

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL  
April 3, 2023**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held,  
Monday, April 3, 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, Crane

**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, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski

**PRESENTATION**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to allow Scott Hince to address the council.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hince wanted to discuss with the council who the LaSalle 33 are. Mr. Hince, lives at 16 Oak Ridge Dr. He is 100% service-connected disabled combat veteran and was there to advocate for other combat veterans. He wanted the council to know of the LaSalle 33 who were the 33 veterans who lost their lives in Vietnam. He is looking for approval for the placement of a memorial in Rotary Park with their names on it. The Rotary Park Foundation would just need approval from the council. Mr. Intz is looking to put something in the size of a boulder, close to the flags, with all the names of the fallen on this monument. He mentioned how on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March was Vietnam Veteran days. He is hoping to help out the foundation to start funnel donations and get others also behind this.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to move forward with a straw vote to approve the request for a monument to be placed by the flagpoles at Rotary Park for the LaSalle 33. Mayor Grove took a straw vote to determine if all councilmen were in favor. All were in favor of this request.

## **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 March 20, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **PROCLAMATION**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to proclaim Thursday, April 6, 2023 as Junior Achievement Day in LaSalle.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to proclaim April 2023 to April 2024 as the Year of the I & M Canal.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:**

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground at 138 Vermillionvue Trace to install electric service.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** Alderman Lavieri

## **MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground at 11<sup>th</sup> and Sterling Street to replace poles.

## **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 send the request from the owner of 849 First Street to Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee to remove a "Handicap Parking" in front of the address.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to grant the request from Erin Maze, of Millstone Bakery, to lease City Property at the business at 821 First Street to allow seating.

## **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 Herndon approve the request from Mary Jo Credi of the Illinois Valley Food Pantry to alter traffic from 1 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023 during their Easter Food Basket Distribution event at the direction of the police chief.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the monthly Police Income Report for March 2023 showing total fees collected of \$9,879.63.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to appoint Jason Quinn to the Police Pension Board.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

## **MOTION CARRIED: 8-0**

Mayor thanked Dan Lawler Sr. for his years of service to the pension board. Quinn will take Lawler's position on the board.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Alderman Ptak asked for an additional bid in order for the Finance Committee to approve a request from Lucas Weiden of WL Ventures for a Redevelopment Incentive Program grant totaling \$12,500 for premises located at 849 First Street. One bid was given. They will pass on this request at this time.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee regarding a request from the Dog House for additional Signage denoting the "No Parking" Zone in front of their

garages at 848 First Street. The committee agreed to add another pole east on the other side of drive. There is currently already one on the west side of drive. The committee agreed to stripe the driveway with yellow paint also.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 8-0**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to pay and authorize pay request #1 for Vissering Construction Company totaling \$39,770.53 for work completed to date on Water Treatment Plant Improvements 2022 project. 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 Lavieri to pay and authorize pay request #6 for Vissering Construction Company totaling \$44,438.54 for work completed to date on Aerobic Digester Conversion project. 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**

Deputy Clerk Bader began the discussion about testing following the Carus Chemical Fire including but not limited to, reviewing input from as well as opinions shared from, but not limited to, potentially, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, Brownfield Engineering and the Sierra Club regarding the Carus Chemical fire.

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that he had received something from the Sierra Club and the IDPH today that he has placed on everyone's desks. Bader recapped from the last meeting that the city did receive an informal update from Brownfield regarding indoor air testing. They worked with Indoor Science to come up with a few different options that the city could consider including an extensive \$80,000 tests all the way to a

much lesser cost at roughly \$335 per home that would examine the indoor air quality of the home. They also offer that service and a few additional homes at reduced costs which would result in less data being gathered as well as recreating the Sierra Club test that they've done thus far. Bader has received more of a formal document from them which was included in all of the council member's packets. The city did reach out to the US EPA, IEPA and IDPH regarding interest in further testing and within those letters the city has also shared all of the residence's concerns. They have all responded back indicating that they feel testing has been adequate thus far, regarding the impacts of the fire and do not recommend indoor testing at this time. They specifically say that there's many factors that can complicate indoor testing and make it difficult to attribute to one specific source. Bader feels that after reading these, they put the city in a difficult spot. The city wants to be sure that whatever data they receive is properly vetted on a state level where they can actually act on it and it would appear that the city's current options would not achieve that. Even indoor air quality testing, is difficult to link to one specific source according to their own letters. Given that the health officials on the state and federal level do not see a need for these tests, it would also be made more challenging for the city to be reimbursed by Carus chemical for further testing going forward. Bader believes that the city is still able to hire its own company to do further testing, but unsure as to what they will be able to do with the information once received, knowing the state and federal government don't foresee that moving the needle. Bader does not have any firm recommendation here, but states that until there's movement of some sort on a state or federal level, the city is at an impasse of what they are able to do on a municipal government basis. Bader suggests that any data that's out there right now from the Sierra Club, to make sure that it is sent to the IDPH and the EPA. For those that have health related questions or concerns for the lack of further testing, he suggests directing those specifically to those agencies, and discuss all concerns and frustrations and make sure they have all the data available. The city has sent all agencies all information that they have received. Bader also suggested consulting with one's own independent lawyers and doctors to discuss these issues specifically as it relates to health going forward.

Alderman Herndon asked Bader if he felt that the US EPA and Illinois EPA is saying that all have hit a roadblock with all the information that has gathered and the only thing that remains may be the lawsuits that need to take place.

Bader agrees that this may be the case. He mentioned that the US EPA and IEPA will continue to do testing as they clean up the Carus Chemical site themselves and that is the only testing that they have discussed.

Alderman Crane stated how the city has copies of all the emails if anyone is interested in them. Crane stated that if the city does agree to the testing, they may not get the \$80,000 reimbursed back because all agencies are currently saying at this time that no other testing is needed.

Alderman Laverie is understanding from this information as though there is no scientific way to connect the poor air quality to this incident. Bader agrees that is what these three organizations are saying.

Jamie Hicks spoke in regards to what he has heard from the Sierra Club. He does understand what EPA and Health Dept. are saying. He did state that the US EPA has been saying this since January 17<sup>th</sup>. Hicks is here to talk on behalf of Denise and the Sierra club and what they are offering. He stated how the Sierra Club is a nonprofit organization that helps to assist those in such situations. They assisted us in getting the furnace filters tested. Hicks stated that it was a matter of the Sierra Club collecting data for them, because they were not getting the data that they needed from the US EPA or the IEPA. He spoke with Denise and asked her if she could help find a company that the city could hire that would be approved by the residents because they have had trust issues with the last one. Hicks reviewed the packet that was given to him by Denise at the Sierra Club and gave the councilmen a copy of the full packet. Sierra Club has basically provided a review of the Brownfield proposal. The Sierra Club does propose an alternative plan. Hicks stated that they do understand that the review and alternative plan may also be sent to the EPA and the Health Department and other agencies. Hicks and the Sierra Club do believe that the further plan of further testing is required in order to fully understand the potential exposure to the community. They do not agree with Brownfield's plan to test for VOCs, Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, ozone, temperature and humidity. They believe these are unnecessary to test for and so is the plan for a questionnaire for homeowners. Hicks stated that Brownfield might have proposed this in a way to show that contaminants inside the homes are not from Carus Chemical. He stated that this would only help Carus and not the people in the community. Hicks stated that the metals in the homes, yards, gardens and parks are what the city needs to focus on and the community will know what their total exposure has been and will be as a result of the fire and explosion. Hicks stated that the Sierra Club does not agree that testing furnace filters for PAH polycyclic hydrocarbons is necessary. Everyone home has some level of these PAHs. Their concern is ongoing with the hazards posed by metals in soil, furnaces, yards and guards. Hicks recommends that additional 25 furnace filters should be tested as Brownfields suggested and that a homeowner pull the filters themselves and bring them to City Hall. They also recommend that additional furnace filter samplings to be collected from homes south of Carus where none had been sampled to date and west of Carus have also been recommended. Since manganese is a part of this particular concern for children when inhaled, they recommend testing of these homes. They also recommend testing for magnesium dust inside homes using wipe samples. Studies show that dust in homes that contain manganese is a significant source of exposure to children. Sierra Club also suggests that these wipe samples should be collected from homes where they already have or plan to test furnace filters and where they have data from the soil. Having the information from the soil furnace filters and dust wipe samples will help us understand the collection of hazardous materials that are from the fire and what the explosion has posed to the city community. Hicks mentioned some results

from a Brownfields test that was collected at the Matthiessen's playground and the results were 1,560 parts per million manganese. The residential soil criteria for manganese is 1,600 parts per million and with this new information it indicates the potential for soil at the playground to be above cleanup criteria and they recommend that additional samples should be collected. Hicks also recommended it should be cleaned up and the community notified the results. Hicks asked the Council for permission to invite Denise to the next city meeting possibly over zoom phone possibly.

Mayor Grove agreed that he would be in favor of inviting the Sierra Club to continue this conversation.

Deputy Bader asked if the Sierra Club has had any luck reaching out to any state representatives.

Hicks does not believe that the Sierra Club has received any response from any of the emails that they have sent to representatives.

Bader believes that it would be beneficial for those higher up in health safety to be sharing this information with their state representative.

Hicks did state that he does not want to see the city spending \$80,000 on testing. He believes that they could find testing with lower costs and to still achieve the same goal. Hicks stated how he is speaking on behalf of the residents and they are not comfortable with Brownfield. He believes there are other options worth looking into. Denise from Sierra Club has already cut \$42,000 off her recommendation, which is using Brownfield.

Hicks also asked about whether or not the Apollo alarms are going to Carus, station, or dispatch. Fire Chief Janick informed him that the alarms are going to dispatch. Hicks is also concerned with the infrastructure on the Apollo and the hydrants. Hicks wants to see change and work hand in hand with the city.

Bader wanted to reiterate that he hopes that the Sierra Club can make contact on the state and federal level.

Hicks is in this to help the residents and he is putting his time and money into this.

Bader wants to make sure that Sierra Club gets all the information to the right resources.

Hicks believes that everyone is for Carus. Carus is controlling the whole market for clean water.

Thompson asked for a straw vote from the audience if they do trust the Sierra Club. Thompson wants to make sure that they find someone that the residents can trust.

McPhedran believes that city has been persistent with all the investigations that have been done. The residents are now getting information in writing from all departments. McPhedran stated that any other information that they do have from Sierra Club needs to be passed on to these departments to see if they can revisit their position.

Gary Hammers mentioned how Carus Chemical discussed, on the day of the fire, how they were willing to have a town hall meeting. But not one council member has invited them yet.

Mayor mentioned that they have been invited multiple times.

Mrs. Dyas asked if the newspaper could put in there that they have been invited numerous times and they have declined to come. She does not want to see the newspaper make Carus out as this great community partner. Her yard and landscaping are still speckled everywhere. Davies group mentioned how they are not concerned with the yard or landscaping that has affected, only anything is permanently attached to the house. She is still concerned that it is pool season and where to dispose of the water.

Mrs. Bataglia did ask about an update with the Apollo and the city inspector. She would also like to see a notice go out about outdoor fires. She would like the neighborhood to be aware of the hole in the Apollo and the chemicals that may still be in there. She stated there is someone sitting outside that building all day and she knows there has to still be something in there. She also stated how her furnace filter and soil are still contaminated. This is a daily occurrence and it is not just from the fire. She feels that those who do want to sell their homes are stuck at this point.

Hicks stated that there were "white bags and super totes and it wasn't label and it's all over." He mentioned that the police were there and they know it's in there.

Resident thinks that it would be important for Representative Yednock to be part of this so he does get a bigger picture of everything including what Sierra Club has done.

Attorney McPhedran did state that they have been in constant contact with Representative Yednock and he has received all the updates of information. Rezin and Yednock have both been assuring Attorney McPhedran that they are doing as much as they can but are at a standstill with any recommendation for the residents on how to proceed with the current status.

Resident also urges everyone to be active on Lobby Day April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Bader stated how Attorney McPhedran explained what could be done on a municipal level.

Thompson did mention that there is a lot going on with this situation and with the Department of Insurance. Thompson stated how the insurance claims forms ask for the residents, who are filing a claim. The city and residents are unaware of what company to list. Yednock and Rezin are also aware of this issue.

Ptak asked Hicks if he trusts EPA or USEPA. Hicks said no. The EPA put a clay cap on it yards when they replaced soil with their last cleanup. Hicks would like the city to put a questionnaire out to see how the super fund project went. He believes he would



get a feel on how the residents felt about this project. Their drainage of the yards is his biggest concern from this project.

Ptak mentioned that it does puts the city in a tough spot when two agencies are saying that they do not need any more testing and Sierra Club is saying they do.

Hicks stated that he met with the EPA at his house the day of the fire. They informed Hicks that they were going to get samples of his deck. There was some confusion between how many samples were taken and where at Hicks' house. He was very upset about the chain of custody that occurred with his sampling.

Ptak mentioned how the city has been asked to open mind, but Hicks and the residents also need to have an open mind, when the city is told information from federal and local agencies. The city is in a tough spot because they have to believe these certain agencies in regards to their recommendations.

McPhedran wanted residents to know that just because Carus came out with its reports, it does not mean that it is not the final report from the State Fire Marshall.

Ptak mentioned how the city is not against the residents. Ptak does believe that there should be class action lawsuit against Carus. Ptak stated that Carus is not being transparent or a good neighbor as they claim to be. Ptak admits that he did not truly know anything about the Apollo and how it was a mistake on the city's party not to know.

Bataglia questions if the EPA even cares about the residents since their soil is 75% polluted and they soil was just replaced two years ago. She said the residents are the cost of better drinking water.

Mayor Grove stated how he appreciated the conversation with Jaime Hicks tonight.

Pat Walters, of 2273 Bartley St., is now an affected resident after receiving her test results back. She asked if the city asked the EPA what it would take for the EPA to change their minds. She is asking this question because it did happen in Ohio.

Bader did ask the agencies if they had any recommendations on how the test should be done.

Walters wants to know specifically what it would take for the EPA to change their mind. She does have four filters that she would like to be tested and if the same metals do show up on tests, she then assumes that it is due to a regular basis of contaminants. She did state that the results were all under but she did look each element up and not one exists naturally. If they are found in someone's furnace filter, it is only because one lives near a plant that is emitting these things. She does not understand how the EPA can put this on Carus when lead is not a naturally occurring element in the air. She questions the chain of custody and who is questioning.

Bader stated that it was the EPA. Bader wants to make sure the city is processing any data in whatever they want so it is not turned down at the door.

Walters explained what she believed what “chain of custody” would be.

McPhedran stated that the city is the messenger to all this. McPhedran also mentioned how the city will provide full copies of what the EPA responses have been. He stated how the city asked the EPA if there were any recommendations on any additional testing that may be helpful for the concerned residents. The city has done everything that can be done currently. McPhedran mentioned how the EPA did end up changing their position on the Ohio incident after further investigation.

Hicks’ problem with the EPA was calling all clear before any tests were even back.

Walters talked to Bader about mapping. She has started a map with every designated spot where tests were taken. She believes creating a document like this could be something that could be sent to the EPA to possibly change their mind. She asked the council if they would be willing to participate in such a mapping project.

Thompson asked who would be doing this project. Walters mentioned how the City of LaSalle has a vested interest in working with Sierra Club. Thompson is concerned with getting all the needed permissions to accumulate this information.

Walters mentioned how the Sierra Club has started this but she feels that the City of LaSalle should not always rely on someone else doing the job for them. McPhedran stated that the city has never felt this way by all the work that has been into the investigations and testing and hiring the independent contractor. Walters continued to ask if the City was willing to take the next step with a mapping project.

Crane stated how the city of LaSalle will do whatever it can to help out its residents.

Bader stated that the city could get a registry going to share with all the residents.

Bataglia reiterated about how the results on her filter tests were high and her filters were post-explosion and now ones after. She stated how people are in denial if they do not believe that this not happening every day.

Walters has before fire filters that can be tested.

Hicks stated how he has furnace filters from Dimmick, Oglesby, and Peru and all are showing results with copper, barium, lead, magnesium, and even a couple with mercury.

Bataglia asked if anyone is looking at the lead tests from the school children, who are required to get tested, and see if there is any connection to Carus and not just from older homes.

Crane stated how the city will keep moving forward.

Mayor does believe there has been movement on the insurance.

McPhedran stated how resources are limited at the local level compared to the resources at the state and federal government level.

Walters believes what even with limited resources the city can make a plan to have more monitors and getting in contact with local universities.

Jeppson stated how he has been in contact with Yednock's office and he suggested working with Northern, ISU, U of I, and potentially Sierra club to set up multilocation air monitors 24 hours a day. There is a cost to this so Jeppson is hoping that a university or graduate students may want to take on this project. Walters stated how she would be willing to write grants if need be.

Walters would like to hear from more of the members of the council to give them updates that they are doing. She feels she was not getting that information before.

Thomson mentioned how the alderman are out there willing to take phone calls and suggestions. Many of the councilmembers work full time jobs and the council is part time for most, but they all are trying to do the best for the city.

Walters stated how it would be good to have a committee authorized by the city to contact the higher ups in government rather than just one individual.

Aldermen Reynolds suggested that the residents form a committee and combine all their information together.

Walters suggested getting an intern from Americorps for \$8-12/hr or even IVCC students to accumulate all the information together.

Mayor Grove did state that they city could contract someone out who is willing and capable to collect and accumulate this data.

Mayor stated how the city is spinning its wheels at this point and he feels it is to the point of lawsuits and civil actions in order to see a little more action.

Walters continued to question what it will take for the EPA to change their direction.

Bader stated he has expressed the residents' concerns with EPA time after time and reiterated to them that it is not just Jamie Hicks with concerns. Bader has advocated for the residents through his constant conversations. Bader thought that after numerous conversations they would consider more testing but he has not seen that from the EPA.

McPhedran stated how the city did accumulate letters to the EPA and Dept. Of Public Health to try to get a sense of what else they think could be done. The city does have their responses to share and would like the residents to see it and read it for themselves.

Bader said that if they hear from more other than a city official, they may take the matter more seriously and consider further testing.

Walters is requesting from Carus her ductwork cleaned and a \$100 stipend because she will be buying the MERV-13 filters.

Mrs. Dyas asked for the city to call and post to Carus a request for a meeting with the residents.

Thompson stated how the press is here at every meeting and it is up to them to report that Carus has been invited and have not shown. He stated how the press can report that if they wish. Dyas did mention how only half of the residents probably do buy the paper.

Marty Schneider stated that many residents do not trust the EPA. He also asked if it is standard for the EPA to just ask Carus what chemicals are in the fire. He was confused by why they tested for more chemicals on the day of the fire and then ignored those results when they were off the chart. Schneider mentioned how on the bottom of the original report from the EPA that they FOIA'd there was a footnote from the lab. The footnote stated that the wrong unit was used for the air monitor testing. That footnote did not make it onto the report that the residents were issued. This is one reason as to why they do not trust the EPA. Schneider stated that they do not trust Brownfield. He is unsure as to how they can recommend no further testing and then run tests on things that others are not even concerned with. He mentioned how the PAHs that they want to test for can be associated with smoking cigarettes. He feels that a questionnaire would not be beneficial and they would be discrediting to some residents' samples because they may answer that they smoke in the house or have a wood burning stove.

McPhedran stated that this questionnaire would be questions that lawyers would be asking in a lawsuit to challenge whether or not the testing has legitimate foundations. If they can get the foundations answered to rule things out as being a related cause. It may feel the validity of the test. McPhedran stated that what the residents have accumulated from the Sierra Club suggestions and submit to the EPA, they may reconsider.

McPhedran stated that the city did send a letter to the EPA that included prior Sierra club testing, prior Brownfield testing, EPA testing, and asked what additional testing if any, would be helpful because the city is still has concerns and many residents do that more testing needs to be done.

Schneider is concerned because they proved there was more in the fire than what the testing showed. He stated that Yednock agreed with Brownfield in his letter. But unsure how EPA can say that there are many air pollutants in any household. Schneider disagrees because he does not know how things like air fresheners and furniture would have lead, barium, and zinc in them. He doesn't understand why Yednock even put this in his letter.

Bataglia restated how Carus just does not care and they will continue to pollute LaSalle. She does believe that the only thing would be a class action lawsuit to make up for the property damage.

Hicks mentioned how the Final EPA report from the 17<sup>th</sup> stated how everything was clear and tested the water. He mentioned how the IDNR did not show up till later. He mentioned how he noticed no tests were being done till later in the day. Hicks stated how the EPA was concerned about the first responders but not the residents.

Mayor asked Mr. Dyas about a spill on his dock on how he handles a spill. He asked if he treated for what's on the label or a possible spill.

Dyas mentioned that they would call the Emergency Response Training Solutions and give them the numbers and how much was spilled. Mayor Grove stated that this is how they did handle the fire by going off what the company said. He is not saying that the company was 100% honest.

Schneider mentioned they did have the toxic inventory report that they could have went off of and not just test for two chemicals.

Schneider stated how he was looking into the Davies Group and Ally Universal and that they are Global companies to minimize their risks and claims. He did question the adjuster when he arrived and he asked if he was an adjuster. The adjuster did not have very clear answers. The adjuster did mention to Schneider that he would not be getting on the roof because the company had decided there was no damage done to the roofs. When he did receive his information from Davies group, they stated that they would only be cleaning everything. Schneider mentioned that the paperwork states that he denied the roof inspection, which he did not deny. When he spoke to the lady from the Davies Group, she slipped when she was talking to him that the insurance company was AIG. He was concerned with the emails that show Mr. Schneider vs. Carus. and it's more like litigation. He got her to admit it was AIG was their insurance. He also mentioned that the adjuster was from Alabama, but is licensed in GA, AL, TX, but not IL.

Thompson did mention that the adjusters do not have to be licensed in the state but the company does have to be licensed in the state.

Battaglia stated that the document that Schneider did see with his name vs. Carus is legal document that they are trying to get one to sign off on. If anyone receives a check and signs off on it, it will be a full release.

Thompson stated that they could file complaints, which he has, and filed them. He was hoping to find out that the case was open. He has not received a response however. Yednock is getting inquiries from Dept of Insurance which he believes is helping.

McPhedran stated that an individual is not required to sign off on health related or property damage claims. He stated that it is a general principle of law that property damage aspects can be signed off on before settling on the health and injury.

Battaglia did receive a check for the claim to Ziebart for their vehicles. They did receive a letter with their check was a legal document that was full release of property damage. Some residents may not be aware that this is a settlement document and not a reimbursement document.

Hicks stated that Yednock will provide one with the complaint form.

Thompson stated that the Dept. of Insurance is so upset because the residents do not know the insurance company to even add the name to the complaint form.

Hicks just wants to know what the residents can do for now.

Reynolds restated that everyone needs to continue to work together and pool all their information in one place.

Schnieder questioned Alderman Bacidore about Schneider writing his own speech. He was informed that Bacidore contacted the other aldermen stating that Schneider's brother wrote his speech for him. He did not appreciate that being said. Schneider would like Bacidore to step down after the election to no matter who loses and let that person take his spot.

Bacidore stated that his name is the last name mentioned by the Carus' for invitations because he has been fighting them for years.

Schneider feels that the councilmen and city are needed to show Yednock information like this because he doesn't feel that the state representatives listen to just the regular people.

Alderman Bacidore feels that the city is doing all they can to send all the information they have off to the EPA.

Schneider stated that he is working on a packet to get out to the council.

Bacidore asked if Schneider thought the EPA was crooked.

Schneider believes that Carus is such a big company and companies are required to have a 60-day supply to be on stock. He feels that Carus has so much power and the EPA is willing to overlook it.

Schneider does not believe the EPA is corrupt. Bacidore disagrees and feels they are corrupt if they are overlooking these facts.

Hicks has noticed a lot of safety things that seemed to be in place now at the plant and he questions if these things were to be in place before.

Schneider did apologize for his actions. He felt blindsided. Bacidore wanted Schneider to know that the city is trying to do everything that they can.

Hicks feels that there is a difference between USEPA and the EPA. The USEPA was here for 3 days and bolted. Hicks stated that in the reports there was more panic about how they will get the product to their people.

Katie Troccoli suggests that the city writes a letter to the Illinois Attorney General asking them to investigate on how all this has gone down.

Attorney McPhedran mentioned how Representative Yednock has already referred on to the Illinois Attorney General.

Mrs. Troccoli feels that if the city does contact the Illinois Attorney General, stating that the city knows that State Representative Yednock has been made aware of this also, it may reinforce that and get them to come out to do the investigation. Full disclosure Mrs. Troccoli is Lance's Aunt. She believes the city needs to be proactive and support community and the state representatives.

Aldermen Thompson stated how the city did just provide Lance Yednock with a 15-page document to deal with the Attorney General.

Walters wants the city has to act proactively.

Dyas does want it noted that Carus will not respond to residents and she feels that this is a huge concern.

Bataglia finds it interesting that Carus can contact the city to get the city sweeper, but they do not return city's calls.

Schneider stated how they could potentially be done coming to the council meetings if they could get Carus to talk to them one time.

Hammers stated how they showed up quickly on the day of the fire but have not been back.

Walters asked if there could be something on the city website showing the disparity and studies.

Bader is sensitive that there are personal addresses but no names, but will post all studies and reports that the city does have.

Brittany Eccles, with the IM Canal Corridor and with the Lock 16 Canal Visitor Center, discussed why they asked for the IM Canal Proclamation from April 2023 through April 2024. The IM Canal turns 175 years on Monday. Eccles read a short summary on the Canal and how important it has been to LaSalle's History.

**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 April 3, 2023 with Total Submitted: \$375,062.34 (Total Payroll \$175,391.42, Bills to be Paid \$60,755.99, Total Bills Paid \$138,914.93).

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**

**8:47**

**pm**

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk