

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

February 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, February 21, 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 6:37 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, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski.

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 February 6, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Ptak to accept and place on file the Minutes of the Waterworks Committee Meeting held during January 16, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and Alderman Reynolds to go out of order and start with Old Business tonight.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to send the request of Laura Pappas of 432 Creve Coeur Street for a speed bump in the alley near their residence to Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee Meeting in two weeks following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request of Anthony Belter on behalf of Revival Restaurant Co., (d.b.a Thyme Craft Kitchen) for a Mobile Food Vendor permit.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request of Gretchen Gonzalez on behalf on the Camden Bar & Lounge for a Special Event Permit to allow a food truck to be in the parking space in front of the business for a St. Patrick's Day celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 17, 2023.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Lavieri suggested posting a sign on the day of event to save the space for later in the day.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to make the recommendation to the police department to deny the request for a Solicitor's Permit from Corbin McCabe of IGS Energy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept and place on file the Treasurer's Report for January 2023 showing total cash balances in LaSalle State Bank of \$14,775,843.85 and in Hometown National Bank of \$7,198,647.88.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve and place on file the Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for November 2022 of \$91,893.74 and Home Rule Sales Tax of \$77,911.59 for a total of \$169,805.33.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

BIDS

Engineer Brown mentioned that this following project will be for the area south of volleyball courts, where the big separation occurred. It will connect into storm by the Twisty and back around the volleyball courts. This will take all the drainage that happens on Maple, up to the retention ponds. Connections will be made directly into the storm sewer at Sobieski and Walnut. This will take it off the sanitary system and put it on the storm sewer. The retention pond will be filled in. The city received three bids. Pohar came in the lowest, with Ski Sealcoat and then Ossola to follow.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the bid award to John Pohar and Sons for Hegeler Park to Sobieski Street Detention Sewer Separation project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

APPOINTMENTS

Chief Mike Smudzinski stated that he was looking to promote Brian Camenisch. He is next on the list and Smudzinski sees a potential Sergeant retiring at the end of the year. He wants to have this promotion in place for the future. Camenisch will also be managing with Curt in investigations for the time being.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane of the Police Chief and the Board of Fire and Police Commission for a promotion to the position of Sergeant from the Sergeant's Eligibility List.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Crane mentioned that the Finance Committee came up with a current solution regarding the Celebration of Lights. The committee decided to put a city worker's labor cap at \$50,000 and forgive the \$50,000/year that was originally discussed in regards to using the

Public Utility Building for storage. Chairman Ptak discussed possibly establishing an annual maintenance fee for each display.

Alderman Bacidore asked if the \$50,000 cap was for all labor put into the setup and take down and not hiring the other firm again.

Mayor corrected Bacidore by stating that the \$50,000 was the cap on any city worker's helping to set up or take down. Mayor also mentioned that the firm hired for setup/take down would come right out of the donations.

Mayor did not feel that the city was ready to establish the maintenance fee this year. The city has already brought in \$7,000 from donations from request letters.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to cap city worker's labor at \$50,000 and to forgive the \$50,000/yr. for the Public Utility Building, in regards to the finances of the Celebration of Lights.

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 Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the replacement of two truck dump bodies for \$70,158.36.

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 Ptak to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee to deny the request for a "No Parking from Here to Alley" sign at 437 Bucklin Street.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request for a handicapped parking space sign at 145 9th St.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve and authorize Pay Request #1 for Maxcor, Inc. Totaling \$427,753.35 for work completed to date on Civic Tower Painting 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 the letter of support for Peoria/Chicago FRA Rail Corridor.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Bacidore that there will be a discussion of this Rail Corridor at IVCC this Thursday.

COMMENTS

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 February 21, 2023 with Total Submitted: \$1,180,472.99 (Total Payroll \$180,819.63, Bills to be Paid \$191,209.13, Total Bills Paid \$808,444.23).

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 Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED

8:52pm

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT A – Carus Chemical Fire Public Comment

2/21/23

Deputy Bader stated that Brownfield was in the area today to do more testing and will continue to do additional testing and evaluation for the entire event. They will return in a couple months to do further testing and compare their samples. The city asked IEPA and IDPH if further testing was needed at this time. They said not at this time. Bader stated that Mayor Grove asked Carus to offer independent soil testing. Carus declined stating that current studies have not shown a need to continue testing. Mayor Grove also asked Carus to consider moving all chemicals out of the Apollo warehouse. They stated that they were in the process of doing so but committed to doing so within the next two weeks. Bader also mentioned that Conservation Police did have the dead deer examined by wildlife biologist and an Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologist, along with the director at the U of I wildlife veterinary hospital that the cause of death was acute, physical trauma. Bader did ask residents that if any other animals turn up deceased in the area to contact Conservation Police to collect the carcass as soon as they can.

Bader mentioned that he was informed of a recent IEPA study showed there was one sample taken that contained high levels of metals. They told the City that this study was specifically taken at the site of Carus chemical plant itself and they will have a full report to be shared in the near future.

Mayor mentioned that the city's role is to be the facilitator for the residents. The city did the additional testing that was discussed and will do more in three months. Mayor wants to encourage Carus to have open meetings to have this dialogue with the residents. He asks for Carus to have their own press releases. This city is currently communicating back and forth with all the questions and concerns they are still having. The Mayor wants the ball in Carus' court. He did promise to the residents that the city will continue to work on their communication.

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that Fire Chief Janick did review the Two-Tier forms. From the chief's understanding from the chemicals that he reviewed, the trucks that were transferring chemicals to and from Apollo, did not need placards. The city has not discussed that with Carus.

#1 Jaime Hicks

Mr. Hicks states that he has proof that the mayor and the city has Carus' back. He states there has been lies all around. Hicks had the furnace filter tested by Sierra Club. They informed Hicks that the filter had every metal except Mercury. There was trace of Mercury in one sample of something that was tested through Sierra Club. Hicks mentioned that Sierra Club has an issue with the EPA's ambient air ratings results from the 11th and from the 12th. Some ratings are given in mgs. And others are given in ugs. This is deceptive because the mg/mg3 have to be multiply by 1000. Sierra Club said that this is a tactic used by companies or by others representing industries. The Sierra Club mentioned that there this is a tactic that the EPA shouldn't do. Hicks spoke with someone from IDPH and the Sierra Club, the wipe samples that were taking by the EPA was the wrong test. The test that was taken were for smooth surfaces, not concrete like they did. The particulate was on Hicks' truck and they did not take any samples from his truck. The granules that Hicks collected were from his truck. Hicks is testing his water for heavy metals since the city did not so. He will also be testing his soil. Hicks

asked the mayor and the council how they would all feel if there were told that they had barium, copper, lead, magnesium, and mercury in their air filters. Hicks states that the city and himself were chemical exposures and the city did not treat anyone or anything like a chemical exposure. Hicks believes there are lies all over the papers that he has collected. The mayor's name is on them and he was well aware of what was going on. Hicks believes that the mayor is trying to bury the Tier 2 building ever since Hicks has brought it up in 2017. Hicks plans on getting to the bottom of this. He wants answers to the Tier 2 building. He is told that the city is the one that signs off on it, inspects that building, and the city is the one that approves it. He states that the building is not up to code. He wants the chemicals out, but he really asks that the building gets shut down. That building should not be behind their homes. He also believes that the city is getting cheated out of taxes. Carus has logged this building since 2017 with only 3 chemicals and now there are up to 8 chemicals. He mentioned how there was no evacuation and it took the city an hour and 20 mins to issue a stay-at-home recommendation.

Alderman Herndon asked about the air filter testing done from Sierra Club and if it was from one home or various homes. Hicks stated that it was from various homes. Herndon asked for addresses of those homes tested. Hicks would not release that information. Hicks suggested Herndon FOIA requesting his information.

Deputy Clerk Bader asked if Hicks was in contact with Aaron from IDPH. Bader asked if he would share that information with Aaron. Hicks stated that he has spoken with Aaron and he will receive his paperwork but the city will not be receiving his paperwork.

Mrs. Walters asked for Mr. Hicks to go through the list of chemicals that were found. Hicks stated there was barium, copper, lead, magnesium, zinc found in the samples and mercury was even found in one sample. Mrs. Walters also asked Mr. Hicks about the comment made by the Sierra club about the wipe test being inappropriate for the concrete and if it was standard for the test to be taken at six inches or three inches.

Mayor Grove asked for the Sierra Club to come to a meeting and present their information. Mr. Hicks said he could get someone to attend. He wanted to make sure that the city will listen to them if they do come to present. He stated that the city has not been listening to him and they are being "spoon-fed" everything. He believes that the city needs to start telling the truth now. He wants to figure out a way that the residents and the city can move forward from here. He is not sure how the residents can trust Carus or the city or the councilmen again.

Mrs. Walters asked Mr. Hicks to discuss the information about the air tests. Hicks stated that there was no air monitor in the direction of the chemical plant. The city reported back that everything was good, but Hicks believes the city is not getting the readings that they need. He believes the city needs something to read the air quality or a tower. He wants Carus Chemical to be responsible for what they did. He stated that the Health Department is not letting the city know how many people are going to the ER and they are handing out inhalers to many. He mentioned that his heart is racing and his appetite isn't there because of the "poison" that was dropped on them.

Mayor Grove mentioned that the city is going off of all the information that they received from the appropriate departments and they will continue to do so.

Hicks asked about an open account that the city has to get everything paid for.

Mayor stated that the city will be going after Carus for those expenses.

Hicks stated the he has information about an account the city has to pay for these expenses and the residents are not guaranteed to get their things paid for.

Mayor Grove asked Hicks if there was work done on the chimney recently to one of the homes that had their air filter tested. Mayor stated that an outside source mentioned that they saw video on some work done to one of the homes in the area of work being done around a chimney and asked if it was anyone's home that may have had their air filter also tested.

Mayor mentioned that the city has had many correspondences back and forth with Carus. Anyone is welcome to request a FOIA to read these messages.

Hicks believes the city was told what to say to certain people. He read off one FOIA that he requested, "Subject: Jaime Hicks. How did the meeting go? Here's what you need to tell Jaime Hicks. Here's what you need to do."

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that he has been very transparent with Mr. Hicks and in every conversation with every organization.

Hicks stated that he found it hard to believe that he was lied to four different times about what was going on in the building. Hicks mentioned that Carus told Bader the building was first used for parts, then chemicals and then a Tier 2 chemical storage facility.

Bader understand Hicks' frustrations but he wanted to reiterate that everything that Hicks saw in the email, was everything that the city has been told also.

Mrs. Walters then asked Mr. Hicks if he did get any answers back in regards to any meetings held in regards to certifications or licensing of the tier two storage facility. He did not receive the information yet but should be receiving it in the next week or so. He did receive information from the LaSalle County IEMA today. He was unable to go over all of it today. He does know who signed off on it and who was supposed to know what was going on it. He stated that the fire chief did not know what was even in that building.

Hicks stated the city was told too many "white lies" about this building and then they heard that he was digging up information so they then had to expose it as a Tier 2 facility. The City of Ottawa had to go through many improvements to update their building and it all went through their city do so.

Alderman Bacidore asked Hicks about how long he knew about the Apollo warehouse. Mr. Hicks stated that he knew about the Carus warehouse ever since he moved 25 years ago. He mentioned that there was no truck traffic for 2 years. He then came into the city in 2017 about the semis sitting in front of his home. He had sent numerous emails to Carus asking about what was being hauled. Hicks also mentioned that his drain hasn't worked since he moved in and was told that Carus is going to fix it and take care of it. He wants Carus held accountable because they never are. Alderman Bacidore was asking Hicks if he was unhappy for 25 years but still allowed his son and daughter to purchase homes in this same neighborhood. Hicks responded with that his kids love him and they wanted to be close.

Mr. Dyas Eric Dyas spoke up and said that the problem is not that Mr. Hicks had his kids move there, the problem is with the trucks coming in and out.

Mayor Grove mentioned that the city was told in two weeks that they would be getting everything out of the building. Mr. Dyas asked if there would be manifests for this and if everything is proper. Mayor stated that they were told it is going to be empty, so no need for manifests. Hicks asked Mayor if it is going to be closed down, not empty.

#2 – Dawn Hicks

She wanted to discuss and ask about the information that the city received in regards to what was specifically in the Apollo warehouse. Mayor asked Chief Janick if he was able to share the information that they had received in regards to the products. Chief Janick stated that from the Tier 2 2021 report there were eight products in the Apollo warehouse. Chief Janick stated that he printed the MSDS sheets from every product, and they're generic. They're not specific to Carus or anybody. He did that to hopefully be fair. He stated that under the transport information, they are all listed to not be dangerous goods. Mrs. Hicks was confused because they are not dangerous chemicals but they are in a Tier 2 facility. She asked where he got his information. Janick stated off the Emergency Management Agency website. Hicks did ask Janick if he was able to get a truck manifest that were leaving the facility. He stated that he did not have the authority to get that information.

Hicks also asked about getting clarification on what the city has learned from the fire last month with communication or if the residents should go or stay if this were to happen again.

Mayor mentioned that one major takeaway that the city gained from this situation would be that the city is now able to send out a message to all cell phones pinged to a certain location.

Hicks asked what radius this would cover in the county for a message to go out like this. Mayor said that they get to choose how far out a message needs to go.

She also asked if Code Red has been fixed. Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that it is going to be a work in progress because the city wants to put out multiple calls to make sure it is working for all.

Mrs. Hicks also asked about what the community can do the next time this happens. Mayor asked her what she would like to see done. Hicks mentioned that she would like to see the residents be told to leave the immediate area of where they can be breathing the stuff in. She only lives four blocks away. Her asthma issues have increased from once or twice a week to using her inhaler two to three times a day. She has currently worked on her health and her asthma should not be worse. She also has heard of other people who are having health issues that seem to coincide, along with healthy young pets that have not had health issues in the past are now having sores on their stomach since the snow has melted. She has also heard from other people that their pets are having seizures that have been outside pets. She said it's hard to not have this incident in the back of your mind when one thinks of this.

Mayor Grove mentioned that people have reached out to their own physicians and they do not have any recommendations right now.

Bader mentioned that the city is unable to help with specific regards to that. Bader did suggest reaching out to the Illinois Department of Public Health and he can provide Hicks with an email address to get more information in a medical capacity.

Mrs. Hicks asked if this were to happen again, the city would have the same plan. Chief Janick responded by saying it will depend on the situation. Chief Janick stated that "shelter in place" is a tool that's used to limit public exposure. He mentioned that if the city wanted the residents to evacuate, they could potentially be putting the residents into the harmful environment. Janick said that if there was any kind of product in the air or in or on the soil, and you are taking one out of their house, that could be exposure.

One resident mentioned that if the city was going to tell the people to shelter in place, shouldn't the city be telling them how to properly shelter in place. Examples that were mentioned were to shut off their furnace and put wet towels along their windowsills.

Mrs. Hicks stated that she understood Ohio had different chemicals. She mentioned that officers were in their squad cars announcing over their speakers that people needed to leave the area for their safety.

Janick asked if Hicks knew why they handled their evacuation differently. He stated that there was a potential of an explosion from the pressurized rail car and this was a mild evacuation for Ohio. He also stated that there was not a pressurized vessel of any type involved in Carus.

Hicks asked if the city has heard what actually happened at Carus and what can the city learn from this incident.

Mayor thought that it was a great question for Carus.

Bader mentioned that the State Fire Marshal's office is the leading the investigation.

City Attorney McPhedran spoke with a representative from the State Fire Marshal and their investigation is still open.

Mrs. Hicks asked if the residents would be informed of the results from the explosion fire. Chief Janick said that they would.

#3 Eric Dyas

Mr. Dyas mentioned that he was reviewing the sheets of chemicals from the Apollo warehouse. The first one he noticed is corrosive which is placable, at 1001 pounds or more. He stated that regardless if this got hauled out illegally, it is what it is and will be hard to do much about it now. He said that one should be able to go back and collect manifests that are supposed to be kept.

Mr. Dyas wants to know what the city will do moving forward from this. Mayor Grove mentioned to Mr. Dyas that Carus gave them a two-week commitment to getting their products out. Dyas is concerned about them hauling it out properly to protect the residents.

Mr. Dyas is also very upset because his son is currently in the hospital with lung issues. His wife mentioned their concerns last meeting because of their son and his major health/medical needs. Dyas asked for his yard to be tested. Dyas is asking for Carus to answer these questions. They need to be held accountable. He stated that if this chemical release is being mentioned like it has been, they are responsible for all cleanup. He doesn't want the city to have to pay for anything.

#4 – Sue Enstrom

Mrs. Enstrom first asked what the Code Red system was.

Mayor Grove stated that Code Red is a system where it's basically like a reverse 911. The city can send out a message a call to the citizens or residents about emergencies, general information, upcoming events and there are different options. Anyone can go to the city website or you can call Brent. This is considered a volunteer program. The new thing that the city will be doing is for an emergency. This city will be able to ping the cell towers in a certain location. Bader did mention that this new system will be through the county but Mayor did mention the city does have to ask them to do so. This system will reach out to anyone in the area at the time. They do not need to be "signed up" like they do for the Code Red program.

Mrs. Enstrom asked how long it would take up to set up such a system and Mayor stated that will be able to happen now if necessary.

Alderman Lavieri mentioned that if one is signed up for the Code Red program, they will receive it out of state. It is intended to go out to anyone that is signed up and registered.

Enstrom is also concerned because she feels that these chemicals do not just go away. She does not live in LaSalle but she questions how far did the chemicals spread and where do they end up going. She asked the city and council what they plan on doing different next time and how the city will make it better for the residents.

Mayor did mention that the city is working on takeaways from this and what the city can do better. The city is working on their communication.

#5 – Breanne Hicks

Ms. Hicks first thanked Brain Brown for being in contact with her in regards to doing the additional soil samples. She also thanked Mike Smudzinski for helping out with the cleanup of the litter. She stated that it was her decision to move to LaSalle and stay close to her parents. She was aware of Carus and the Superfund site but not aware of the warehouse that was behind their homes storing chemicals. She is concerned for the future of their property values. She questions if this will be an issue now or in the future due to the contamination and for the facility being there. She questions if it does become vacant and empty, will it still be considered a tier two chemical facility.

Mayor does not think it should not be considered a tier two facility if the chemicals are now out of it. He stated that he will find out officially. Mayor mentioned that once it is cleared and if the city could decommission it, or whatever formal litigations may need to happen, he does not see a way for grant the request for such a thing again. They would also have to go through the whole petition process.

Ms. Hicks does want to know if the residents will get answers as to how this did get approved as a tier two chemical facility. Mayor did mention that they are looking through many paper documents and is unaware of where this paperwork may be. Ms. Hicks thanked the city for the Brownfield reports. The reports were very helpful. Bader mentioned that it did take a little longer because it did take some time to go through all information and put it out to the residents. The Brownfield report is now released on the city's website, lasalle-il.gov, under news and

events, at the bottom of the front page. A portion was included due to the document's size. The entire document of about 50 pages is on the city's website.

Mayor stated that the city is frustrated because it should be up to the individual entities who may be doing the testing to get back to the individuals. The city is definitely trying to get the word out to residents. Mayor stated that even with the deer head, as an example, Mr. Hicks should have been informed of the testing before he had to call the city to find out the results. This city is trying their best to expedite all this information out to residents.

Alderman Thompson asked Ms. Hicks if anyone has tested the interior of her home, since she was the one that brought in the air filter. He is concerned because he states that this is recycled air doing through her HVAC system. He would like to see the city pay for testing on at least one flat, interior surface. He knows that this cannot happen for every resident but he would like to see it happen. Thompson said he understands that the city would need to have someone that would be willing to have someone come inside their home to do so. Ms. Hicks said she would allow that. Thompson said that he is concerned with the interior because of what the filter looked like that she brought in.

Ms. Hicks said that overall, they are all scared because the little bits that they do figure out worries them even a little bit more.

Mrs. Enstrom did ask the city if there was any way to get an air monitor closer. Alderman Jeppson stated that the library does have one. Mr. Hicks said that the plant needs to be monitored. Mrs. Walters asked if the air test was from the library. Mayor stated that the EPA had their own air test done.

Mr. Hicks stated that there is a lot of damage done to the park. He stated that that new work on the tow paths down by the ponds look like they got hit harder than his neighborhood.

#6 – Marty Schneider 1522 LaHarpe

Mr. Schneider stated that his house was one that came back with high levels of everything, including Mercury. He was very surprised because he was told that he was not in the path of the plume. Schneider said that he questioned the advice he was given, but did what he was told and protected their dogs by keeping them safe inside. He stated that he felt something was happening when the city shut down everyone from the second press conference. The city mentioned that everything was fine and it was the "perfect fire." He mentioned that many may have seen his comment on the live feed from the press conference, questioning the statement in regards to "the safest chemicals in the world were released and all they had to do was put some water on it and the problem was solved." He believes that it had to have been impossible for the city to say and know that only two chemicals were released in that fire. Two days later, he heard about Jaime making videos about it and he reached out to him and they talked about everything. Hicks informed him of all the trucks doing down to the vacant warehouse daily. He remembered many times those trucks getting stuck on that block trying to turn the corner because there was a car on the side of the road. Schneider mentioned to Hicks that he knew a lot of those sitting up there on the city council and has a lot of respect and trust for those people. He had a lot of trust that these people would do the right thing. He has spent a lot of time with Jaime trying to get answers. He has been consumed by this with questions, phone calls, emails between Carus, Insurnace, and meeting with Cody at State Farm. Schneider felt like he was

on his own after the gentlemen spoke at the last meeting about the findings and tried not to say anything about Jaime's sample, knowing the results for his were off the chart.

Schneider is not here tonight to talk about Carus needing to pay for the materials things that have been damaged. He knows that with the right lawyer, they will get that taken care of. He has many family and friends going through dementia from Depue. He is not surprised by the fact that our area has the highest dementia and cancer rates. He said this is due to companies like Carus that are allowed to break because our community is so small and the city depends on them for taxes and donations.

Schneider mentioned about one of his dogs getting a severe rash a couple times in the summer. He found out that his yard was going to get replaced so he chalked up his dog's rash being from the chemicals. He also mentioned how there has been several times that brown dust has blanketed his yard and never thought of Carus. Schneider figured the EPA issue was taken care of once his yard was replaced and has been happy in LaSalle and even bought another property, but now is going through the same thing again. He is upset that they are being told that they have to "accept these dangerous chemicals." It is not an issue because the levels are under the not acceptable levels for the EPA. Schneider is here today because his furnace filter was one with the highest levels and he does not want to give up till he gets answers. He wants to do this because he believes that if he doesn't find answers and get this taken care of, his son will have a pretty good chance of getting cancer and dementia. He wanted to let Carus know that they will not stop until their properties, yards, and HVACs are free of any and all traces of their harmful chemicals and metals.

#7 – Ali Braboy 119 4th St.

Ms. Braboy was here tonight as a resident to say how concerned she was about the announcement of the closure of the Peru Hospital, emergency room and the only local OB unit. She was even more concerned after St. Margaret's said they needed an immediate infusion of state support in order to continue operations. She is very concerned for single mothers and low-income families. Ms. Braboy questions if the public transportation infrastructure is enough to sustain all new people that may have to leave the area for services. She wondered if the city could hold events with dislocated workers office to help those who lost their jobs. Ms. Braboy had some questions in regards to her concern: How can we incentivize more people to live here? How can we combat the housing shortage so that people want to live here? And what's going to happen to our schools? She stated that she personally would not want to give birth in a town without a hospital. This issue is a nationwide issue. She also feels that it's important to talk with people like Congresswoman Lauren Underwood and Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. She didn't know if it was possible for the city to make contact with them, also.

Mayor Grove did mention to Ms. Braboy that there was a news conference recently with Senator Rezin and Representative Yednock. He said unfortunately even those representatives were unaware of this closure. Mayor Grove shared similar concerns for the residents of LaSalle: Immediate healthcare, jobs, and families. He agreed that it doesn't feel very welcoming to come to a town that doesn't have a hospital or an OBGYN to have a baby. He reassured Braboy that the city is definitely trying to do everything that they can do to help this situation. Mayor mentioned how there were some job fairs recently to try to get some of the workers' jobs at other hospitals.

Braboy feels that the biggest resource is other people and talking with other communities to have the open dialogue and conversation about the situation.

Mayor Grove mentioned how the City of LaSalle is fortunate to have Curt from Streator. He saw Streator go through this and they have talked to him to see if there were any ideas that helped the City of Streator.

#8 – Barry Chrenen – resident of Todd St. (south of the plant)

In LaSalle since 2009, Chrenen knew about the Zinc, Coal mines, and the chemical plant. He was not concerned and trusted Carus know what they were doing. On the morning of the fire, he heard three loud explosions, the third one being the biggest. He was concerned because there were no sirens.

Mayor Grove did mention to Mr. Chrenen that the fire department is very close to Carus and was beneficial for this situation.

Alderman Lavieri mention that he lives south also and he did hear Peru and Oglesby sirens pretty quick.

Mayor Grove did ask residents to not hesitate to call 911.

Chrenen did state that when he heard the residents and council members mention why they live here, he feels that some people do care about society and not just themselves. This situation also made him think back to the Fukushima nuclear plant. That plant manager stated that everything was ok and then evacuated 1,000 square kilometers after they found out it wasn't ok. Chrenen believes that it is not ok.

Chrenen asks for the city to "Trust but verify. And to not take what they say as gospel." He stated that Carus is there to run a company.

Mayor Grove mentioned that they did receive the all clear from USEPA, IL EPA, and IDPH, but the city did go ahead and verify by bring in the outside engineer to do more testing. The city will continue to listen to the experts who are the scientists that have the facts on the products. Mayor Grove does like Chrenen's school of thought, "Trust, but verify." The city will continue to do their best with the information that they are getting.

Mr. Hicks believes that USEPA is being coached by Carus. He has made numerous complaints and he was told by them to file an EPA incident report and they still allowed them to "truck out" the potassium permanganate.

Mr. Chrenen ended his comments by mentioning that Carus should consider moving their plant vacant land in LaSalle.

Mr. Schneider asked if the city was able to find any information on the taxes for the vacant building. He questioned if that building was registered under the same address or different address than Carus. He believed that the taxes would be sky high if they were storing those chemicals in such a building.

Mr. Hicks said that Carus is cheating LaSalle out of money and that money could be used to help out the roads for the city.

Mayor asked Mrs. Walters if vacant or not vacant would affect property taxes. Walters mentioned how assessors might not be up on everything and are short staffed like everyone else. She said that the paperwork may have slipped by if the building was once vacant and then turned into a facility. Walters mentioned how commercial buildings are based on usage and worth that way.

Mr. Hicks mentioned how he has looked back on paperwork from many years and their taxes have not changed once.

Mrs. Walters asked about the Sierra Club Report and how testing was done at the 6 inch level, when appropriate testing was done at a 3 in. Level. She also mentioned how swabs were done on concrete and not flat surfaces. She asked if these tests were respective to the Brownfield testing or the EPA testing.

Hicks stated EPA testing. Hicks mentioned they only tested four homes from the ones that were at the first new conference.

Mayor Grove stated that he will continue to go off of USEPA and EPA and the additional testing from Brownfield.

Mr. Hicks states that the Mayor and the city are being "spoon fed" by Carus and it is in an email that he has to prove it.

Mrs. Walters is very grateful that the city did the additional testing. She was also very happy with Mayor Grove when he was her aldermen. She was always aware of what was going on. She challenges Alderman Herndon as to how many people he has reached out to.

Alderman Herndon responded by stating that he was "on the Illinois Cement property, working, employed."

Mayor stated that all eight aldermen are always available and open for their constituents.

Hicks is concerned about conversations with Carus and if they are going through the councilmen and not just Mayor and Deputy Clerk Bader. Mr. Hicks wants to know who is making the decisions for the city of LaSalle. He feels that if people are telling you something is not right, one should investigate it. He wants to make sure all gentlemen are involved in all the city business.

Mayor stated that the councilmen knew about the outside engineer that was hired.

Mr. Hicks asked if the council was informed about the warehouse going from machine parts, to chemicals, and then to a Tier 2 chemical facility.

Bader did report back to the Mayor and advised him to tell the council that the City was officially told by Carus Chemical that the warehouse was empty aside from machine parts, but later learned there were chemicals inside.

Mayor stated that the city is rectifying this situation now.

Mrs. Walters asked Schneider about his dog. Schneider said that he does not usually get this rash in the wintertime and it is twice as bad right now.

Mayor asked Schneider if he was able to go to his vet. He was unable to at this point.

Schneider mentioned that his parents' live north on 24th St. and they had damage all over their siding. He also is concerned with their soil because he had to take their dog for a checkup after having a seizure recently.

Mayor Grove asked for whose having concerns with their animals, if the vet could somehow show what is going on with their pets.

Schneider would like to know if he would be able to get his parent's yard tested to reassure the residents north that their yards are safe.

Mayor said that the city never "drew a line" to say who was or was not affected by this. Mayor Grove did reiterate that the data that the city has from the EPA standards, it is under the threshold of being a dangerous situation.

One resident questioned if the city should be looking at the data differently now that tests are coming back with other chemicals and metals.

Attorney McPhedran stated that the Mayor asked for the results from the test from Mr. Hicks. They were unable to get the results from Hicks so they will get the results elsewhere. The city would take any information they can get from any source.

Hicks asked why the city hired someone that once had something to do with Carus.

McPhedran stated that he had nothing to do with Carus. City Engineer Brian Brown had prior experience with Mr. Brown from Brownfield and believed in his integrity.

Hicks does not understand why Mr. Brown, of Brownfield, would have received a tour of Carus if he had nothing to do with Carus. Hicks said that it seemed "fishy" to him.

Engineer Brown stated that Mr. Brown getting the tour did not have anything to do with him knowing anyone at Carus. He used Mr. Brown in the past and was very happy with his work.

McPhedran stated that the man that was in charge of the study with Brownfield never had anything to do with Carus and never has. The city was in hurry to get someone but they also used LP High School recommendation.

Hicks does not understand why the city never looked at getting more of the heavy metals tested. McPhedran stated that they are not the scientist to know that. If the city can get the benefit of the Sierra report, they will look at that information and run down that trail too. McPhedran reminded the public that they do not need to wait until a public meeting to share any information. They will take any information of a scientific nature.

Mrs. Walters asked about if the city took the four-inch sample from the air filter last meeting. The city did not take it.

Dina Hicks mentioned how their cement was one to get tested. They received the same health letters as they did from IDPH when their yards were part of the Superfund site, and were getting cleaned. They needed to follow the same protocol again: Do not dig in your yards, wipe pets' paws, take shoes off, do not garden.

Mayor stated that this was the first to hear about his notification from the IDPH and they will speak with Aaron personally regarding this information.

Alderman Jordon Crane introduced himself as the 4th ward Alderman. He mentioned to resident, Eric Dyas that he spoke with his wife two weeks ago and shared his contact information with her. He reminded everyone that they do not need to wait for the meetings if they ever have any concerns. If a resident doesn't want to speak with their two aldermen than there are always six other aldermen to speak to also. Dyas stated how he just wants La Salle to be the best city that it can be.

Alderman Crane asked Dyas about his CDL endorsement. Dyas has his CDL Class A hazmat endorsement. Crane has his CDL but not his hazmat endorsement. He thanked Dyas for bringing the information forward about needing a placard to be 1001 or more for table 2 category. Crane was unaware of that.

Crane supports Hicks on what he is doing. Crane has never heard of the Sierra Club and will be excited to hear from them. He is very curious about what their establishment is all about and what certificates they have to do for any of the testing that they have already done. Crane also mentioned to Hicks that the city is listening to him. He was the one that mentioned the countywide call system and now the city is signed up for that. Crane also asked Hicks to stop attacking Bader. Bader is in contact with whoever the city or councilmen ask him to call and contact. Crane mentioned that all the paperwork that they have to refer to says to please refer to manufacturer's specifications. As far as Crane knows, Carus is the only manufacturer in the world of this product. He wanted Hicks to know that the city has to listen to what they are saying first because they are the manufacturer. Bader is in a weekly meeting with IDPH and Carus. Bader would like Sierra Club to get in contact with Aaron at the IDPH because Aaron is the one that comes to the city with things that need to be said or done.

Alderman Crane was also surprised to hear from Dina Hicks about the garden concern. That was the first that Crane heard of this. Crane asked for the residents to offer suggestions at any time about concerns for the city. He wants to hear from the residents.

Crane mentioned how he believes that the does not have much authority over Carus. Attorney McPhedran said that the city will definitely be looking into things. He also stated that the city will be looking whether or not they can take advantage of state rules and EPA rules. McPhedran mentioned how he spoke with the attorney in Ohio and based on their discussions, they may also be hiring out an independent engineer. He reminded everyone how we are all in this together and we can all learn from each other. McPhedran stated that the fire wasn't even out and he had the ok from the mayor to start investigating into an independent engineer. They did this to have someone to represent the city and the residents and to start to get the trust back also. He also mentioned how this current situation is and will continue be a working process. McPhedran did point out that there may be some misinformation or misunderstandings but it does not mean they are lies. The city was very sensitive when Hicks stated that the city hired an engineering company with a guy associated with Carus. The city insisted that the gentlemen who collected a few samples had no control at all in how the testing was done. The city did think that the gentlemen would be someone who might be an asset, as long as the city is just getting information from him and is not used in the part of the decision-making process. This than can help the evaluation. He does come from extensive line of qualifications, Mr. Hicks even pointed that out.

Hicks did ask why they did not test all the metals.

Engineer Brown reminded Hicks that the city is listening. Brownfield was in the area today. They went to Breanna Hicks' home. They will then be able to compare what the USEPA did before the cleanup and they did do the metals test there. Brown mentioned that they did not do the metal test the first time because they did not know of the concern so they didn't instruct Brownfield to do so.

McPhedran is speculating but he believes that Brown only tested for those certain chemicals because he inquired with EPA. McPhedran stated that Brown did the best investigation to see what were the most likely potential things he needed to test for. McPhedran reminded everyone that if there is other information that comes forward, the city can look at other things again. He mentioned how it was a little over a month post the occurrence. He stated that everyone wants a final resolution, but the State Fire Marshal does not have their own determination yet.

Hicks would like to see Carus acknowledge that the residents have damage and to acknowledge it was their fault.

Schneider did ask if Carus does acknowledge that there were other chemicals in the fire. The city just received this information also, so they were not able to speak with Carus in regards to that.

Engineer Brown mentioned that the tests that were taken today were asked to rush. The city should see their metal results probably around Wednesday.

Crane continued his comments by mentioning that he believes there is push back from Davies Group. Crane called Bader to look into it. Bader mentioned how they are not an insurance group, but a claims processing organization. They are a global company and have multiple large business clients. Bader mentioned that residents should get an email with a claim phone number and claims email.

Dyas stated that they still went through State Farm. They had about \$8,000 in damage. He asked for a rental and the company said that they cannot release any money at this time. The residents stated that they are their own adjusters.

Stacy Pohar is dealt directly with State Farm. She did not want to deal with the Davies Group. Her adjuster came out on Feb 2nd and is on hold now waiting to hear back from engineers' testing on cements, wood, plastic, and vinyl.

Dina Hicks was told that everything from all the outside insurances will come together to the Davies group and then once the Davies group has everybody's insurance information of what was damaged, then they will move forward to the next step.

Jaime Hicks mentioned that if you are going through the Davies group, you have to write everything down and have pictures.

Crane asked if Carus has presented any legal obligation that their insurance is going to reimburse the homeowner insurance. Bader is unable to answer that question for Carus.

Hicks mentioned how the residents are having to be their own adjusters if they are working with the Davies group. He knows the residents do not know what they are looking at, just like the council would be unaware of what they are looking at.

Thompson ran a business and was a public adjuster. He stated how the Davies Group is a consolidator.

Alderman Crane started to make a motion for a straw vote to approve Brownfield to do more testing, based on Engineer Brown's and Deputy Clerk Bader's discretion in and around the surrounding areas.

Deputy Bader mentioned that Crane's perspective, as an elected official, would be worthwhile so it is not Brent and Bader's discretion.

Alderman Crane first suggested doing 12 yards and interiors. Mayor Grove agreed with testing Breanne house's interior but did not see a reason to do 12 more-yard samples.

Crane and the councilmen went back and forth in discussion about how many yards and interiors to test. Alderman Crane asked for a straw vote on future testing up to 12 sites for contaminants found from the Carus fire, internally and externally.

Alderman Ptak asked Engineer's Browns opinion in regards to further testing. Brown agrees with the internal testing. He is unsure about the testing externally. He thinks to check with Breanne's results once they come back. If they come back elevated than he agrees that it would be a valid reason to do additional testing. He does not see value in the testing of outside at this moment.

Brown stated that they did do nine different tests. They tested two of the "bad" sections from the old testing and one "good" section to compare to what they did. Within each of those sections they tested, grass, 0-3, 0-6 in. Brown had Ms. Hick's original results that he was able to use to instruct Brownfield on where to test and what to test.

On this latest test, Brownfield did do 0-3 and grass testing. The grass was added to this latest test because it was of concern.

Alderman Crane asked Engineer Brown if he knew cost per location sample. Bader is unable to break down that number.

Chairman Ptak thought a straw vote should be done for the interior and wait on the results from the latest exterior test.

Alderman Crane asked for a straw vote on testing of six houses, interior and exterior, with panel of heavy metals.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0