

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL  
April 17, 2023**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, April 17, 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, Reynolds, Jeppson, Crane

**Excused Absence** – Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon

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 Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to allow J Burt from the Illinois Valley Sunrise Rotary and La Salle Rotary to speak to the council regarding a large-scale Pollinator Field proposed for Rotary Park.

Mr. Burt was present tonight with other Rotarians, Brian DeBernardi and Chad Krafsky, to discuss the need for a Pollinator Field at Rotary Park. Mr. Burt discussed how the population is greatly declining and by planting milkweed and other varieties it will provide health to the butterfly populations. They have worked with Engineer Brown and Deputy Clerk Bader since last fall to find the appropriate place for such a site. They did identify 10 acres of land that would be perfect for this project with all its natural grasses. The Rotary has expanded its field of focus to environmental issues. They are about to apply for grants to make this pollinator park possible. Mr. Burt shared a release that explained it more in detail. He shared that this grant is due toward the end of the month and wanted to share this idea with the council to get their feedback. He hopes to get the funding approval by summer and the project going.

Crane asked if they are asking for the entire outlined 10 acres or just a portion. Burt stated that they intended to ask for all unused 10 acres for this project. Crane asked if

there would be a yearly maintenance needed on this area. Burt discussed how it should only need an annual controlled burn on 1/3 of the land. Crane asked Chief Janick's opinion on the controlled burn. He stated he was ok with it.

Deputy Bader mentioned that he did speak with Engineer Brian Brown and he is satisfied with the plan that they have put together thus far.

Crane did ask if it would be a permanent thing in case the city decided to do anything in that area later. Burt stated that the city would not be tied into this in any way, shape, or form. The Rotary Club is basically bringing "money to the table" to start up this project for the city.

Mr. Burt mentioned that the large-scale portion of this project will be in this area at the far west side of the park, but they will have a demonstration plot close to the entrance. This will explain why this is important to the park. This project will be combined effort with both rotaries, Illinois Valley Sunrise Rotary and the LaSalle Rotary Club, so they will be able to apply for twice as much money for this project.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the plan proposed by the Rotary Club regarding the largescale Pollinator Field proposed for Rotary Park.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held April 3, 2023.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a Raffle License from Cops 4 Cancer.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from La Salle Softball Little League to amend their previous Tag Day Collection application for Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22 to collect at 11th and Bucklin streets as well as 24th and Chartres streets instead of Raccuglia Drive and Chartres streets.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to refer this request to add streetlights on Richard Hallett Road to Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Tammy Humpage of St. Jude Run for a Special Event Permit to allow an extension of hours for outdoor music on Saturday, June 17 at Nick's on 6, 328 3rd Street, for a "Dueling Pianos for a Cure" event. The usual timeframe would be 7-10pm but this permit approval would allow them to go over 10pm if need be.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2023 showing total cash balances in La Salle State Bank of \$14,434,069.35 and in Hometown National Bank of \$7,104,416.08.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 showing total cash balances in La Salle State Bank of \$14,010,787.78 and in Hometown National Bank of \$7,153,137.06.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Annual Treasurer's Report for the City of La Salle for the Fiscal year ending April 30, 2022.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Building Inspector's Report for March 2023 showing total fees collected of \$2,888.00 with total value of construction of \$295,720.00.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **BIDS**

Duncan mentioned how the city went out for bid to outsource the ground maintenance of a few properties basically around the water treatment plant and the wastewater

lagoons. The city does not have, or it is not best utilized for the city's manpower equipment to maintain those locations. There are nine properties total that have to be outsourced. The city received three bids back, Jake's Lawn Care, Clean Streak, and R&R. The city did have each bid the locations separately and together. The low bid overall was Jake's. Jake's total for all nine cuts was \$665. Jake's is currently the one doing the work the last two years, approximately. Review, consideration and possible and related matters.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the low bid from Jake's Lawn Care for \$665 per cut of the 9 listed locations for the Ground Maintenance bid.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee regarding a request from the owner of 851 First Street to remove a "Handicap Parking" sign from in front of the address.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the confirmation and ratification of a straw vote regarding a request for a monument to be placed by the flagpoles at Rotary Park for the La Salle 33.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the authorization of Pay Request #8 for Municipal Well & Pump totaling \$318,116.10 for work completed to date on New Well Supply, Well #13 project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the authorization of Pay Estimate #1 for John Pohar & Sons, Inc. totaling \$133,103 for work completed to date on Hegeler Park to Sobieski/Walnut Street Sewer Separation – 2023 project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to allow for the Sierra Club to present to the council in regards to their continued efforts following the Carus Chemical fire.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mila Marshall said she was glad to be back with Denise Trabbic-Pointer over Microsoft Teams to give a presentation and take questions if there is time. Trabbic-Pointer began explaining she is a volunteer with the Sierra Club in Michigan but also helps communities impacted by toxins. She discussed the letters the City received from the EPAs and Illinois Department of Public Health that did not recommend further testing. Trabbic-Pointer drafted a letter to send to them for consideration of further testing listing the Sierra Club's counterargument. Trabbic-Pointer said in the letter that Brownfield Engineering's studies were primarily about surface soil samples. She said they only tested for two materials and dug too deep into the ground as well as other concerns with those studies. She also said water testing was insufficient and they recommend further testing is done. She said IDPH sent out health interpretive letters, but she does not believe any letters have gone out. Trabbic-Pointer continued to say testing thus far as been insufficient. She said she plans to ask the Council who should send this draft letter and who should send it. She also said that metals were detected from their furnace filter testing which supports that Carus is a daily contributor to that particulate matter. She presented some data from the La Salle Library's air monitoring system which she said shows an increase in particulate matter. She discussed how the levels dipped when Carus Chemical production was down but has steadily increased as they ramp up

production. She said the material gives a supporting argument that Carus' daily operations impact the area. She said the state and federal health departments have stated further testing is not necessary, but the letter states the community has shared concerns regarding the testing thus far. She said especially vulnerable populations. Residual test in homes and ducts as the material will settle there especially where children play which is lower to the ground. She showed a map of places that had been previously tested and noted that some areas west and south of Carus have not been tested. She noted working with La Salle Public Library or others to track air quality as well as knowing at least two contractors to see through the testing. She noted the Carus Chemical air quality permit is coming due and that more monitors would be important for ongoing testing, and it should be part of their permit.

Deputy Clerk Bader thanked Trabbic-Pointer for her time and asked if the Council had questions. Bader said he thinks the letter should come from the Sierra Club. Bader said as the City's Community Development Director that he can advocate on behalf of the community that there is a desire for further testing or explanations but given the City does not have a health official to research this material. As such, it would be best served coming directly from the Sierra Club as it is their research. Bader asked if the Sierra Club has communicated with these organizations in the past. Trabbic-Pointer said not much and has not spoken to anyone from the IEPA or US EPA that the City is speaking to. Alderman Crane asked who the two preferred contractors were as well as their scope of work. Marshall said that multiple voices make an impact with different positions. Marshall said they've also facilitated town halls in the past and have been able to bring people out to have questions answered and invite state agencies. Bader asked if there are other projects where those stage agencies have a town hall and if Sierra Club moderated. Marshall said they did, and they did not receive pushback from state agencies but did receive some from local officials. She said the Sierra Club generally doesn't tell a community what to do but helps guide them in what opportunities there are and how they would like to have a conversation and what is the overall community's goal. Alderman Bacidore asked if there was a cost for the two contractors. Bader said the City does not have that information yet. He asked if it would be similar to the prior project and Trabbic-Pointer said it would not be near \$80,000.

Dawn Hicks asked when the Carus Air Permit is up for renew, and Trabbic-Pointer said it should be in December. She said the IEPA website should list it as a public notice. Pat Walters asked for clarification on other parties reaching out to share concerns. Marshall said that in the past if a department gets 300 emails with the same body of the letter, it is treated as one letter. Each person's unique perspective can be counted uniquely in different ways. Residents asked about other permits but those are not up for renewal. Alderman Reynolds asked about the County Health Department's perspective, but Deputy Clerk Bader said they tend to follow the State's guidance. Chrystal Loughran read off a report from the Illinois Department of Public Health which is attached in the minutes (Exhibit A). She asked who hired the third party of Brownfield and Mayor Grove told her that the City hired them based on prior work with LP High School and the City

Engineer's recommendation. Jamie Hicks said the problem residents had with Brownfield Engineering is that a former Carus employee worked for Brownfield. He also noted that Brownfield was in a lot of meetings with the EPA. Deputy Clerk Bader clarified that Brownfield was on the invite list for Multi-Agency Coordination meetings but did not attend. Hicks clarified that he has a lot more information from other FOIAs other than the City's that shows they communicated more often. Trabbic-Pointer asked for a copy of that report and believed Brownfield tested sites in line with the superfund sites. Alderman Crane clarified that he selected the sites in the second round of testing. A resident asked why he tested those homes. Crane said some of it was random with some exceptions for those with health conditions. Alderman Reynolds shared that some residents have said the EPA is not returning calls about the superfund sites cleanup. Pat Walter asked the City to sign the Sierra Club's letter and that she's reached out to EPA representatives about the heavy metals in her filter. She said they are "playing it off" by saying it's from the M & H site and if that's true why isn't the public notified about it. Hicks asked Trabbic-Pointer if the results could be coming from M & H and she doesn't think so given some of the data changing when Carus Chemical was not operating. Walters was also told it is naturally occurring and Trabbic-Pointer confirmed that it is but that it doesn't normally go airborne.

Grove reiterated a timeline of the City's efforts regarding a third-party contract coming in and how other communities hadn't done that. He said the public is "talking to the choir" and that the City supports them but that it won't go anywhere until the state or federal organizations see something that brings them back for further testing. Grove said Carus CEO Andy Johnson reached out to Grove to discuss items, including a potential town hall. Grove said that is what the community needs right now, the company answering questions of the residents. Mark Schneider said it will be difficult for these organizations to acknowledge they've made a mistake and asked residents to reach out to State Senator Rezin and State Representative Yednock to share their concerns. Attorney McPhedran has networked with Yednock relating to the community's concerns about insurance. He said Schneider is correct that there are many aspects of this and that he has tried to push this further with them. Linda Battaglia shared questions she wants Carus to answer about the studies they've been seen given their yard and more is brand new. Residents continued to share concerns about the fallout of the fire and issues they've noticed since the fire including damaged properties and health concerns such as headaches. Grove said he wants to know as well why the insurance process is taking so long.

Alderman Thompson said neuro-linguistic programming is something to think about. He noticed Inga gives a testimonial on a company's website that they hired. Thompson said the City shouldn't give Carus any support outside of emergencies going forward. He said if they need additional security, they should seek it out rather than utilize city police. He said they haven't helped residents and he's tired of it. He said, thanks to Representative Yednock, insurance complaints were filed in two days when he was originally told it would be weeks. He said Carus Chemical will have to respond to them

now. Alderman Crane asked Thompson to explain neuro-linguistic programming. He said 10% of the community hates Carus and 10% may love them because they rely on them for jobs while 80% may not care. He said neuro-linguistic programming uses the press, such as press releases, to control what people think of an issue. Grove said his meeting with Carus Chemical won't be long, he said we all need to hear from them together suggesting they need to have a public meeting. Pat Walters said the City needs to speak "with its own voice." Mayor Grove said he's elected by the citizens so when he speaks to Carus he is doing so as the City. He added that, to Alderman Thompson's point, 80% of the public may not care about this issue but the City is still committing to it because it chooses to. Thompson said these are town halls and that the City did ask for their insurance carrier and were denied. Grove said the Sierra Club was surprised they were invited to a meeting. He said we're looking for every resource we can to make the best decisions. Marshall said this is a first-time experience for everyone in the community working with different organizations and state and elected officials can be challenging to get ahold of and keep their attention. She said it can be frustrating and complex and the Sierra Club does it every day. She said of the municipalities she's worked with; this has been the most inclusive even if the conversations are challenging. She said they will have recommendations for third-party consultants. She said having a voice for accurate information is important and having an outlet for this material is important on a City level so it's not only being interpreted by a reporter. Trabbic-Pointer had to sign-off but said a permit they are living on to discharge into the river was extended and put in place in 2018.

Jamie Hicks said not every community has the Sierra Club's assistance and he was thankful for that. Hicks said the emails from the IEPA showed they were scrambling and didn't expect it. He discussed a MAC meeting where they discussed the straw vote for a second round of testing. He said the "Illinois Department of Health still hasn't received anything about the filters. The Illinois Department of Health is willing to go along with the City's samples" and asked what that meant. Deputy Clerk Bader said it's difficult to remember every individual conversation, but it was his belief that he asked if they had received the Sierra Club's test which they did not. He said they likely said they agreed with the testing the City had done. Hicks said he was getting a verbatim of the meeting and Bader said that will likely be the most accurate explanation of the wording. Hicks had questions about how they knew to respond to certain residents and was frustrated with how he did not receive certain reports right away. Grove said the ones sharing the paperwork are the ones who need to respond and that someone on their level needs to return for testing. Hicks said he appreciates Bader's work but some of the messaging is "going along with the flow" and some things should have been said and that the City should not go with the flow. Hicks said Grove protesting was not going with the flow. Grove said as a result, he now has a meeting with Carus Chemical. He said he'll be respectful and share with them facts and experiences but he's going to be respectful, which he thinks will allow the City to get further with them. Hicks said it's gone wrong since the first press release, and he thinks Carus Chemical used the City to do that. Walters said the media reported "purple spots," but the damage is more significant than

that and no one has said there's only been purple spots. Grove said early on people were looking for purple or pinkish stains. Alderman Reynolds said the City goes "round and round" every meeting and that they should get a committee together based on facts and work together for themselves. Another resident said Brownfield had done work with Carus according to something she found on a website. She said she'll provide it to the Council.

Linda Battaglia said there may be a larger problem later on if parks need to be remediated and it should be saved. Grove said the City will retain the testing results they have done thus far. Alderman Bacidore said the City can't get them to finish the building on First and Joliet, so what chance do residents have with this. Alderman Thompson said that's not totally true, and residents shouldn't give up.

A resident brought up a leak of non-potable water to the Council. Alderman Crane said it's not water than goes to residents but that it is safe as its leaked prior to getting to Carus Chemical. A resident asked if the City had verified this. Crane said he wouldn't be concerned about that specific issue as the water has been tested when it leaves the City. A resident asked if the City has reviewed the Apollo Building yet. Grove said they are waiting to get a structural engineer. Lisa Dyas said their yard was remediated first in the superfund program given the health concerns of their son. He has undergone medical issues lately and doctors have not been able to identify why. She asked who she is able to trust. Grove said no one here is a medical expert and he does find that scary. Dr. Marshall said all of this is difficult where communities have so many agreements with companies and rely on them for jobs with a weak state oversight with regards to contamination. She said it's important that people who live in the community do not allow them to use "our bodies" as filters. She said it's unacceptable that she does not know the harms of these facilities near her home. She said areas may need to be rezoned or have stricter permitting to ensure they pollute less or are regularly tested so they do not pollute more than allowed. The Sierra Club only makes recommendations but it's up to the community to determine what they do or do not want. Grove said that people who work there have spoken highly of the company, and he hopes that if they knew that it was not a good place they would be honest with the community. He said many of these people don't work with Carus now and should be able to speak freely. He said we should ask those people if we know them in the community. Marshall did say they may have had to sign non-disclosure agreements about their time there as well or to risk the jobs of family members.

Marshall asked if this will continue to be on the agenda or will a committee be meeting going forward. Grove said he wants to see what the state organizations say following the Sierra Club's letter. Hicks said after another meeting they will be done with the City, and they have other business. Marshall said that's what she was getting at as everyone's time may be better served if there was a separate working group that updated the Council. Pat Walters said they should have a City representative. Alderman Crane and Thompson said they can be those representatives. Grove said these conversations are leading to more understanding from the Council and said it took a lot

to get to this point. Alderman Jeppson reached out to the chemistry department at IVCC who was not interested in doing air testing but saw there is a community advisory meeting in May with Carus Chemical and other companies from the area including chemical releases. He could not find an exact date or location. He said air quality information from the library will be included on their proposed revamped website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Bacidore said Nicks on 6 had a Special Event permit on this agenda and over the weekend Mayor Grove wrote a letter that bands would have to register for free with the City to play in La Salle. Bacidore said "we've been fighting this since Nicks on 6 opened up." He said only former Alderman Diz Demes has been complaining. Bacidore said the City has always been about bringing business in and said unlike the Celebration of Lights, Nick's customers are spending money across the street and going to other bars. Bacidore brought up other issues about Demes and said he also doesn't complain about Haze Smokehouse. He said we can't do this every time a band goes over 10 minutes. Grove said the ordinance states 10 p.m. as the cutoff and other businesses follow the ordinance. Bacidore said no one complains elsewhere. He said the Council will fight it the whole summer. Alderman Thompson said he can hear Nick's on 6 on Bucklin. Bacidore brought up Grove's letter again and Grove said he listened to the bands who expressed concerns for other reasons about registering and he changed his mind about it being mandatory. Grove said he was wrong and told people "my bad" starting Friday, but wanted to educate people that the rules in La Salle may be different than in other communities. Bacidore asked why bands would even need to know. Grove used the bartender serving alcohol to underage patrons as an example that the bartender or contracted employee is also specifically cited. Bacidore said he knows it's the rules but Demes sits by the phone waiting for them to go over the time frame and its only five minutes over and he brings people to town. Grove said that everyone has to follow the rules even if he is bringing people to town. Bacidore and Grove went back and forth over the time frames by which complaints come in.

Grove clarified for the public that he sent a letter out to liquor license holders that bands would need to register for free to use it as an opportunity to advise them of the rules directly. Grove said he listened to them and will not make it mandatory as a result. Grove said he's hopeful that businesses have learned from prior instances about the ordinances and that music outdoors is here to stay in La Salle. Bacidore said only one person complains. Thompson asked if one person complains, why shouldn't their concern count. Thompson said Demes said at a public meeting he's not worried about the decibel level and believes that bar owners should abide by the law. Bacidore said police shouldn't have to respond to calls about noise violations minutes after the law allows. Grove said we will see how the year goes for noise complaints.

Alderman Crane proposed to put out for bid for ground grating, fresh grass, and about 36 trees to dress up the Prairie Park. He looked into where and how this could be paid for and he mentioned that this could qualify under TIF 4.

Attorney McPhedran mentioned how other parks and communities have accepted donations for a memorial tree in someone's honor.

Alderman Reynolds mentioned how the Arbor day folks will give the city 100 trees for \$100.

Mayor Grove mentioned how he thought the park to be a natural setting and not something that would have to be groomed.

One Resident mentioned how there is a tall grass prairie outside of Princeton and the state may be able to donate the seed for that.

Alderman Crane did mention how the south side of bridge is already an amazing tall grass prairie and his proposal was intended for the new area around the lake.

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve an Ordinance fixing wages for employees of the City of La Sale, Illinois commencing May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the ordinance authorizing ARPA subrecipient agreement with La Salle County Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the ordinance authorizing lease of small portion of municipal property fronting 821 First Street, La Salle, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

## COMMENTS

Alderman Reynolds mentioned that the Carus Mansion organization asked if they could look at the ordinance pertaining to the food trucks. They were asking if there could be a smaller fee for those who are there for only one night and not the two nights. He asked if the council could look into this ordinance.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the bills for April 17, 2023: Total Submitted: \$1,547,353.32 (Total Payroll \$199,122.39, Bills to be Paid \$259,857.99, Total Bills Paid \$1,088,372.94).

## ROLL CALL

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

**NAY:** None **Absent:** Alderman Ptak, Lavieri, Herndon **Abstain:** None

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

**ADJOURNED**

9:04

pm



Amy Quinn, City Clerk

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has received the laboratory results of the soil samples collected from residential properties and public parks in the City of LaSalle by Brownfield Environmental Engineering (Brownfield). At your request, IDPH has evaluated this data to determine if the results pose a public health hazard. We also reviewed fence line air sampling data that we requested from Carus Chemical for January 14 thru February 9. These are summarized here as well.

## Exhibit A

### Soil Samples

IDPH screened the soil sampling results against regional background soil concentrations\* and health-based comparison values developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to identify contaminants of concern. Results exceeding health-based comparison values were further evaluated with ATSDR's Public Health Assessment Site Tool using the default residential scenario.

Brownfield collected soil samples from 14 homes, the Northwest Elementary School, a day care, and four parks. Soil samples from 10 of these locations, were evaluated for arsenic, cadmium, lead, manganese, and zinc, all contaminants of concern associated with the Superfund site. **With the exception of one home, none of the soil samples exceeded ATSDR comparison values for arsenic, cadmium, lead, or zinc. Health effects related to these metals in soil would not be expected for any age group.**

ATSDR has not established a comparison value for ingestion of manganese in soil samples. The mean background concentration reported for manganese in Illinois soil is approximately 775 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) from undisturbed locations unaffected by site-related activities. This is similar to the mean value from Illinois EPA's 1995 summary of background conditions for inorganics in soil. Eleven of 14 homes sampled had manganese levels less than or similar to the reported background levels.

Three homes had manganese levels ranging from 885 to 1,610 mg/kg. Some of the samples were collected from patches of bare soil, which should be reseeded to limit exposure. Health effects have been seen at doses ranging from 0.06 to 0.08 milligrams per kilogram per day in children with daily exposure, for 5-10 years, to manganese in drinking water. Daily exposure to the range of manganese concentrations at these three homes would result in doses 2 to 4 times lower than that threshold for infants and children less than 2 years old. For children ages 7 and older, the expected doses are 5 to 9 times less. For adults and teenagers, the margins of exposure are even greater (meaning that, health effects are very unlikely for these age groups).

The concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, and lead collected at one home exceeded their respective health-based comparison values in one or more sample locations. Manganese also exceeded its background concentration in two sample locations. Cadmium exposure appears to be the driver at this home, and harmful effects are possible for children 6 years or younger with *long term*, daily exposure to cadmium in soil. **This property should be cleaned up as part of the Superfund site.** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Project Manager, it will be cleaned up this year, thus decreasing resident exposures.

\*Cahill, R.A., 2017, Inorganic chemical composition of Illinois soils: Illinois State Geological Survey,

Circular 590, 148 p

### Air Samples

Beginning January 14, two contractors hired by Carus performed daily air monitoring and sampling along their fence line. The monitoring and sampling criteria included fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and manganese.

The average level of manganese detected in fence line samples collected from January 14 to February 9 was 0.56 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). This level is about 60 times lower than the critical effect level the ATSDR\* used to derive its minimum risk level of  $0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . **Therefore, IDPH considers it unlikely that community members would experience harmful effects due to breathing manganese in dust.**

From January 14 to February 9, PM 2.5 concentrations were in the Air Quality Index (AQI) Moderate Category (12.1 to  $35.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for nearly 60 percent of the measurements recorded by the contractors. PM 2.5 Concentrations were in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category for 17 percent of the time (18 of 105 measurements), and in the Unhealthy Category less than 3 percent of the time (3 of 105 measurements).

Short-term exposure to elevated concentrations of PM2.5 can harm highly sensitive individuals with pre-existing heart or lung disease. Community members without pre-existing heart or lung disease could have been harmed if they had 24-hour exposures to concentrations in the Unhealthy category.

\*ATSDR's critical effect level is based on a study of workers at a dry alkaline battery plant who were, on average, exposed for 5.3 years to a total manganese dust concentration of  $948 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and respirable manganese concentration of  $215 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Because this was a workplace exposure, ATSDR adjusted the minimum risk level to reflect continuous exposure (24/7).

### Home Furnace Filter Samples

We agree with comments provided by our counterparts at USEPA concerning the furnace filter results. Similar to the challenges associated with surface wipes, it's difficult to draw a quantifiable conclusion about risk from

these results. Possible sources of the metals identified in the results include soil or dust tracked indoors, dust from lead-based paint (according to the County Assessor's records, these homes were all built prior to 1978), older patio decks treated with preservatives containing copper, chromium, and arsenic, and broken mercury-containing devices, such as a household fever thermometer or fluorescent light bulb.

### Indoor Air Sampling Proposal

It isn't clear how the indoor air quality assessment furthers the objective of identifying contaminants that could have come from the Carus fire. The fire resulted in elevated concentrations of fine particulate matter during the week of January 10 based on USEPA air monitoring data. Some of it may have infiltrated homes but there are other contributors to particulate matter, as well as volatile organic compounds, and formaldehyde. Carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, temperature, and relative humidity are all things you'd look for in a general indoor air quality assessment and there are steps that residents can take to improve upon them (opening windows and doors, weather and outdoor air quality permitting, installing high efficiency furnace filters, running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans while cooking or bathing, running a portable air cleaner to supplement your home's HVAC system, using dehumidifier in basements to control moisture, etc.).

What criteria will be used by Indoor Science to evaluate bulk furnace filter samples, and to what end?

### Recommendations

1. IDPH does not believe additional soil sampling is necessary beyond what is already planned for the Superfund residential soil sampling and cleanup effort.
2. IDPH recommends residents follow best practices for reducing exposure to contaminants in soil. More information is available in our [Reducing Exposure to Contaminants in Soil](#) fact sheet.
3. Regular housekeeping will reduce exposure to lead and other potential contaminants in house dust.
4. Residents who have not already done so, should replace their HVAC furnace filter. IDPH generally recommends using higher efficiency filters capable of capturing mold spores and fine particulate matter.

Residents who want to plant a vegetable garden are encouraged to:

- Maintain a soil pH between 6.5 and 7.0. This may require an inexpensive soil test (~\$20).
- Apply compost or similar organic matter to their soil. Doing so will dilute the concentrations of soil contaminants and benefit soil quality. Organic matter, along with a neutral pH, may also help reduce the availability of metals for plant uptake.
- Apply a layer of mulch to act as a barrier between the soil and plant. This has multiple benefits. It helps retain water, adds organic matter to the soil, and helps reduce splash back or surficial contamination from soil and fugitive dust.
- Build a raised bed with clean soil or use containers, especially for herbs and root crops. Some research shows that lead uptake is greatest in roots, followed by leafy greens and shoots, and least in fruiting crops (tomatoes, peppers, berries, etc.) or legumes.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

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