

# **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL**

**August 19, 2024**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, August 19, 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, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

**Absent – NONE**

**Others Present:** Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, Finance Director John Duncan, Director of Public Works Kevin Fay, City Attorney James McPhedran, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski

**A quorum was present.**

Mayor Grove said this time will be for the public to comment and in not wanting to take time away from them, he may address comments made here elsewhere during the meeting.

## **COMMENTS**

Dawn Hicks mentioned that she was disappointed to see that no one from the city attended Lauren Underwood's town hall at LPHS. She also mentioned the sewer smells that are coming from the downtown. Hicks brought up that some have called the women at the city hall the "Water Girls" and she feels that this is a bit demeaning. Hicks' main reason for attending tonight was to make sure all aldermen understood and will consider all parts to the ordinance that they may be voting on, including things that may be going against the First Amendment.

Mary Hales asked if there was an explanation for Rt. 6 curbing at La Harpe intersection having very sharp corners. She questioned if anyone knew of different curbing requirements having to be at certain intersections.

Brianne Hicks wanted to thank the city for the trees at Mathessian Park. She said that they all look fantastic. She also mentioned that the issue with the city emails seems to be resolved. She also asked if the city was able to do anything in regard to figuring out

what the recordables are those Carus Chemical posts outside their plant. She also mentioned how Peru does post their packet online for residents to view and this may cut down help if the city is trying to cut public comment down to three minutes. Her last concern was in regard to any updates to on the painting of curbing by fire hydrants.

Dena Hicks wanted to remind everyone comments can still be made in regard to the EPA superfund. She then asked about why the city had to replace the driveway entryways and not the contractor. She also stated that she is all for respect, but she hopes that the alderman passes the upcoming ordinances for the right reasons.

City Engineer Brian Brown mentioned that a portion of the driveway concrete redo's were paid by the original contractor.

Lisa Dyas thanked the city for the driveway repairs and the trees at Matthiessen. She then asked the city if they were able to paint more lines at the stop signs. She stated that there are many that are barely visible.

Alderman Thompson explained the Illinois State Law in regard to stopping at a crosswalk or at a stop sign if there is not a line visible. He said he agreed that there should be visible crosswalks by the schools.

Angel Farmer stated that she doesn't understand why Mayor Grove would want to change the time limit from five to three minutes, since she is the only one using the full five minutes. She was curious as to anyone's reasoning for this change. She requested that the five-minute time limit remain. She questioned the Mayor and the Council as to who wrote these ordinances that they are trying to pass. She also feels that half of the ordinance will cost the taxpayers money, with some fines being \$750. She believes that if the city passes these ordinances, it will cost La Salle residents hundreds of 1,000s of dollars. She also believes that these rules are infringing upon their protections. She discussed accusations that were made on the radio of fake harassment and abuse claims that she made to John Duncan. She said that she had discussed this with John Duncan and he was unaware of these claims. She reminded each alderman of the oaths they took and displayed each of the Aldermans and Mayor's oaths. She used the remainder of her time to allow the alderman to reflect on themselves, their oaths, and for them to decide on what side of history that they plan to be on.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held August 5, 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 Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve request from Chaos and Curiosities to install a one-sided banner sign at 524 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to send request to the Planning Commission from Lighted Way on behalf of GOTA International Daycare, proposed buyer of 916 6<sup>th</sup> Street, for a Special Use Permit to operate a daycare at aforementioned address and any potential text amendment related thereto.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request from Grueny's Detailing and Powder Coating for use of city-owned property and a street closure of 27<sup>th</sup> Street from St. Vincent Avenue to Hennepin Street from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, September 7, 2024 for a car show.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from the La Salle Business Association for a Special Event Permit to allow an extension of hours for outdoor music, increase of allowed decibel readings, use of City owned property and street closure of First Street from Wright Street to Marquette Street for the organization's BBQ & Blues and Jazz'n the Street events.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from the City of LaSalle Foundation for a Special Event Permit to allow the use of City-owned property at the Pocket Park on First Street from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 2024 for the organization's Quiet Fest event.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Grove mentioned that this event is also looking to do a talent show this year.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, approve and place on file Treasurer's Report for July 2024 showing total cash balances in La Salle State Bank of \$9,205,174.83 and in Hometown National Bank of \$8,024,103.63.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, approve and place on file Building Inspector's Report for July 2024 showing total fees collected of \$11,142.23 with total value of construction of \$2,110,810.45.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, approve, and place on file Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for May 2024 of \$100,587.78 and Home Rule Sales Tax of \$89,318.95 for a total of \$189,906.73. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding annual renewal of membership for \$3,000 with Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Alderman Bacidore did request that an Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce representative would be able to come next time to explain what the city's donation is used for.

Mayor Grove stated that he was also disappointed that IVAC did not give anything back in return during the La Salle summer festival. Mayor Grove does believe that it is a good organization overall and would like the city to continue to work with them. He did agree that the organization should come in discuss their request for a donation.

## **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

**NAYS:** Alderman Bacidore, Thompson, Crane **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-3**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve confirmation and ratification of a straw vote regarding a request from Ax Church for a street closure from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, August 18, 2024 for outdoor church even and activities for Church's kids ministry.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader mentioned that this organization did provide their certificate of insurance.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

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

Mayor Grove asked for the council's opinion on what the council would like to do in regard to the old Public Works Building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mayor Grove stated that it was appraised at approx. \$275,000. Some have gone through the building, but no one has followed through with an offer. He believes that many see it to be a large investment. He was curious if they wanted to consider putting it out for Request for Proposal. Mayor Grove stated that this property is in a TIF district.

Alderman Thompson suggested tabling this topic and waiting two more weeks to discuss this again. The council all agreed to wait and discuss in two weeks the RFP for the old City of LaSalle Public Works Building at 500 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Alderman Thompson discussed hearing from a telecommunicator recently. He stated that they are discussing the free solar panel options. Thompson believed the city to just have solicitors around the city selling the same item. Thompson is concerned for our elderly residents and how they may be the most susceptible to allowing someone to stop by their home to discuss. He asked for residents to be cautious of these phone calls.

Alderman Bacidore asked who the city could contact in regard to the shoppers being thrown on residents' property. Mayor Grove will get a contact from Shaw Media in regard to this matter.

Alderman Lavieri wanted to point on that there was a note in the water bill in regard to aggregation but no mention of electricity. Deputy Clerk Brent Bader mentioned that for residents that are looking to be part of the community's negotiated rate need not do anything in regard to this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Ptak mentioned that he has been in discussion in regard to the agreement with PSI. They are currently having staffing issues. Ptak mentioned that they were to supply the city with six paramedics, and they are currently down to two. The current city paramedics are scrambling to stay afloat.

Alderman Thompson mentioned that during the recent motorcycle fatality on Rt. 6, the paramedic on duty from PSI was incompetent on the scene. Alderman Thompson stated that Chief Janick mentioned that he would make sure that this person does not return. Alderman Thompson shared his concerns with this situation with Chief Janick and Finance Director Duncan. He believes that the discussion of the cancellation of this service will be better for all including the Fire Department.

Alderman Jeppson added that this will be the first step in a long-term solution.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to provide written notice the cancelation of Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc., in regard to the present contract regarding providing supplemental paramedic personnel and related matters.

The notice provides at least six months of advanced notice of set cancelation and termination date.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 8-0**

Finance Director Duncan mentioned that the current staffing situation at the fire station in regard to the hospital and PSI is down to three current employees working 48hrs. on with 24 hrs. off. They had one person leave on a work comp injury, and two that left to take other jobs. One has currently left because that schedule is very stressful. The department is now down to two. Duncan wanted to publicly acknowledge these two employees who have made it a huge sacrifice in their own personal lives to keep the department afloat.

Duncan did point out that STARK ambulance will have a presence in the area, with the transfers to Ottawa and OSF facilities. He also believes that they will have a plethora of employees, or more access to employees to come in and help.

