

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 2024

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. with Alderman Ptak as Mayor Pro-Tem with proper notices being duly and continuously posted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Ptak asked for a moment of silence for Mayor Grove's brother, Chris Grove, and Police Chief Mike Smudzinski's brother, Nick Smudzinski.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent – Mayor Grove

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, City Attorney James McPhedran, City Engineer Brian Brown, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski, Fire Chief Jerry Janick

A quorum was present.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to vote Alderman Ptak as Mayor ProTem for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

ProTem Mayor Ptak acknowledged students from Trinity Catholic Academy that were present at the meeting for extra credit in their current Social Studies class. Anthony Turri, James Arkins, and Jack Duncan introduced themselves to the council.

Dawn Hicks raised concerns about the quality of city water and the lack of action on veterans' banners.

Alderman Lavieri explained that the use of the Ameren's light poles has been an issue in the past and the city avoids even hanging large Christmas decorations.

Dawn Hicks continues to question the rising air quality readings at Rotary Park. She shared a diagram showing a heightened level of 112 on August 29th, comparing LaSalle to other cities. She strongly suggested the city to look into this matter.

Dena Hicks asked if the public can receive meeting packets before the Friday evening deadline so the residents could be better prepared before Monday's meeting. She also inquired about the approval process for hiring someone for a city position. She also questioned the status of city worker's labor capping at Rotary Park for the setup of the Celebration of Lights. Dena Hicks was also concerned with an unfinished job to a sidewalk and a cone, near 8th Street and Save-a-lot, that has sat for months. She asked if the city had a system for keeping track of projects and the completion of these projects.

Brianne Hicks raised concerns about the EPA cleanup and the quality of soil provided for residents' yards. She questioned if anyone from the city was disgruntled with what they received from the EPA and the superfund cleanup. She is unhappy to see that the current yards are receiving black dirt when the other yards had received clay in the last four years. She mentioned that she is still unhappy to see the containers sitting outside of Carus. She has filed multiple complaints with the USEPA.

Angle Farmer questioned the training of employees on Ordinance 3032. She also asked the consequence in regard to a city employee violating the ordinance. She raised concerns about the availability of resources for residents with water bill concerns. She also asked if the city had any comment on resident's health issues related to the contamination and chemical exposure. Farmer expressed frustration over the lack of response to issues raised in previous meetings and requests a follow-up on specific concerns. She also challenged Alderman Bacidore to admit claims of slander made during a previous meeting.

One resident wanted to make a comment pertaining to the Illinois Cement agenda item. Alderman Ptak mentioned that this item would be passed along to Planning Commission for a special meeting at a later date.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held September 16, 2024.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Thompson to send the request from La Salle Lincoln Junior High School's 7th and 8th Grade to hold a Tag Day Collection on Friday, October 4, 2024 and Saturday, October 5, 2024 at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin streets.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

It was discussed that the city will coordinate and verify with Lincoln Junior High School to make sure that adults are at the intersection even though the tag day is intended for the 7th and 8th grade classes.

Alderman Thompson asked Chief Smudzinski if the department could supply vests to the school if needed. Chief said that would not be an issue if they need them.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and Alderman Jeppson to send the request to Streets, Traffic, and Alleys committee for stop sign for southbound traffic on Linden Street at the Kilmer intersection and consideration of "No Parking" on the west side of Linden Street from driveway nearest Kilmer intersection to corner and related parking matters in Kilmer, Linden, Creve Coeur area.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and Alderman Bacidore to approve the request for a 2024 Raffle License from Mort's Pub. This fundraiser is related to a fundraiser for the LaSalle Veteran's Home.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader discussed that in the future the city may be looking at reviewing and updating the raffle license ordinance. Attorney McPhedran stated that he agreed with Bader on the reviewing and updating some of these very old ordinances.

Bader clarified that the set maximum for the Queen of Hearts raffle is \$540,000.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to approve the request from Club 55 for a Special Event Permit for a street closure on a portion of 1st Street from east of Club 55 to Laharpe Street.

Chris Tomsha from IVAR stated that they are asking for the street closure so they are able to use a building across from Club 55 for baskets and raffles. This will allow for patrons to walk back and forth to event safely with the street closure. This event will benefit Illinois Valley Animal Rescue, Second Hand Ranch, and Safe House.

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 Public Works usually will put the barricades out the Friday of the weekend of the event.

Superintendent Steven Wroblewski requested permission to paint the LaSalle-Peru High School logo at the intersection of Sixth Street and Chartres Street. He explained their reasoning behind it as it was a student council idea since neighboring high schools have their logos painted in busy intersections of their high schools. The school will figure out a Saturday that would work best and inform the city incase any barricades or street blocking off may be necessary.

City Engineer Brian Brown intends to review the sewer infrastructure at the proposed intersection for the LaSalle-Peru Township High School interlocking LP logo painting.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Steven Wroblewski of LaSalle-Peru Township High School to paint the high school's logo in the intersection of 6th and Chartres streets, with contingency to move to main front entrance (near gymnasium) if the intersection of 6th and Chartres Streets does not work out.

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 Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to move the petition and requests to the Planning Commission from Illinois Cement Company, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Corporation for rezoning and granting of a special use permit for mining for three parcels of land, presently owned by Frank L. Bedenko, having LaSalle County PIN #'s of 11-33-418-000, 11-33-421-000, 11-33-203-000.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** Alderman Herndon

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Attorney McPhedran stated that he wasn't for certain the date of the next Planning Commission meeting. This will have to get a notice in the newspaper, and it has to be published at least 15 days in advance of meeting. The public will be aware when it is done, when the meeting is going to happen. The public will not only be informed from

the newspaper, but it will also be on the city's website, and the property will also be posted, indicating the date of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept, approve, and place on file the thank you letter from IV Pads. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the request of The Perfectly Flawed Foundation to donate \$1,000 for a sponsor table and 5 - \$50 Locally LaSalle Gift Certificates towards their 2024 Auction Gala.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a bid from Cummins Sales & Service of \$48,890.00 to purchase a 150kw generator for the East End Booster Station.

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 Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee to deny the request of adding stop signs or yield signs for southbound traffic on Illinois Street at Lindberg Road intersection and on Campbell Avenue at Lindberg Road intersection.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to approve the confirmation and ratification of a straw vote regarding a 2024 Raffle License request from The City of La Salle Foundation. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to authorize Payment for Ace in the Hole, Inc. totaling \$13,458.60 for work completed to date on 2024 Chip Seal Patching project. Each and every alderman has a copy.

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 Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to authorize Pay Request #7 for Otto Baum Company, Inc. Totaling \$85,574.25 for work completed to date on Masonry Restoration project. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Jeppson clarified the air monitor's AQI range, which ranges from 0-500. Alderman Thompson also stated that the city does not have authority to inspect any of the plants or factories for air quality. The city relies on the IEPA and the EPA for air quality control and enforcement.

Alderman Thompson wanted to also revisit a comment that was made earlier in the meeting. He stated that the mayor is allowed to hire any part-time workers at his discretion, like the building inspector position. Anything that is full-time does come from the mayor as a recommendation and the council will then support or deny the recommendation.

It was mentioned that the city originally had determined a cap for the city workers' labor at \$50,000 now that the Celebration of Lights setup has begun. Finance Director John Duncan stated that the city tracks employees' hours through an activity code on their payroll system.

Alderman Thompson also asked Angel Farmer to have the resident on Bucklin to contact him directly if she has a pothole issue in her alley.

Alderman Thompson revisited the comment about the EPA cleanup and the quality of soil provided to the residents. He stated that any resident should contact Attorney General Kwame Raoul. He believes that he would be the one to contact and help out with this matter. It also suggested contacting the Attorney General for further investigation into the EPA's contractor actions. The Army Corps is responsible for the soil quality and the residents have reported issues in the past with the soil that was provided. The city will continue to monitor the situation and address residents' concerns.

Alderman Ptak wanted to address the comment in regard to the city owning the power poles. He stated that the City does not own the poles as the city does not own the electric. Alderman Ptak wanted to make a comment in regard to the banners and the power poles that was mentioned earlier in the meeting during public comment. Ameren Electric owns the poles and the city does not. Ptak also mentioned that the CSO Citizen Service Organization is in charge of the veteran banners in Peru and the city would be willing to contact Ameren for use of the poles if someone would be willing to donate their time to organize such a project.

NEW BUSINESS

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei discussed the letter of support for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive plan for recreational opportunities in the community. The grant would provide services of planning professionals and federal employees to value and interconnect community assets. The initiative aims to attract overnight visitors, new businesses, and foster community revitalizations. Bedei then read the Letter of Support for Recreational Economy for Rural Communities Initiative.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to discuss and potentially approve of a Letter of Support for Recreational Economy for Rural Communities initiative.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve an ordinance approving and authorizing the Cancellation and Termination of an Agreement entered into between the City of La Salle and Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc. 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

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve an ordinance authorizing an agreement between the City of La Salle, Illinois and Stark County Ambulance Service, Inc. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

This cancellation and termination was authorized at a prior meeting by the city council. Finance Director John Duncan mentioned that this agreement was necessary due to staffing issues with Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc. The new agreement will ensure continuous paramedic services for the city. This ambulance service has a direct contact with OSF for transfers.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to accept, pay, and file the bills from September 30, 2024: Total Submitted: \$1,691,815.66 (Total Payroll \$210,426.98, Bills to be Paid \$608,342.99, Total Bills Paid \$873,045.69). 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

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei discussed the launch of the new tourism website for the city of LaSalle. Deputy Clerk Brent Bader also mentioned that he has been working closely with their intern Daniel Duncan in establishing social media pages and content for the “Live it Up LaSalle” brand.

City Engineer Brian Brown mentioned that the state job of grinding has begun on Rt. 6. There is also a city project that has started on 8th St. between Crosat and Sterling, along with milling on Richard Hallett Rd from Rt. 6 to the south limits of the city. He discussed that progress on the pickle ball courts at Rotary Park.

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:26 pm

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk