

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

## OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

**June 10, 2024**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, June 10, 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**

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, Herndon, Crane

**Absent – Alderman Jeppson**

**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**

Dawn Hicks asked why the agenda wasn't posted Friday and who had access to the Wi-fi out at Rotary Park's air monitor even though they mentioned it to be locked. She also doesn't believe it to be right that taxpayers have to pay for a new street sweeper when it has been used to clean up Carus' mess. She believes Carus to be the ones who should replace the street sweeper. She also questioned if the Maytag building had a permit, as she did not see one to be posted visually. She doesn't believe that Andy Bacidore should be trusted after he allegedly made false statements months ago in regard to the progress of the Maytag Building. She stated her concerns about needing shade at Rotary Park.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader mentioned that one camera view was not working but the others are, and the meeting was still getting live streamed.

Dena Hicks is still very concerned with the soil in her neighborhood even though it has been replaced three years ago. She has been diagnosed with diabetes, along with her current dogs, and other pets in the neighborhood have also had many health issues. She

would like to canvas her neighborhood to ask others if they have had any medical concerns as homeowners or with their pets in her neighborhood. She plans to reach out to EPA also regarding this. She also asked if the summer help would be painting the curbs around town.

Breanne Hicks asked about the upcoming Finance meeting and if this was budget and appropriations ordinance. She questioned if this was so to be posted 30 days prior to the meeting. Finance Director Duncan stated that this was just a discussion and not the final draft. Hicks also asked for an update on Matthiessen Park in regard to adding plant life and updating playground equipment. Ms. Hicks expressed her concern for the public not having access to the council packet. She also informed the council that the handicapped door has not been working to gain access to the City Hall.

Angel Farmer mentioned that she was the parent that Mayor Grove mentioned last meeting at Walmart that he had encountered. She did not want to have those conversations in front of her children and has made numerous attempts to have a meeting with the Mayor to have that discussion. She recently went to City Hall to request FOIA forms and to set a meeting with the Mayor but said she was then harassed by city officials. Farmer stated that she was mistreated by Finance Director Duncan and Chief Smudzinski. Ms. Farmer requested an apology from Chief Smudzinski, Finance Director Duncan, and Mayor Jeff Grove. She also requests Civil Rights Education, sexual harassment, and de-escalation training should be for all city employees. She ended her time with a moment of silence dedicated to Mayor Jeff Grove's political career.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held May 28, 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 from The Center for Youth and Family Services to install a single-facing, lighted sign at 815 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Farmers Insurance to install a single-facing, non-lighted sign at 822 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request for a 2024 Raffle License from Jake's Pour House on behalf of the Illinois Valley Food Pantry.

Alderman Lavieri questioned how this works with the owners and employees eligible to win. Alderman Bacidore informed him that it was a Queen of Hearts drawing. Attorney McPhedran mentioned that it was a permit request for a charitable cause. Mayor Grove stated that the city is not giving them direction how it is drawn.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a revised 2024 Raffle License from Stage 212.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Will Hocking of Detour Tap for a Special Event Permit to allow an extension of hours for outdoor music and increase in allowed decibel readings on Saturday, June 29; Saturday, July 6; Friday, July 12; Friday, August 2; Friday, August 9; Saturday, August 24; Friday, September 27.

Alderman Thompson did ask who held the liquor license. Gentleman next to Will Hocking raised his hand to let the council know that he was the one that held the liquor license.

Will Hocking did ask for clarification in regard to decibel readings after 10pm. Mayor explained that there is no amplified music outside after 10pm without a special event permit.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Alderman Reynolds asked why the permit was marked with a raised decibel reading after 11pm. This was marked on the paperwork, but the applicants did not plan on extending this past the original time of 11pm. Deputy Brent Bader stated that the applicants wanted to cover their basis with the application.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Crane to send the request from Mark Voss of MAV Restoration for a Special Use Permit to install a half-acre solar farm in the back northwestern portion of Starved Rock Family campground to the Planning Commission.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept, approve and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for May 2024 showing total fees collected of \$2,914.69 with total value of construction of \$445,979.00.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, approve and place on file the Treasurer's Report for May 2024 showing total cash balances in La Salle State Bank of \$10,548,072.56 and in Hometown National Bank of \$7,952,090.87.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept, approve, and place on file Monthly Police Income Report for May 2024 showing total fees collected of \$10,067.17

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the installation of a generator transfer switch at the Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$87,894.00 from JB Contracting.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding a request from Mickey Venegas of Mickey's Massive, Inc. for a Redevelopment Incentive Program grant totaling \$10,125 for premises located at 620 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding a \$1,200 donation towards the La Salle Girls Softball Minor League All Stars Tournament.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a raw water detention tank cleaning and repairs at a cost of \$63,500.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to approve authorization of Pay Request #1 for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$203,071.70 for work completed to date on 2024 Road Improvements – MFT project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve authorization of Pay Request#1 for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$35,420.00 for work completed to date on Washington Dead End Emergency Sanitary Sewer Replacement project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Alderman Crane and Mayor Grove both agreed that the road projects are going good and turned out well.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve authorization of Pay Estimate for Hoerr Construction totaling \$146,250.00 for work completed to date on Aluminum Storm Sewer Lining project.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Alderman Thompson wanted to confirm that the air monitor is under lock and key. Bader mentioned that he will verify with Patrick Watson. Thompson asked that it stays under lock and key because it seems to be not working around the same time. Bader said that he will still verify with the company, but he believed that the data should still be maintaining if it was not really a power issue. Bader asked for the dates and times, and he plans to reach out to the company. Thompson finds it to be unusual that this is happening early in the morning. Mayor Grove asked Alderman Thompson to bring this information up sooner if he knew of this and did not need to wait till a meeting to address it. Deputy Bader and Dawn Hicks had a discussion whether it was on WiFi or not. Alderman Thompson has a concern if it is not under lock and key.

Alderman Thompson also wanted to verify if there was a sunshade area in the works for Rotary Park. Mayor Grove said that the sunshade area and the wall getting fixed are the current projects out there.

Attorney McPhedran spoke in regard to a hearing that was requested by several members of the public. The hearing held February 29, 2024 regarding the Agency, the Attorney General's Office, and the City of La Salle concerning two instances of discharge during extremely high rainfall alleged in excess allowed limits in areas south of the water treatment plant, when the river was already in flood stage. Also, alleging failure to file several reports in timely manner. He continued with the City and the Attorney General's office as part of the hearing process thanked the public for their comments in the process. There have been post hearing submissions on behalf of both the city of La Salle and the Environmental Protection Agency from Illinois to the Illinois Attorney General's Office. McPhedran reported that as of last Thursday, the pollution control board accepted in its entirety, and was approved in its entirety, The settlement that was originally proposed by both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through the Attorney General's office and the city of La Salle. The settlement also included as was reported back on October 2, 2023 a fine of \$5,740. This shall now

conclude the matter. This has already been approved by the council to pay and will be paid within the month. No further action is needed by the council.

Mayor Grove appreciated everyone that was part of Art in the Parks festival. This money from this festival does go back to the Rotary Park Foundation.

Alderman Ptak did want to discuss a few things that were brought up under public comment. He mentioned that Maytag building does have a building permit and it does expire at the end of this week. Ptak mentioned that yes, it is supposed to be posted. Alderman Crane believes that he may have seen the permit in an upstairs window.

Alderman Ptak also addressed Deana Hicks in regard to canvassing her neighborhood. He believes that she has every right to do that.

Alderman Ptak mentioned that the city summer workers do paint curbs as part of their work orders. Mayor Grove mentioned that they usually have them focus only on downtown curbs however for this.

Mayor Grove mentioned that he wants to take responsibility for the mistake on last week's posting. Deputy Clerk Brent Bader said that this was a mistake on his part. He hit the button to post, and it never went through. He delivered the packets that Friday and found out Sunday evening by a family member that it never posted. He did get it uploaded, contacted the Mayor and the OMA counsel that the city has. He apologizes for the mistake. Bader believes that the city can make an OMA deputy to then check to make sure all these important documents get posted within their timeframe. Bader mentioned that the city also plans to have an exterior space for agendas to be posted. This will make them accessible and viewable after hours. Alderman Thompson also mentioned that residents can contact their alderman if they have any questions or concerns with an agenda that may not be posted. Bader will be speaking with someone on Thursday. He is hoping to get a cabinet that will be attached to the building and the agendas can be viewable from there.

Attorney McPhedran mentioned that the agenda was posted in the lobby and sent to media and council. It was the computer glitch that did not post to as planned. Mayor Grove does believe the exterior posting should resolve any issues if there were to be a computer glitch again.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei explained a little behind the EPA Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative. He stated that EPA will partner with 200 underserved communities helping them identify lead service lines, develop replacement plans and apply for funding to get the lead out. Bedei mentioned that he had a zoom call with them and they had discussed what could be potential helpful needs for the community through their initiative. The discussed community outreach and ways to acquire funding to replace the lead lines, as well as additional identification of lines. The city does have the number of lead lines that are posted on the city website, through the link 120water,

but there are still may unknowns. The city is still in the inventory process. There is also no cost for this initiative.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve participation in Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative. Each and every alderman has a copy.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Mayor Grove mentioned that most of the properties that the city has acquired for auction are properties that are not big enough to build on, but neighbors may purchase to add to their yard. Mayor Grove mentioned that there was one property on 10<sup>th</sup> St that was just acquired by the city, and he believes that this one is one property that could potentially be salvaged.

Alderman Lavieri asked if Engineer Brian Brown had reviewed the list to see if there was any property that the city could use. Mayor Grove said that he had the list for some time, and it was discussed at city staff meetings. The existing list is in the council's packet.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve miscellaneous City properties up for auction.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Mayor Grove asked Attorney McPhedran if there was a 15-day notice for these listings. McPhedran mentioned that he will check on the timeframe, but he believes that it is best to give 15 days to try to get as many bidders as possible.

Alderman Bacidore asked Curt Bedei an update on the economic development consultant company. Bedei mentioned that he has been in communication with them discussing some project leads as well as setting up a meet and greet with the community. Alderman Bacidore just wants to make sure that the city is getting their money's worth with this company.

Deputy Brent Bader mentioned the letter that was sent out to residents from Homefield Energy. He mentioned that the letter explains that residents are automatically enrolled in this program, with rates being lowered slightly, but residents are able to opt out if they

so choose by calling Homefield Energy at 866-694-1262. He mentioned that they did send out another letter with an incorrect city on the letterhead and for residents to disregard that one.

Mayor Grove also mentioned that the city has been doing a great job with changing out the water meters and the MTUs. The city has Wednesday evening and Saturday appointments for those who work during the day. For the residents who are not responding back to the city to set up their appointment, the city will be leaving door hangers soon on doors to inform the residents that they need to contact the city to set up their appointment. The city will have to shut off service in order to get into the home for this, but the city does not want to have to get to that point. Duncan believes that city is about 40% complete with this project. Duncan stated that if the city is replacing the MTU it is a 10-15 minute job, but the entire meter is a 45 minute job.

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

Finance Director Duncan explained a little about the municipal aggregation program and mentioned that the city did negotiate the rate by partnering with seven or eight other municipalities that Rock River and Mimic partner up together. The city negotiates with them as they get a lower rate by bargaining with a higher number of households. The following is up for approval to start the solicitation and negotiations with their consultant and the other municipalities. Attorney McPhedran mentioned that this program has saved the city and the residents a substantial sum of money over the years when marketing for the lower rates. Duncan stated that no matter what provider that they go with to purchase the power, Ameren will be the one that will deliver the power. Duncan reiterated that the residents do not have to do anything, and they will automatically be included on the lowest rate. They can also opt out at anytime. Duncan also believes that it may be a little trickier to join back in with Ameren once you opt out of the program.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the resolution continuing the City of LaSalle's electric municipal aggregation program.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve an ordinance confirming and ratifying approval of Compliance Commitment Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (regarding Double Wall Tanks, Auxiliary Generator).

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills from May 28, 2024: Total Submitted: \$963,286.86 (Total Payroll \$245,155.01, Bills to be Paid \$245,155.01, Total Bills Paid \$280,660.54). Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**NAYS:** NONE   **Absent:** Alderman Jeppson   **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

**ADJOURNED**

**7:22**

**pm**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Amy" on the first line and "Quinn" on the second line, slightly overlapping.

Amy Quinn, City Clerk