Alderman Ptak mentioned that Stark County, is not a government agency, but a private business. Stark County has the contract with OSF and handle all the OSF hospitals. He mentioned that they do provide a 911 service to one other community. La Salle will be the second community. Ptak feels as though this will provide better care for the future for 911 services.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve authorization to the Mayor, Finance Director, Comptroller, Fire Chief, with input from the city attorney to enter into negotiations with Stark County Ambulance regarding the providing of supplemental paramedic personnel.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 8-0**

Alderman Herndon asked for all audience members to listen very closely to Attorney McPhedran's explanation of the following ordinances.

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

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to take the ordinance off the table for discussion amending the La Salle City Code to further regulate and provide for Rules of Conduct for City Buildings and City Real Estate.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 8-0**

Attorney McPhedran went into great detail explaining each of the ordinances that were up for discussion tonight. He explained that each of the draft ordinances were done in another community and have been in place for a number of years without challenges.

Attorney McPhedran stated that Mayor Grove requested for Mr. McPhedran to look for independent legal opinion from law firm, Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, in regard to this matter. McPhedran reviewed many of the cases that were referenced in prior meetings pertaining to the public comment ordinances.

Please see voice recording and video recording for Attorney McPhedran's detailed explanation of each of these ordinances.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept, approve, and place on file an ordinance amending the La Salle City Code to further regulate and provide for Rules of Conduct for City Buildings and City Real Estate. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-1**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to take the ordinance off the table for discussion amending the La Salle City Code Provisions, including but not limited to, Ordinance Number 3032, further amending rules concerning regulation of Public Comment off the table to discuss.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-1**

Alderman Thompson stated that he was for 75% of the ordinance that was passed. He does agree with protecting the city employees. He is upset over the “15 other things” that specifically look to “shut people up”, instead of allowing the citizens to come to the meetings to voice their opinions.

Alderman Herndon appreciates all the hard work Mr. McPhedran had to do with discussing and explaining these ordinances.

Chairman Ptak thought that maybe if time went from five minutes to three minutes, an alderman could move to allow more time for a resident to extend their time in order to finish their statement. Alderman Thompson disagreed and said that this will not happen because it already happened at a meeting that Ptak missed. Thompson discussed that a citizen came up and spoke very calm and collected. Thompson moved to give this citizen an extra minute and no other alderman seconded to allow this extension. Mayor Grove said that if this is allowed once than it sets a precedent for others to request or expect the same extension.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept, approve, and place on file an ordinance amending the La Salle City Code Provisions, including but not limited to, Ordinance Number 3032, further amending rules concerning regulation of Public Comment. Each and every alderman has a copy.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

#### **MOTION CARRIED: 7-1**

City Engineer Brian Brown did mention that he will be speaking with IDOT in discussion of the curbing concerns. He also found them to be not standard looking.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the resolution further formalizing authorization to acquire a fire truck, financing related there to and related matters.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

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

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that tomorrow will be the first day to circulate petitions for elected office. One can pick up a petition tomorrow starting at 7:30 am. Bader



mentioned that this time frame is definitely earlier than normal. Filing dates will be Tuesday, November 12th through Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> with City Hall being open 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm for that week and 1pm to 5pm on that final Monday. One change also is that City of La Salle will not be notarizing any documents. He noted that the Municipal Clerks of Illinois have made a strong recommendation that no one at City Hall notarize these documents themselves.

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei gave a brief update on Rotary Park. He stated that the fitness court will be receiving their finishing touches tomorrow. Bedei was also in talks with one of the coordinators for a ribbon cutting. He mentioned that the facility is usable and there has been a sidewalk added to the court from parking area. Brown mentioned that there plans to be seating and blanketing around it also. Bader also mentioned that there is a QR code that can be scanned and there is a brief tutorial on different exercises and workouts.

City Engineer Brian Brown mentioned that he does usually have the crosswalks prior done to school starting. He is just finalizing on some pricing now.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills from August 5, 2024: Total Submitted: \$1,673,597.02 (Total Payroll \$226,212.76, Bills to be Paid \$497,479.37, Total Bills Paid \$949,904.89). Each and every alderman has a copy.

## **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 Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

**ADJOURNED**

**7:40 pm**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Quinn". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Quinn" written in a single line.

Amy Quinn, City Clerk