

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

May 28, 2024

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Tuesday, May 28, 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 6:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader reminded all to speak clearly into their microphones. They were still experiencing some sound issues with the staff mics.

ROLL CALL

Present – Mayor Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

Absent – NONE

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Finance Director John Duncan, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, City Building Inspector Andy Bacidore, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Attorney James McPhedran, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

Mayor Grove reminded the audience that the public comment is for the public to have their time to speak. The Mayor will not personally respond during this time and it's up to the individual alderman to respond if they wish. He believes that the council has done very well during the last few meetings with responses to questions or concerns different points throughout the meeting.

Christie Pasieka identified as not a resident of La Salle, but thanked the City for the facade grants offered by the City. She mentioned the economic activity downtown offers a high level of return per dollar than any other portion of town and wanted to promote those businesses.

Peyton Lamps, owner of Petals by Peyton, addressed the Council to make them aware of grant opportunities that could benefit La Salle businesses. She additionally recommended additional beautification efforts, including venues for outdoor events, could benefit the City.

Resident Dena Hicks thanked Alderman Crane and Deputy Clerk Bader for their work with the recent cleanup event. She asked for an update on the street sweeper and concerns about when a crossing guard is absent.

Angel Farmer raised criticisms to Mayor Grove's comments at the last meeting relating to avoiding harassment or personal jabs of staff members as being difficult to describe and potentially illegal. She criticized the Council for not also addressing Mayor Grove's comments and for interactions they've had with residents. She ended her comments asking for Mayor Grove's resignation and held a moment of silent for "women who have been belittled in this room."

Mary Hale asked the Council if they had any updates on the IV Food Center reopening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held May 13, 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 Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground at 801-807 First Street to replace and relocate secondary drop pole. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Dan Hrvatin and Green Goddess Smokeshop to install a single-facing, non-illuminated wall sign at 918 First Street.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from Lisa Manijak of La Salle VFW Post 4668 for a Special Event Permit to close a portion of Donahue Street for a Memorial Day Car Show.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from Jacob Green of Cruisin' La Salle for a Special Event Permit to close the parking lot at the northeast corner of 2nd and Wright streets to hold a car show.

Jacob Green was present and stated that they will only be using the parking lot. It was too hectic using the streets. Chief Mike Smudzinski told Jacob Green to get a hold of him when he is ready for car show and he will speak to the two owners of the buses to get them removed for the event.

Green mentioned that he thought it was year 18 for the car show. He mentioned that they will changing the funds from previous years from La Salle Baseball and Softball to now donating to the IV Food Pantry. Attorney McPhedran asked for the date of the event. Jacob Green stated that it will be September 30th.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader mentioned that the following applicants have all met the requirements of the City's ordinance. It was not required but one applicant, Michael Borosak, was present in the audience today. Bader mentioned that this was the second year for Southwestern Advantage to request a permit, but it was Michael Borosak's first year soliciting within the City of La Salle.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the request for a Solicitor's Permit from Michael Borosak of Southwestern Advantage.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the request for a Solicitor's Permit from Peter Makalio, Mote Sifanua, Corban Ioka of Sunrun Solar, Inc.

Deputy Clerk Bader that all three had also met the city's requirements. Bader stated that the city does have fairly strict solicitor's permit application process. He said that many do apply, but many do not get it.

Alderman Thompson did want to remind everyone in the community that they do not have to talk to solicitors. Residents can pick up a no soliciting sticker free from the City Hall. The police department will then handle any calls if there were solicitors on property where it is clearly posted.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak

NAYS: Alderman Reynolds **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

Mayor Grove asked to have the following item on the agenda. He felt that the city was very proactive with the gaming parlors and has felt that the smoke shops were becoming a newer trend within La Salle and other surrounding cities.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Crane to send the request to the Planning Commission for a request for consideration of amendment to the La Salle Zoning Ordinances including but not necessarily limited to the special use provisions thereof regarding regulation of tobacco retail stores aka smoke shops.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for February 2024 of \$76,605.19 and Home Rule Sales Tax of \$66,597.33 for a total of \$143,202.52.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding approval of electric service agreement with Homefield Energy for entities outside of City's aggregate program.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding a request from M Bird Estates for two Redevelopment Incentive Program grants totaling \$25,000 for the north and west sides of premises located at 502 1st Street.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding a monetary donation of \$250 to Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS).

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Crane, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAYS: Alderman Thompson **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

Mayor Grove did give one audience member her first warning for making a comment during the meeting in regard to MASS servicing La Salle Residents. Chairman Ptak that it was noted that they did service over 46 residents.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee to deny the request regarding addressing parking issues in the 300 block of Crosat Street including, but not limited to, adding "No Parking" signs to the east side of Crosat Street, north of the alley.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAYS: Alderman Reynolds **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendations of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee regarding removing a "Handicapped Parking" sign from 1140 7th Street.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendations of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee regarding adding a “No Parking Back to Corner” sign at the northwest corner of Oconor and St. Vincent avenues.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to accept the recommendations of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee regarding adding “Slow Children Playing” signs at both entrances of the alley between 9th Street, Wright Street, 9th Place and Bucklin Street.

These signs are currently already in the middle of this alleyway. The committee approved to have them moved to the end of the alley.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve authorization of Pay Request #3 for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$104,500.00 for work completed to date on Universal Inlet Repairs – 2023 project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve authorization of Pay Request #3 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$13,897.37 for work completed to date on 2023 N2959th Road Widening Project.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** Alderman Lavieri

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve authorization of Pay Request #2 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$1,484.00 for work completed to date on 2023 Sunstrand/ABC Wire Road Extension project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve authorization of Pay Request #3 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$41,043.00 for work completed to date on 2023 Road Improvements – MFT project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve authorization of Pay Request #3 & Final for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$27,728.31 for work completed to date on 2023 Sidewalk Improvements project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve authorization of Pay Request #1 for Illinois Valley Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$53,265.00 for work completed to date on Water Service Line Material Determination Program – 2024.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** Alderman Crane

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve authorization of Pay Request #3 for Otto Baum Company totaling \$100,169.70 for work completed to date on Masonry Restoration project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Ptak wanted to answer a few questions that were asked during public comment tonight. Ptak stated that he thought Economic Development Director Curt Bedei was aware of the revitalization grants that are available to the city of La Salle and referenced earlier.

Bedei mentioned that is particularly aware of the grant that was mentioned tonight. He mentioned that he does apply for as much as possible in regard to grants to help out the La Salle residents and businesses. Bedei mentioned that his is currently working on the grant that was mentioned tonight and has been in discussion with Brian Brown for some ideas and possibilities.

Curt Bedei reminded the council and the public of the strategic planning sessions that he had held back in September. During those meetings, there were several ideas brought up, which Bedei does go back to and reference periodically.

Alderman Ptak asked if the grant that was mentioned covered anything in regard to ideas for downtown mapping. Bedei did not recall that grant eluding to marketing. He did mention that mapping would definitely be addressed within a tourism study project.

Bedei did mention that within one of the grants that was mentioned that a digital mapping kiosk could potentially be part of the grant.

Alderman Ptak asked if anyone was aware of an update on the Street Sweeper, since Kevin Fay was not present to ask that question. Finance Director Duncan stated that he was aware that it is not fixed yet. Mayor Grove mentioned that if that is the case that the City may want to reconsider bringing back the one that they had previously rented out. Duncan did mention that Kevin Fay and John Arbisi are in discussion of potential new equipment. They plan on having further discussion with Duncan on Thursday when they discuss the budget for their department. Duncan stated that it was mentioned by the repair company that it may not be in the city's best economic interest to go any further in repairs of the current street sweeper. Duncan mentioned that the rental discussion and further purchase of a new one may be within the appropriations

discussion that will be happening in the next couple weeks, with possibility of leasing, purchasing, or renting to own.

Alderman Ptak asked if anyone did hear of any updates on the IV Food Center. Mayor Grove mentioned, like many may have already seen, that they were taking applications and interviews at the store but have not heard any more. Mayor Grove does want them to do it right if they need to take their time. Building Inspector Andy Bacidore mentioned that he did receive a large building permit for a large roof repair. This could be one factor as for their timing delay. Curt Bedei also believes that they may have applied for a state grant to replace some of their refrigerator units. They could potentially be waiting on that grant.

Alderman Ptak asked the concern in regard to the crossing guard. Chief Smudzinski stated that Mr. Dergance was in the hospital a couple days and Chief Smudzinski did try to make sure his corner was covered.

Mayor Grove wanted to discuss for the future finding some grants that could allow many of the smaller, locally owned businesses some payroll grants to allow these businesses to be open later. He believes this would be very beneficial for those traveling through La Salle and allowing these stores to be open past regular business hours. Mayor Grove does believe that self promotion does help out businesses also, and many local businesses do a great job with this on their social media.

Mayor Grove does believe that businesses do need to continue to take advantage of the facade grants. He does want all to understand also that if one is awarded \$25,000 in a facade grant, it helps the look of a building, but it doesn't show everything that goes into the overall building.

Mayor Grove would be curious to see the response in regard to a payroll grant from local small business owners. He understands that these owners would then have to find a reliable worker if open past normal business hours.

NEW BUSINESS

City Engineer Brian Brown spoke in regard to this bid. He mentioned that this for a sewer issue at the end of Washington Street. There was a collapsed sewer, and it was causing issues upstream. He mentioned that the North/South line is in good shape, but the East/West line is not in good shape. This is an emergency project. Brown did request quotes from multiple contractors to do the replacement work as quick as they possible can. If the bid does get formally approved tonight, the one contractor will be able to start tomorrow.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve authorization of quote from Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$37,020.02 for Washington Street Dead End Emergency Sanitary Sewer Replacement work.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, **NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve authorization of quote from Tieman Builders, Inc. Totaling \$44,800 for Exterior Door Replacement at South Wastewater Treatment Plant work. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Bacidore, Thompson, Ptak, **NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mayor Grove did ask for the following agenda item to be discussed. He was unsure if the City of La Salle was planning on doing such a thing as livability within the city. Attorney McPhedran mentioned that it could be brought to the planning commission.

Alderman Crane believes that other communities already have other ordinances that are against container homes. Mayor Grove hope to find some ordinances and not have to recreate the wheel with language for such a thing. Jeppson questioned if these were done more as primary residence or AirBNBs.

Alderman Thompson mentioned that he has looked into this at length because he has a daughter that was interested in buying property within the City of La Salle. Thompson does believe that they can be quite beautiful and better made than some of the homes that are within the city. He believes that the City does need to keep an open mind. Mayor Grove did ask how Alderman Thompson did vote on the Pohar project, because he believes it to be a similar situation. Thompson did state that the city would receive full taxes from the container home. Alderman Bacidore questioned why not build a home if you potentially could be putting \$200,000 into a container. Thompson believes there to be a lot of advantages.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Thompson to send the request to discuss "container homes" within the City of La Salle to planning commission.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader mentioned that he will be working with Daniel Duncan for the next couple months, as he will be the social media/video editing intern for the City of La

Salle. He previously worked with Daniel regarding garbage informational videos which were well received. Bader has been interested in doing more videos for the city, but never had a chance to. They would love to be able to do something with QR codes at certain locations that would allow for more context to the area. Bader asked for anyone to reach out with ideas to help improve the city's social media pages and they would love to be able to look over those ideas over the next couple months. Mayor Grove stated that Daniel would be getting compensated the same pay as all summer help.

Mayor Grove then shared a personal experience of having a cordial interaction with someone at Walmart, but no dialogue ensued. He does not see a reason to wait for city council meetings to discuss any issues or concerns they have, even if it is in public with his children present. He also reminded all that everyone, including our families, can view these meetings on YouTube and once it is on the internet, it is forever. He feels that any conversation can be handled with respect whether it is out in public or during a city council meeting.

Mayor Grove gave Angel Farmer a warning for interrupting his comments and said he did not mention any names.

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

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the resolution authorizing Joint Funding Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation regarding Improvement to Richard Hallett Road & 8th Street. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent: NONE** **Abstain: NONE**

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve a resolution requesting permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to close off a portion of U.S. 6 during the City's Celebrate LaSalle 5K Run/Walk.

Deputy Bader mentioned that this is the same resolution that is approved every year for the Celebrate LaSalle 5K.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: 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 May 13, 2024: Total Submitted: \$741,245.94 (Total Payroll \$215,767.59, Bills to be Paid \$244,817.81, Total Bills Paid \$280,660.54). Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

City Engineer Brian Brown wanted all to be aware of construction on Rt. 6 east of Joliet.

Brown also mentioned that the MFT program is currently running. He wanted all to be aware of barricades around town for curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs.

He also mentioned that DNR was recently at Rotary Park and will be managing the lakes and restocking in the spring. He mentioned how the disc golf has seen a lot of action. The app shows that there has been over 500 rounds played there. Brown hopes that something like the QR code that was mentioned earlier would be able to the downtown. He mentioned that 5% of the players have been from over 150 miles away, so it would be nice to get those players to bring business to then the downtown.

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED

7:46

pm



Amy Quinn, City Clerk