicks was talking to the news.

crew during the first press conference. Alderman Lavieri stated that they were never laughing. Hicks stated that it is on video. Alderman Bacidore stated that Hicks was paranoid.

Hicks continued on with his statement by claiming he was allowed into the first press conference but at the second press conference the Chief of Police grabbed him by his arm and dragged him out of the Grove Center. Hicks states that he was the only person telling the city what was really going on. Hicks told Herndon that he should not be Alderman and that he is never at these meetings. Hicks has been in contact with Mr. Crane. Mayor asked Hicks to move on and continue with his statement. Mayor did state that Herndon has a very good attendance record. Hicks does not believe he does and he told the Mayor to look it up.

Hicks is also upset with the EPA because they finally came to his house Friday. He was informed by Brad, from the USEPA, that he did not have any particulate matter. He told me what he had was granulars. Hicks stated the city should have put something out safer than a shelter in place. Hicks suggested getting a hazmat crew up here to check this out. Hicks spoke with Finance Director John Duncan today. He also called Carus today and spoke with Sara who did not even know of a building behind Carus. He did want to thank Sara because she has been helping a lot of people. Hicks asked the Mayor to put a stop to the semis driving down the dead end street. Mayor redirected Hicks to the current incident that happened. Hicks is upset with the semis driving down the street not knowing what chemicals are in the trucks and who is even in the building behind his house. Hicks has brought this concern up before at meetings. He wants whatever is in that building gone. Hicks stated that he has heard from others that the Code Red has only been used for Christmas tree lights and garbage days. Mayor Grove said that Code Red did go out that morning and the city will be finding out why Hicks did not receive it. He didn't sign up until that day and then he didn't hear it until the next day on the 12th. Hicks was told that the only code red that was heard by some residents was at 7:55pm that night and also the next night on the 12th.

Hicks is concerned that the EPA does not have the test back to the granules from his yard but the city called an all clear. Hicks was still upset that he was escorted out at the second conference by his arm. He was not in there upset. He felt that he was the one telling the city all the facts. Hicks stated that he has been trained around this stuff his whole career and is familiar with how to handle it. He feels that the city has failed the residents and they just want to keep moving forward. He believes Carus was running the show. And when the EPA got there, they were not informed. He felt that the gentleman from the EPA was unsure as to what he was talking about at the second press conference, along with the lady from the Health department when she was talking about the purple stuff.

Hicks stated that Alderman Crane is a top notch guy because he was in contact with me the whole time. He knew what happened at Hicks' house and was concerned about him. He did not understand why the firemen drove around the neighborhood in their utility carts with the purple slit all over the road turning them black. Hicks said the cloud went right over his head and his neighborhood got hit the hardest. Hicks asked Alderman Bacidore why he was laughing again. Alderman Bacidore stated he was not. Hicks told Bacidore to watch his facebook to see.

Alderman Bacidore wanted to point out to Hicks that when the council and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, Hicks did not take off his stocking hat. Hicks did not feel that this pertained to the content of this meeting. Hicks asked Mayor Grove if there is ever control over his meetings.

Bader asked the audience to raise their hands if they did not get the code red. Most of the residents that responded mentioned that they were signed up and they all never received one until 7:55pm. Duncan explained to the audience what had happened on the city's end. He stated that Chief Janick communicated the Code red to Chief Smudzinski who communicated back to Duncan. He was in contact with Code Red to make that call based upon the information the city had. He is hearing the same response from others that everyone just mentioned. Duncan spoke directly with Code Red to put that message together and it was read back to him. Duncan stated that they will be looking further into this issue as to why not everyone received it and to prevent recurrence again. Alderman Lavieri asked if the message was intended for certain neighborhoods or the whole city. Duncan mentioned that the message was intended for the whole city but the Shelter in Place was only for the third and fourth ward at the time. Duncan stated that the city will definitely be looking into the matter and why not everyone received it. Duncan was the one that personally communicated that message to code red and still unsure as to why everyone did not get the Code Red. Mayor stated that he did notice some residents did add to the Code Red that night.

Duncan pointed out that there are a lot of elected officials here, that are not full time here at city hall. The communication is reliant upon the full time staff members and the city is doing their best to give that information. Duncan does recognize that there are ways that the city can improve and he will pledge as a full-time appointed official that he will do everything that he can to help improve that process. Bader mentioned that most of whom are dealing with the EPA regarding their property, the EPA will be back in town tomorrow and should be meeting with either Paul or Rob. Hicks mentioned he is speaking with Rob tomorrow.

Engineer Brown mentioned that their 3rd party consultant that they hired did a test in their neighborhood to see what the city is dealing with. Brown stated that there's not a distrust with the US EPA and EPA. The 3rd party engineer was there last week and took samples and they did put an expedite on it and we should have results. He was hoping today but it'll probably be midweek.

Hicks asked why the results would take two weeks when he was the one with the granules. Bader thought it was a good question for Hicks to still talk to them when they show up on Tuesday. Bader reminded him that they will have their third party results also very soon. Residents asked about where the residents will be able to find out about the test results. Bader stated that he will post it online. Bader mentioned that the city will definitely get in touch with any that were involved. If there is some sort of issue in a neighborhood, they will go door to door to notify residents. Brown mentioned that their 3rd party did sporadic sampling. The city went off of what they believed to be the heaviest hit area, the big plume, to see because if that is okay

than other areas that we also tested, hopefully it will be okay and and we can fully trust with the information we're given or we tell them that additional work needs to be done on the EPA level.

One resident asked if the homeowners were notified because she was one of the hardest hit with 90% covered. Brown mentioned that they were in the area of Hicks', in the ZInc/Porter Area.

Speaker #3 - Joleen Gumuski

They had spoken with nine different state, federal and local agencies when this initially happened, trying to find out the information. The first Q&A did answer most of their questions and does not feel worried about the long term effects of this on the community. However, Gumuski was a bit upset with some of the council members' reactions to the discussion tonight. There may be some personal things going on, but Gumuski states that Dani was acting as a representative of the entire community. Gumuski felt that the council's reactions to some of the discussion tonight may be why other residents do not reach out to some council members.

Speaker #4 - Pat Walters, resident of LaSalle

She thanked the LaSalle council for its developing response to the problem. She wanted to commend the city for their developing response and for hiring some independent engineer. Walters feels that there needs to be a town hall meeting with experts just to address these questions and concerns. She stated that there was over a million pounds of potassium permanganate dispersed. She stated that a teaspoon and a half can kill one. She was curious as to where it all went. She asked Andy Bacidore why the firefighters were not wearing their protective headgear. Bacidore was not able to answer that question as he was not there. Chief Janick stated that they were all wearing their appropriate gear. Walters then asked about Carus retention pond. She was wondering how big it was and how full it was when the fire started. She wanted to know if the fire department knew how much water they pumped in. Chief Janick also said that someone was on side monitoring to make sure that water escaped. He also mentioned that as soon as the emergency happened there was a shutdown. Mayor stated that there would be an onsite water treatment plant to work that process to make sure that water is good enough.

Walters would also like to see the long term medical concerns addressed. She didn't feel that having a hotline or handing out car tokens was an adequate response. She is concerned as a real estate agent and that she may have to disclose to buyers. She felt that good facts would go a long way toward earning the residents trust back. She felt that La Salle's economy is built on Parks and Recreation. She has heard that these chemicals are horrible for the fish. I hear this stuff is horrible fish. She asked if anyone had tested the water and the actual fish in it. Bader stated that IDNR has been up and down the river looking for any sort of change. They have not identified any issue at this time. Walters mentioned that Bader mentioned fish kill but she is more concerned for the long term if the chemicals were ingested by a fish. Bader stated that it is not a concern to the EPA or the IDNR from what he understands at this time. A resident asked about if the new lakes that were built out at Rotary were tested. Brown mentioned that the lakes were frozen when it happened and they have thawed out but the city

did take a water sample. Brown does agree that it may be a good idea to catch a fish or two and have them tested. The city will look into this.

Walters continued by stating that the City of La Salle should be a city that just goes along to get along. The City of LaSalle needs to be proactive because Carus can be gone tomorrow and move back to Germany. She believes that the city and residents are asking for not just a fascia kind of recovery from Carus, but a full recovery time. Bader mentioned that they have not been made aware of having to disclose that information in regards to properties. Once they get their 3rd party set up, they will be asked those same questions to see exactly what the long term could be.

Speaker #5 - Wayne Temple, North LaSalle/Dimmick

Wayne Temple spoke in regards to more of a personal concern. Temple has livestock and shows cattle in North La Salle. He is concerned because they mentioned not walking your dog on the grass, but when he asked about his cattle they said that it would not hurt the cattle. The plume of smoke with a big red ball in it went right over his farm. Temple spoke with his vet and the vet was not concerned with the cattle, but more concerned with the feed, which are bales that are always stored outside. He followed up with U of I and the Dept. of Ag and they both said the same thing. Everyone that he spoke with said to not use the feed, because the problem would be that within time their throats would close up and the cattle would start to slowly not eat or not drink, more of a progressive issue. He then contacted the Carus Hotline and they said it won't hurt the cattle. Carus stated that it comes from the ground and goes in the ground. The Carus employees mentioned that she would be sending Temple a case number, but he is yet to receive it. He also mentioned to Carus that he had brand new machinery that was being worked on outside. Carus told everyone to use peroxide to clean anything that was potentially contaminated. There was no follow up or case number provided by Carus yet.

Attorney McPhedran suggested having Mr. Temple to get his information to Deputy Clerk Bader and Bader will get in contact with the Carus. He wants the city to follow up with the Carus in regards to Mr. Temple matters and let them know that he is still waiting for a response. Mr. Hicks stated that the chemists made that stuff, it didn't come from the ground (in regards to the comment about "It comes from ground, it goes back in the ground"). Temple mentioned managing an anhydrous ammonia turbine for 34 years in Peru. So he is aware of how an emergency like this can go.

Temple exchanged information with Deputy Clerk Bader. Temple did ask about the smoke and the "big red ball" that passed over his house. He asked if that was the product burning in the cloud. Mayor stated that it was his understanding that it was. Mayor mentioned speaking with a resident on Porter and they were told that the pressure washing company was not allowed to touch the roofs. Mayor suggested contacting each individuals' insurance to get roofs looked at and taken care of if need be.

Speaker #6 Kim (?) (name muffled in recording)

Resident of LaSalle, works out at the Grove center. She is afraid to workout because the incident occurred so close to the Grove Center. She stated that the chemicals that come from

Carus go to Elgin to kill the muscles in their river. She states that she knows people in Elgin and she knows what they use it for. They have said that they had got this chemical on their hands and it was not a big deal. Deputy Clerk Bader and Kim spoke briefly prior to the meeting. Bader mentioned how the LaSalle County Health Department and the EPA are not issuing this as a significant threat at this time. But she would share the MSD with Bader if he would like. Bader was informed that the concentration amount is different from what the concentration would have been when it came down. He said these questions are best served for the EPA and LSCHD. He has to take this guidance from these agencies. He reminded the audience that as soon as they received anything different from the city's third party, he would share that ASAP.

She is just concerned because this may have a long term effect and it took Carus a long time to find the zinc contamination and they are still currently dealing with that. Bader mentioned that he can only reiterate what they've told us so far. Bader recommends talking to the EPA directly. The EPA has more knowledgeable people that can engage in a conversation like that regarding the health risks. .

Number #6 and #7 did not come forward.

Speaker #8 - Cam Riedesel, Porter St. Resident

He works at James Hardie and has been an industrial mechanic for six years. He explained how Hardie deals with potassium permanganate to extrude cement chemicals and when it reacts with any natural or biological, like naturally created item, it turns into manganese dioxide. His biggest concern is when manganese, any kind of manganese, whether it's dioxide, oxide, or straight manganese it can become Parkinson's. It can also become liver failure or heart failure, and it's a long term over long term exposure. He asked the Carus hotline and the EPA what the residents should do and they didn't have any answers. Reidesel said he spoke with James Hardie Health and Safety employee, JT Huey, in regards to his concerns. Huey believes it is of concern because of the high concentration in their neighborhood. Riedesel is currently boarding his pets. His biggest concern is for his pets and family. He would like to know when it is safe for pets to return, family to stop over and for him to even be comfortable touching anything outside with a long term effect. As a mechanic, he has \$150,000 of the tools in his shop and his tools are currently oxidizing due to the chemicals that have made it into his shop. He said these chemicals have also damaged his brand new \$25,000 camper. Reidesel stated that there was a "smoke cloud" inside of his house and spent three days in the hotel. Reidesel and his sister just moved back in. He did try to call the Carus hotline twice today and was unable to reach anyone. He also has had two of the chemists show up to his house and explain to him that the chemical matter is "wrapped with all the biologicals outside and now it's turned into manganese and that it's not a big deal".

Bader mentioned that he will get Riedesel's information and reach out to the EPA and get more firm answers, specifically the neighborhood test results. Hicks stated how he wants the EPA results back before they return their animals home. Gumuski mentioned to Riedesel to keep every receipt and expense. Riedesel already has had his insurance adjuster come to do drone footage and soil samples. The adjuster was unaware on how to characterize the damage

because he doesn't know what these chemicals do to each surface and each material. The adjuster was accosted by how every tool and equipment piece were rusting away. Bader asked to speak with Cam after the meeting to discuss more details in regards to the property damage.

Speaker # 8 - Brianne Hicks.

Brianne mentioned how she works Monday through Friday. She was concerned with the lack of notification pertaining to people coming around, asking questions, powerwashing, and such. Another concern of hers was the contradicting information that they are receiving between Carus and other sources. She believes that herself and others are looking to the city for the information because the city should be more trustworthy than a company that may be trying to "cover their own butts."

Mayor Grove mentioned he knows Brianne's mom and hopefully she knows that he would not do something that would not be fair to residents. The city is trying to go off of what the US EPA and the EPA said. The city did hire the third party to get as much information as possible. The city is trying to find out the best facts possible. Mayor hopes to get the third party results quickly. Bader did reiterate to the audience that any questions specifically with regards to the health risks, the EPA and LaSalle County Health Department would be the best source of that information. Carus hotline is a fantastic resource for those that have had issues with their property. Brianne feels that this is dividing the community and she feels that the community can learn from this and improve on it from here on out. Alderman Reynolds stated to the audience that the City of the LaSalle that the city is still learning as they go and they definitely want to get all the facts first. The city also wants to contact all the proper people or professionals in the field. Reynolds appreciates everyone's input here tonight.

Speaker #10 - Linda Battaglia - Resident that lives on Porter Street

She stated that their home is 100% covered and their new cement is now brown. She shares a very strong concern about manganese. She is not believing anything that anyone is saying about it. She also wants to see a plan for the disposal of grass clippings, siding, and anything that has this contamination on it to prevent further contamination. She feels those in the "hot zone" should be on a separate list of houses and residents documented for the long term in case any develop some of the very strong side effects. Her most important concern is not having her dog home. She was unaware of the third party doing testing and is requesting her grass get tested.

Mayor stated that the city could reach out to Carus for those who want their homes individually tested. Battaglia was deeply concerned also for the contractors that will be working on at least 30-40 houses. She stated that her house alone has about \$150,000-\$200,000 worth of property damage. Hicks mentioned that if you do contact your insurance company, they will try to clean it first. He stated that it is the wood and the A/C Units.

Battaglia's home touches Carus property, right along the fence on the South side.

Brown mentioned that in their discussion they will not be only looking at I think in the just immediate testing, but long term testing. They will need to take soil samples annually. It will be

a good plan to make somebody responsible for looking at that long term. Battaglia is deeply concerned about when everything that comes off homes and cleaned up, where will it go. She does not want the city's "disaster site to be someone else's disaster site." Mayor reminded everyone to work with contractors that have been approved by Carus or their insurance company.

Walters believes that this is a community problem and Carus is making it an individual problem. Mayor reiterated to the audience to definitely keep receipts and itemize what you can, including missing any work due to this. The city will let residents know what they will want residents to do to dispose of grass clippings and tree limbs. Hicks apologized for losing his cool earlier on in the meeting. Hicks did take a walk around a good portion of surrounding neighborhoods. He believes his street to have been hit the hardest. He feels as though many are downplaying like nothing is wrong. Reidsel mentioned he feels that they are avoiding him now that they walked into his shop and tested his shop. He feels they do not know what they need to do to help him.

Brown mentioned that the third party did offer to join the meeting but Brown did not feel it was necessary with the city not having their results back. The city will share those as soon as they can.

Josh Busche asked if all the baseball and softball fields had been tested. Bader stated that there has been testing done. Busche's concern is that with those types of fields, they will soon be churning the infield piece and then just bringing anything contaminated back up to the surface.

Brown mentioned that he had sampled multiple locations: Parks, ball diamonds, residences, lakes. The gentleman involved with the 3rd party actually lives in Rockton and was part of the work that was done on that plant and that he made sure everything was being done properly.

Mayor Grove mentioned that the Parks and Rec director did bring that concern up right away. Hicks suggested using the Rotary Park and not by a chemical plant playing baseball. Hicks mentioned a powder getting on shoes before this incident when walking through M&H. Bader said that this needs to be brought back up to Rob when he is onsite again tomorrow.

Busche asked if the city reached out to other communities in regards to this incident. He has a brother-in-law in Mendota that had particles on his brand new truck. Bader stated that they have not, only to the other communities that had the chemical fires in the past.

Gary Hammers asked about the million pounds of chemicals came out of the plant that were stored at the warehouse at the time of the fire. When released, he asked if the manganese doubled and tripled and if it was more potent.

Bader mentioned that he was reluctant to say very much at all with regards to the technical quality. Hammers also asked about the contractor that was treated at a local hospital. Bader said that all they knew was that he was treated and released. Bader could only confirm that the hospital reported that as being somebody they treated as a result of the fire.

Hicks was suggested by the EPA to contact his primary physician. His doctor's office did call back right before the meeting but Hicks was too focused on this upcoming meeting to answer at the time.

Brianne mentioned that she did work for a primary care provider and they were discussing this. She mentioned that you can assess the damage that was done to your body after the fact, but there's not necessarily a way to prove that there was poisoning or contamination on oneself from the chemicals. She is very worried that in five years from now they are going to have an illness come up that could be linked back to this incident.

Josh Busche asked about the city property and the damage that was done also. He stated there was new curbing done recently. They are out there with pressure washers but that is not doing anything. Bader stated that they would be reaching out to Carus with any city damage that may have been done.

Battaglia also mentioned that the Carus trucks are definitely ruining the city roads too. She also mentioned that the fence that is on Carus property is covered badly and if it remains untouched, it is still in the neighborhood. She also was concerned about the investment company that owns property right beside her. They are not even around but are their property getting tested. Reisedel mentioned that he contacted Carus a day before the incident occurred to figure out what they were storing in the building directly behind his house. He stated that a gentleman in a white truck, associated with Carus, came to his house and told him to stop asking. He planned on pushing further with his questions and then this incident happened. He was told to stop asking and said he was told you don't want to know what's back there and there is nothing in there. Bader mentioned that if it is the same facility, as Hicks was saying, the city will figure out what's in there. The EPA will disclose this to the city.

Duncan wanted to reiterate what was talked about today but he did copy the EPA on the request to Carus, so they have to answer in front of the EPA when they answer. Hicks also contacted the EPA as well today. Ducann said that they are all trying to get multiple eyes on it as well. Once the city has a better answer, they will contact all and let them know.

Battaglia is aware that the 3rd and 4th Ward were greatly impacted, but she felt that there needs to be a crew that is responsible just for the residents on Porter St. Hicks is just asking for the city to show concern for those affected. He wants to know if their homes are contaminated and if so they need to leave as soon as possible. Bader mentioned that he will talk to the appropriate parties and see what the city can do specifically for that neighborhood as far as testing and making sure that everything's copacetic. Busche's brought up a concern with insurance companies and if their neighborhood will be hit with the depreciation value and stuff. He mentioned that some may have roofs that have 10 years left, but are now damaged, will those homeowners get hit with having to pay for them or will Carus take care of it. Battaglia mentioned that the snow just melted with all the particles on it, it is draining right into the municipality and is someone testing those drains. Mayor Grove did mention that they are testing the water levels.

Battaglia was also concerned with their fire hydrant getting released and what the city will do with that water. Mayor mentioned that the city is going to wait to see what comes back from the test.

Alderman Reynolds suggested that the council and the audience will not be able to solve all the problems tonight. He suggested turning over all the concerns and issues to Brent. The city will contact the proper organizations to get some more questions answered. Mayor Grove mentioned to all in attendance that they should feel free to reach out if they have any more questions or comments that they think of once they leave here tonight.

Battaglia also asked about turning in the old garbage cans. She was concerned that all those who live on Porter St. have garbage cans completely covered. She does not believe these should be going to the landfill. She thought it would have been helpful to have communications such as this to the residents, especially on Porter St. Mayor agreed and stated that those residents should not put out their old ones for pickup. The city hopes to have more answers very soon. More concerns will be answered, even in regards to disposing of heavily covered products properly. Battaglia mentioned that she knew not to but there are at least 25 houses on Porter St. and should have been addressed. She did not think it was the city's goal to move it from one spot to another and then make it somebody else's problem.

Mayor thanked everyone for their time tonight with all the concerns that were mentioned. The city will definitely keep everyone abreast of what's going on. Mayor hopes to get those answers sooner than later. The audience was invited to stick around for the remainder of the meeting. They will have an update at the next meeting in two weeks.

Alderman Reynolds asked Dani to share her list with Brent. She planned on doing so. Mayor Grove showed his appreciation for all that showed up tonight. He sympathizes with those who are going through this with their properties. He understands that it will not be an enjoyable situation, dealing with contractors, insurance and just starting the whole process. Mayor wants to be able to get as much information out to everyone in order for them to move forward, what the city can do to help out and to keep the information flowing. He thanked everyone again for showing up tonight.