

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

February 18, 2025

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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 Jeff Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

Excused Absent – Alderman Thompson, Ptak, Crane

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to allow Alderman Crane to attend the meeting remotely.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ROLL CALL

Present – Mayor Jeff Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Alderman Crane (remotely via phone call)

Absent – Alderman Thompson, Ptak

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

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

Mayor Grove opens the floor for public comment.

Todd Volker introduced himself as a candidate for the IVCC Board, emphasizing his lifelong residency in the Illinois Valley and his interest in economic development. Volker mentioned his role as the economic development director for Kendall County and his involvement with Elgin Community College and IVCC. Volker plans to host a meeting at the La Salle Library on February 25th to gather feedback on IVCC.

Dawn Hicks inquired about the members of the LPAC and expressed her frustration over the lack of transparency regarding their identities.

Brianne Hicks spoke about the issues surrounding the Kaskaskia Hotel and the Maytag Building, highlighting city ordinance violations and the lack of a vacant building plan. Hicks explained what she had read in regard to the requirements for vacant building plans and the potential fines for non-compliance. Hicks noted that the city could have collected significant fees if ordinances were enforced.

John Duncan informed Ms. Hicks that her three minutes of public comment were up.

Dena Hicks raised concerns about the safety of the Maytag Building. She continued with Brianne's comments in regard to the Julius Hegeler Mansion. Hicks mentioned reaching out to the Julius Hegeler Foundation for updates on the restoration project but has received no response. Dena Hicks also suggested that elected officials share their proudest city achievements leading up to this election year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Bacidore to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held February 3, 2025. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS AND/OR PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request for a 2025 Raffle License from LaSalle Firefighters Association, a 2025 Raffle License from Knights of Columbus #792, a 2025 Raffle License from Peru Education Foundation, and a 2025 Raffle License from Starved Rock Country Community Foundation.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve, accept, and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for January 2025 showing total fees collected of \$666 with total value of construction of \$61,100. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve, accept, and place on file the monthly Police Income report for January 2025 showing total fees collected of \$7,001.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve, accept, and place on file the monthly Treasurer's Report for January 2025 showing total cash balances in LaSalle State Bank of \$9,295,016.13 and in Hometown National Bank of \$8,675,321.43.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to place on file the Thank you letter from Illinois Valley Food Pantry.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to place on file the Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for November 2024 of \$95,988.39 and Home Rules Sales Tax of \$85,895.19 for a total of \$181,883.58.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to accept and approve the appointment of Patrick Dooley to the Police Pension Board for a one-year term.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to accept and approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a request for monetary donation of \$300 to Illinois Valley Baseball League, LLC.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Mayor Grove discussed the importance of supporting local sports and the potential for future field development.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the installation of

staircase and handrail to roof of Digester Control Building at 400 River Street at a cost of \$76,764.70.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Alderman Jeppson understood the high price tag for the stairs and wanted to appreciate the city's concerns for safety of the public works employees.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to authorize Pay Request #23 for Vissering Construction Company totaling \$42,002.40 for work completed to date on Aerobic Digester Conversion Project.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Mayor Grove discussed the results of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the old City of LaSalle Public Works building at 500 2nd Street. The council agreed to table the decision until more information is available.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Grove reminded the public about City Hall being a warming station during the cold weather.

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the resolution continuing the City of LaSalle's electric municipal aggregation program. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader reminded all residents that there will be a meeting on the 20th at 5pm for an informal discussion regarding the housing grant. This will also be streamed online. Applications will be available at the meeting and after that meeting at the city hall. There is not an exact deadline at this time. Whether one was part of the initial survey or not, they would still need to come in and complete the application for this grant.

City Engineer Brian Brown stated that the sewer cleaning project is complete.

Mayor Grove sets a moment of silence for Jeff Hayden, a long-time LaSalle resident and former Alderman.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept, pay, and file the bills from February 18, 2025: Total Submitted: \$765,269.56 (Total Payroll \$223,296.25, Bills to be Paid \$334,452.29, Total Bills Paid \$207,521.02). Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 6:53 pm



Amy Quinn, City Clerk