

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

April 1, 2024

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, April 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove 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, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

Absent – NONE

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, City Engineer Brian Brown, Director of Public Works Kevin Fay, City Building Inspector Andy Bacidore, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Attorney James McPhedran, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Ptak to move discussion item in regard to addressing issues raised regarding men's and women's softball league at Hegeler Park from Old Business up to after Public Comment Section.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mayor Grove began public comment section by reminding the audience that the public has five minutes to speak. He stated that everyone is allowed to share their thoughts, suggestions, and questions during this time. Mayor Grove offered to answer any questions after the meeting, or through email, or voicemail. He reminded all to come to the front and state their name for the record.

Mayor Grove mentioned that public comment is to talk and discuss about any items on the agenda at this time before the council actually gets to that portion on the agenda.

Mayor Grove wanted to start out with the softball/baseball conversation. Mayor asked Deputy Clerk Bader to read off two different correspondences that the city received. The first message was from Parks and Rec Director Linda Kasik. She stated that she had spoken with the head of the men's softball league, and she had expressed the city's concerns with the upcoming season. She said that the men's softball league went ahead and moved their start date back a week to May 29. They usually start the week prior to. She said that the city will be putting something on top of each pole for the fencing. The bats are legal, and the right field will be concerned out. Kasik also stated in her message that they are in the process of getting bids to enclose the dugouts at Hegeler Field.

Mayor Grove stated that this concern was mentioned at the baseball meeting back on January 15th. Kasik heard of the concerns and wanted to get back to the league with what the men's league had said.

Deputy Clerk Bader then read a response from the men's softball league president, Clay Caputo. His response acknowledged the concern that the league hits homerun into the little league field. They absolutely agree with the concern if there would be an injury to a child. Caputo stated within his response that he only recalled two incidents that that this did occur. He said that the first incident was in their first week and the protective net was not up yet, which would have stopped that ball. He said that in their league of approximately 150 men, there are only about 4 or 5 players that can hit the ball over that net and into the Little League diamond. Caputo stated in his response to the city that the league came up with new rules in regard to hitting homeruns into the Little League diamond while a game is going on. They stated it would be an automatic out and the player forfeits the remaining at bats the duration of league plays that day. He said that the league pays the city for use of the field, hosts tournaments where proceeds go back to the city, and almost half of our league is made up of LaSalle citizens who pay taxes along with multiple LaSalle businesses that sponsor the teams and league as well as playing it. The men's league stated that they are happy to work with the little league, with their schedules, to work on putting the big hitters at game times that don't interfere with their play.

Bader mentioned that Tim Turczyn was in the audience tonight and was there to take any suggestions or comments made tonight and to help put rules and policies in place to alleviate these issues.

Mayor Grove asked if any alderman had reached out to men's softball league. None mentioned that they had. He then asked the council what the process is when a resident comes to the council or alderman with a concern for a stop sign or speed limit sign. Alderman Bacidore mentioned that they would put it onto their Streets and Alleys committee meeting agenda and then vote on the topic that was up for discussion.

Mayor Grove pointed out that they would let area residents know also of this topic of discussion. Mayor Grove was disappointed because the alderman did not reach out to anyone of men's league to discuss this concern. Alderman Thompson wanted to point out also that no one had reached out to him to discuss, and his number is available on the city's website.

Mayor Grove reminded the council that the city would be transparent to all residents that would be in the area of stop sign or speed limit request to make sure all residents were informed of the topic up for discussion. Mayor Grove is unsure as what more they can do right now. He stated that the softball league has been there as long as he has been in the city. Mayor mentioned that there is a video that the alderman had received. The one video was dated as Thursday, September 28th. Mayor stated that he reached out to Ken Lenski to ask what days Fall Ball was played and it was Fridays and Sundays. The lights were on the field but he did not see a game occurring in the background.

Angel Farmer, from the audience, stated that Mayor's comment time was over. Alderman Crane stated that he wanted to address a concern before the Mayor was done with his discussion. Mayor wanted to finish his portion of comments. Angel Farmer interrupted again by stating that Mayor's comment time was done. Mayor Grove gave Ms. Farmer a warning for interrupting.

Mayor Grove feels that there has been compromise on behalf of the softball league and he feels that many will not be happy until the league is not allowed to play at that park. Mayor Grove asked how many teams there are for little league. Josh Busche, president of Little League, said there were about 5 or 7 teams. He said that he checked at 10 games were played at volunteer fields. Mayor hasn't felt that there has been much compromise from the Little League. He feels that more games should be played at volunteer.

Mayor suggested off day games and later times for games, knowing that no one wants to consider Matthiessen Park for their softball games. The Mayor said that the park has been tested multiple times, but there is a stigmatism, and no one wants to play there.

Alderman Crane believes that the Council is getting off topic because the Council already agreed to move this agenda item forward after public comment and feels that the public comment section needs to occur first.

Mayor Grove stated that he discussed this prior to starting his conversation and that all public comment can be in regard to any agenda item.

Jamie Hicks, from the audience, wanted to discuss time limit for Mayor Grove. Alderman Herndon and Alderman Lavieri both stated that there is not a time limit for the Mayor. Mayor Grove gave Jamie Hicks his first warning.

Alderman Herndon mentioned that he has been very active in every part of the baseball and softball program for many years for the city of La Salle and he believes that people's ability to hit the ball is getting taken away. Herndon does agree with the Mayor

and believes that there can be a compromise for both groups. He finds that it should be easy to discuss schedules and sort out conflicts and still worry about the safety of the children. La Salle baseball and softball has been at Hegeler Park for many years and he wants to see this worked out. He does not believe that the rule should stay in regards to a hitter getting an out for hitting it into the little league field. He believes that the groups can work out scheduling conflicts.

Alderman Crane does agree with Alderman Herndon and does want both parties to speak tonight and then maybe the council will be able to move on it.

Alderman Lavieri asked if it is possible to even put up a higher net than what they currently have.

Alderman Jeppson is fully confident and willing to sit with both leagues to come to a compromise for both groups.

Jamie Hicks spoke next and stated that the last 20 minutes was a waste on a very simple fix. He was glad to hear that no one wants to play on M&H field because he would not want to either. Hicks said that his was the most transparent that he has seen. He stated that Mayor changes the rules anytime to benefit himself and his agenda. He said that the mayor took over public comment and he didn't know how long the mayor spoke for. Hicks said that the public is capped at 15 minutes, per subject and 5 minutes, per person. Hicks told Alderman Herndon that the mayor will get treated like a mayor when he starts acting like a mayor.

Hicks continued with his public comment section in regard to the water. He said that the city was transparent at the last meeting when TEST, inc. was discussing the water records for the city and that the records can be now available online. Hicks said that the records were available online after the non-compliance violation. Hicks continued by stating that the mayor and council "seem to think baseball and softball is more important than a goddamn chemical plant blowing up."

Hicks stated that there is "no transparency with Carus Corporation or any constituents in this damn building or in this town." Hicks continued by saying that the mayor has nothing to say but "speak out of turn and you got a big goddamn mouth".

He continued by asking the mayor if the city will be giving Carus Chemical their \$3million in regard to the Maytag building. Hicks stated that nothing was mentioned when Eric Dyas had some questions a few meetings ago, but now there are suddenly apartments getting built. Hicks has driven by there recently and has not seen much work done in that building. He continued by saying that the city is going to give them the \$3 million in TIF money even though there is not a kitchen or place of business in the lower level yet. Hicks would like to be able to buy a building for \$1 and be handed \$3 million. Hicks stated that if "they get that \$3 million, there will be a FBI fucking investigation quicker than shit on this. And I can guarantee you that because this is

shady. You guys with Carus, it's all shady." Hicks stated that "you are failing and you continue to fail with your lies and your bullshit."

Deputy Clerk Bader stated that Hicks had one minute left.

Hicks said that the Mayor stated that the most important thing that the mayor had learned was that he could send out a countywide call out from the Carus Chemical fire. Hicks said that he "does not feel safe at all. I don't feel safe with that company. I don't feel safe with the lies you are telling."

Angel Farmer came to the podium next to speak. Farmer said that she must refuse to identify, and she was not live streaming tonight. She said that someone in this room decided to not only insult her but belittled her work. She said that she asked Officer Austin Bray last meeting if he had learned the five elements of the First Amendment. Officer Bray claimed he knew them, and she said that he told her that she was looking for attention. She was surprised by this, and she had informed Bray that it was hard for her to get up front to speak. Farmer said that she places blame for this behavior on the leadership in this room. She said that the chief and Mayor were "both feet away when this happened". Farmer then quoted a lady that she found online under the "Local Buy Nothing Group". She quoted this lady saying "Just wondering if anyone has any bottle of water they can spare. LaSalle tap water makes me sick. And I can't buy any until Monday. Located in LaSalle high rise and do not drive due to low vision."

Farmer states that Mayor Grove hates her for "seeing what you've done to Jamie and investigating because of our meeting with your entourage." She said that the mayor has hit a new low after she text him a long message detailing safety issues with Rotary Park, with photos and videos, and there was no response. She pointed out that the baby changers in the ladies and the family bathroom are completely broken. She continued by saying that the Rotary Park is supposed to have an all-ability playground. She said that her daughter has systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis. During her flares, her mobility is attacked among other things and there are other kids in the area who rely on wheelchairs daily. She explained her concerns to Mayor Grove in regard to drop offs next to the wheelchair access areas of the playset. She said that these drop offs are surrounded by broken, jagged concrete blocks. She also said that there are ones on the actual concrete wall that are loose and can make children fall into the area between the wall and the wooden fence. She said that there is also a two-inch vertical obstacle between the asphalt path and play structure where children would get onto the playset. She worries that kids in wheelchairs are in danger of tipping the chairs as they attempt to enter. She said that the mayor didn't care to even acknowledge receipt of these messages. She stated that Mayor Grove "doesn't give a damn about you, about helpless babies, or children who rely on mobility devices. The day that Mayor Grove is voted out will be the most powerful day for this city in two decades". Ms. Farmer then asked if the mayor has contacted anyone to address these issues. She said that she will use her remaining time waiting for the mayor's response about the safety of our children.

Deputy Clerk Bader stated that Ms. Farmer's five minutes were up.

Angel Rodriguez, Coach for LaSalle little league, stated that he does enjoy men's softball. He said that they do bring good energy to the park. Rodriguez stated that the video that was shared with the council by the softball league, there was a make-up game on the little league diamond. He stated that Ken Lenski was unaware possibly of the make-up game being rescheduled. Mayor Grove apologized because he said that he just did not notice the scoreboard was on. But Rodriguez stated that the scoreboard doesn't always work. Mayor Grove mentioned to Rodriguez that they can play the video that he asked to share, when they get to the line item on the agenda. Rodriguez is fine with that but just wanted to share if they could at some point. Mayor Grove asked if he remembered there being other games being played when this incident occurred. Rodriguez did not remember for sure.

Josh Busche, President of Boy's Baseball, spoke next. Alderman Thompson stated that all council members received that video and were asked to view the video prior to the meeting. Busche began his portion of public comment by agreeing with Angel's clarification that the boy's league did have a makeup game when that video was recorded. Busche mentioned that three balls were hit in the direction when he viewed that video. He mentioned that two of them went into crowd, one of which was stopped by a husband from hitting his wife. He did try to get the couple to speak at the meeting, but they were unable to come tonight. He did point out that in the video, the players questioned if there was a net out there and the umpire pointed out that there was, but the ball just went over. Busche said that the video that they put together was to show that this does happen. He understands that it does not happen every time that kids are on the field, but it does happen. His biggest concern is that if the kids are present on the field and they are not paying attention to the other game, which they probably are not, there is a potential for a life altering event. He wants the council to consider how many times this needs to happen before there is a major event. He understands the suggestion to use the Volunteer Field, since it is the same dimensions but both parks use the same concession stand and the players and fans have to cross through the right field of men's softball to get to the concession stand.

Busche also mentioned the discussion of the season ending for boy's league. He stated that their season ends around the second or third week of June. All stars and practices will then run from last week of June for one group and the first week of July for another group. If any of the groups advance, then they can go two weeks after and that would be middle of July. Busche also mentioned Fall Ball starting around the second week in August, with Men's league having their own two different seasons also. He stated that there is definitely an overlap in the schedules.

Mayor Grove asked Busche how many times that he has personally seen this happened. Busche wanted to make it clear that he doesn't want the leagues to have to leave LaSalle. He would just like to see them moved to a location that's safer for

everybody involved. Busche stated that the M&H park has been cleared and has requested the paperwork if anyone questioned the testing that was done at that park.

Mayor Grove and Busche discussed many of the suggestions that both groups could consider.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Thompson to allow a time extension for the baseball public comment to continue their discussion.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Busche did continue his discussion in regard to his ideas to make M&H work for the softball league. He understands that the right field may be 10 feet shorter, but he made suggestions on what could work to put up netting to prevent the loss of balls into nearby Carus property. He mentioned some positives to using M&H Field: covered dugouts, working scoreboard, score booth where they can store items, batting cage, availability to use concession stand, and private parking there. He wanted it to be clear that he doesn't want the league to have to leave LaSalle, he just wants the safety concern addressed.

Mayor Grove and Busche went back and forth with their discussion between Hegeler and M&H Field. Mayor does not feel like Busche is compromising by suggesting that they leave Hegeler. Busche does not understand the mayor's reasoning as to why the baseball league has to adjust things around when he suggested a better option for the softball league. Mayor Grove and Busche then debated about fields that would work best for girls' softball league too. Hegeler plans to be used for practices and M&H is open also if need be.

Mayor Grove gave a second warning to Jamie Hicks who began talking again. Hicks said that he will "just get my shit and leave because you are a fucking hack." He proceeded out and stated something over the next speaker's voice, Clay Caputo. Mayor Grove gave Jamie Hicks his third warning. Jamie Hicks exited the meeting.

Clay Caputo, president of Men's Softball League, stated that the safety of all players is very important to them. He stated that when the league heard of the safety concern, they did implement a new rule. The rule was that a player would receive an out if their ball made it to the little league field. They would also forfeit the rest of their bats. Caputo mentioned that the men's league is a hitter's game. He does believe that a higher net would be a great solution. He is unsure as to how high they can go but believe it is worth putting up and possibly doubling the current net. He did also state that the reason that they wanted to leave M&H was because of the short right field.

The balls cost about \$17-20 ball and it started to add up for the league. He did say that the league may consider M&H if the league wanted to compensate balls, but he doesn't see that to be a solution.

Mayor Grove said that it would be best for both groups to work together to coordinate schedules where both can use Hegeler with no overlaps. It could just take that one homerun for someone to get hit.

Alderman Thompson asked if there were rules about staying in the batter box. One video showed a player way in front of home plate when he hit it out. Caputo mentioned that both feet cannot be in front of the home plate, or it would be considered an out. They have the feet in front of home plate rule because they do not even chalk batter boxes anymore. The chalk doesn't stay around when they have four games played in a night.

Caputo continued stating that the league has been around since the 60s and this has never been a concern till now. Caputo mentioned how many travel ball tournaments, one does run into the safety risk of getting hit by another ball from another field. Mayor Grove understands what he is saying but stated that this is men's league ball vs. Little league. It is not the same comparison. Caputo said that they are willing to sit down with boy's baseball and discuss schedules. As of now, the men's league is allotted Wednesdays and Thursdays. They are even trying to schedule the bigger hitters the later games avoid the little league game times. Caputo does believe that they could work out a solution to allotting the competitive teams one night on the field when little league may not be in play at all those nights.

Mayor Grove does agree with Caputo to figure out a night that the more competitive softball could occur when little league is not playing.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Thompson to allow a time extension for the baseball public comment to continue their discussion.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Crane apologized to men's softball for not reaching out and trying to discuss this with any of their members. He had spoken with the little league. He also wanted to apologize for the council prematurely discussing this before they listened to both groups speak. He thought this was to be discussed after public comment. Alderman Crane does believe that both groups could come to a compromise and does agree that it will help to make the net higher at Hegeler. Alderman Crane did ask the men's league if they spoke with the Park Board to ask about going to M&H if the city were to reimburse

their league for the balls that were hit over the M&H fence and lost in Carus property. Caputo, from the Men's League, said that they did tell the Park Board that they were not interested in M&H at all because it was always the leagues' responsibility to pay for any lost balls and that could potentially equate to \$1,000/season. Crane said that there is no price on safety and thought that maybe it would be cheaper to reimburse the league \$1,000 for balls instead of \$3,000-\$5,000 for a new net at Hegeler. Caputo did ask Crane to consider the future of the leagues and the net that would be permanent for so many years, instead of replacing balls every season. The cost could add up. Caputo and Crane discussed distances between M&H field and Hegeler field. They compared differences in length and whether or not they thought a net would be worthwhile at M&H. Caputo did not believe a net would be worth installing at M&H. Caputo also mentioned a left field difference between Hegeler and M&H. There is a greater distance to left field fence at M&H so many would continually try to go for hitting out of right field fence.

Alderman Crane did ask how many teams the men's league has. They currently have 11, with potential to make 12. They do cap their teams off at 12 because they only are able to play two nights a week. If they were allotted more nights, they could possibly grow to their 2018 numbers of approximately 20 teams. Caputo also mentioned that nearly half of their sponsors and at least half of the players come from LaSalle.

Busche asked if the council knew if Kasik already purchased the net for M&H. He believes that she already may have purchased that net. Mayor Grove stated that it was not just for softball but rookie league was playing there also. Busche just was wondering because if the city did take the one for M&H that was purchased and use it at Bernardi, it would allow for about a 40 foot wall.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Ptak to set up a committee with city council members, boys baseball, and men's/women's softball leagues to discuss scheduling compromises.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

PROCLAMATION

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to proclaim Thursday, April 4, 2024 as Junior Achievement Day in the City of LaSalle.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held March 18, 2024. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a 2024 Raffle License from Lighted Way.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request for a 2024 Raffle License from Stage 212.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from LaSalle Softball League to hold a Tag Day Collection on Friday April 19th and Saturday, April 20th at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin Streets and 24th and Chartres Streets. This is to follow the guidelines set for collection at 11th & Bucklin.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Tomas Aguilera on behalf on Rodeo Tacos, Inc. for a mobile food vendor permit.

Mr. Aguilera does have the proper paperwork filed and will be at the event that has been recently approved by the Council at the Hegeler Carus Mansion for the Friday night music events. He had previously received this license last year.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee and the Finance Committee regarding hiring Global Site Location Industries (GSLI) for economic development consulting services for \$26,500 for a one-year contract, subject to entering into a contract and acceptable to his entity and the council.

Alderman Bacidore asked if the city would be receiving updates from this company. Curt Bedei mentioned that there would be a 45-minute call every month. Mayor Grove stated that he is support of the council's decision on this matter.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: Alderman Bacidore **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to table the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee and the Finance Committee regarding selection of fiber service provider.

Alderman Ptak asked for this topic to be tabled so that the council can go back to each provider and ask a few more specific questions. They hope to have better plan from both Surf and Geneseo to share with council in two weeks.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mayor Grove asked if this plan would be for the whole city. Alderman Ptak said that was question that the alderman had for each iFiber group. There seemed to be some gray area within some questions within both of the groups. Alderman Thompson mentioned that when he contacted the companies today, they were not aware of the city boundaries. Mayor Grove was concerned when they said they would start in every town and measure how successful that was. Mayor asked what their measurement looks like. Alderman Ptak agreed with the mayor's concerns.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding potential donation to LaSalle Boys Baseball for \$250.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee regarding adding a "Slow

- Children Playing “ sign on 7th Street between Peru and Chartres Streets. Signs are to be located on NW Corner of 7th & Chartres and SE 7th & Peru.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: Alderman Ptak **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Herndon to potentially authorize work, pending bid, to remove 16” piping, old valves, and old filter flow meter at the Water Treatment Plant. This would address safety concerns and allow for easier operation down at the plant.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Crane asked about signage for the fish species at Rotary Park. Crane believes that this is necessary for awareness to the residents to make sure that no one is exceeding their daily limits and to maintain the ecosystem and the lake. City Engineer Brian Brown did mention that signage was in the works.

Brown mentioned that DNR has went in and shocked two of the lakes. They do maintain the lakes. They will decide what needs to happen to sustain the lakes and if they need to put a creel limit on them. These lakes would be put into the IDNR booklet and others will be able to find out about our area’s fishing opportunities. IDNR manages everything in these lakes and the limits. These limits could change annually but not drastically for signage purposes.

Alderman Jeppson asked if Prairie Lake would ever get policed if there were ever concerns with overfishing. Brown said that Conservation Police can go out there any time. Brown does believe that the lake does need to be properly managed in order for fish to harvest. Alderman Crane is in full support of the conservation program at Prairie Lake and Rotary Park.

Alderman Crane also asked if there was any progress on the tree request that was mentioned on April 18, 2023. He had requested tree planting, grade work, and grass planted around Prairie Lake. Brian Brown mentioned that he did look into and had it budgeted into this year’s budget. Mayor Grove mentioned that city will be meeting with Todd Volker on Wednesday, April 10 and he was willing to give some trees. They will

discuss more with him next week. Crane said that it has been a year since this last discussion and would like to see something going for this spring. Brown did follow up with Wilson and he thought maybe Rosploch last year at this time and he thought the timing wasn't right for one of the species of trees that they were going to use out there. He was supposed to follow through with them in August/September and he got away from him. He will follow up on this.

Alderman Thompson asked Mayor Grove to definitely look into the pics that were presented to the council tonight pertaining to Rotary Park playground. Thompson didn't know it was on the contractor or the city to clean up after the work was done. He said that attention needs to be given to it immediately. Angel Farmer interrupted that she told Mayor Grove about it last week. Mayor Grove gave Farmer a second warning.

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that there has been some audio glitch issues with the recordings. He said that he will get a hold of the tech team and get this issue addressed.

Bader also reminded everyone of the city's E-waste event this Saturday from 8am-12pm. There were still spaces available to register but are limited. One can register at LaSalleRecycling.as.me or call 815-630-4308. Bader believes to have over 300 people signed up.

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

Alderman Ptak began the conversation explaining the possible agreement with Stark County Ambulance service. He mentioned that Stark County is a private enterprise, and it will be used strictly for transfers only. Stark County already has a contract with OSF. He said that if the city does sign this contract the city would be number three. Transfers go through OSF and when a transfer is needed, the phone call goes to Stark County call center. The call will go in order of availability...Stark County, then Peru Volunteer Ambulance, then to LaSalle Ambulance. The city is not penalized if they turn down a transfer, it will just go back to Stark County. Stark County will also assist if there are issues with receiving payment from a transfer.

Alderman Bacidore questioned the order of command when calls come in for transfers with Stark County.

Alderman Thompson pointed out that LaSalle will not get any transfers through OSF if LaSalle does not go with Stark County.

Attorney McPhedran pointed out that Stark County may not just look at who's available but who can get there quicker to be in the best interest of the patient. McPhedran also pointed out that this would be helping out the entire community with these ambulance needs.

Angel Farmer interjected "Shame on you Jeff! You threatened to kick me out over the safety of my daughter and every child."

Mayor Grove gave Farmer her third and final warning. He asked her to excuse herself.

Farmer stated "Happily, Jeff. Fucking dirtbag."

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the ordinance authorizing a Medical Business Associate Agreement between the City of LaSalle, Illinois and Stark County Ambulance Service. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills from March 18, 2024: Total Submitted: \$434,560.18 (Total Payroll \$195,278.02 Bills to be Paid \$230,660.53, Total Bills Paid \$8,621.63). Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

7:53

pm

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk