

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

May 12, 2025

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois, was held
Monday, May 12, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Grove asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mary Kaye Happ who passed away Friday, May 9.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jeff Grove, Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson

Excused Absence: Aldermen Ptak, Herndon, Crane

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jeff Grove, Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane (remotely via phone call)

Excused Absence: Aldermen Ptak, Herndon

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, and City Attorney James McPhedran

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

Mayor Grove opened the floor for public comment, allowing residents to share their thoughts and concerns.

Brianne Hicks expressed interest in an annual citywide cleanup effort and requested information on the City's website regarding parks, specifically St. Mary's Park and Prairie Park, be updated

Lee Pakula of Haze Smokehouse expressed opposition to allowing food trucks in La Salle. Summertime is a prime opportunity for his restaurant to make up for the slower winter months. He advocated for keeping business and profits in the local community.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader advised Mr. Pakula that the three minutes allotted to him for public comment had expired.

Dena Hicks advocated hiring lifeguards at the public pool who could work through the entire season so the pool could remain open longer and for providing more information to the public and taking public comment prior to voting on new ordinances. She also asked how long the City can afford to transport material from the sewer line failure under the Little Vermilion River. She asked why appointments of police and fire chiefs have not been made. She commented on the state of the landscaping outside City Hall.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader advised Mrs. Hicks that the three minutes allotted to her for public comment had expired.

Jamie Hicks noted this is his first City Council meeting after a hiatus of a year. He said he won't be silenced by Council Members and indicated his intention to file a lawsuit because of his belief he is being targeted and persecuted by Council Members.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader advised Mr. Hicks that the three minutes allotted to him for public comment had expired.

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 April 28, 2025. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS

Mayor Grove reviewed the current rules regarding mobile food truck vendor permits. Once a permit is approved the food truck vendor is allowed to be present at 12 events for the

season. In addition, the business hosting the event must obtain a special use permit for each event. Mayor Grove suggested the Council consider at a future meeting reducing the number of events allowed for each permit.

Attorney McPhedran clarified there are two types of special permits: one regarding noise and hours and one regarding food trucks. Noise/hours permits do not currently have a limited number of events attached to them. Food truck permits allow for 12 events outside of downtown (the Central Business District). Originally no downtown food truck permits were allowed, although some exceptions have been made. Action will only be taken on specific requests tonight. Any changes to the ordinances would require notice to and the vote of the full council.

The Central Business District is defined as the area from the railroad on the east to the railroad on the west and the north side of Third Street to the south side of First Street inclusive.

William Hocking of Detour Tap at Third and Bucklin who had a request pending before the Council for this meeting joined the discussion as his request was relevant. He explained that his food truck permit request is because his establishment does not provide food and the restaurant next door won't be open until June. Once the neighboring restaurant opens, he would not be requesting food truck permits. The bands he hires are only contracted until 10 p.m. at the latest, so the noise permit extension request is to allow patrons to enjoy the outdoor patio until 11 p.m. with soft music playing and to protect them from inadvertent noise violations a few minutes after 10 p.m. The additional opportunity for revenue for his business is considerable.

Mayor Grove cautioned about setting a precedent for other bar owners in the City if extended hours for noise are permitted pursuant to Mr. Hocking's request.

It was clarified that the first event Ina Mae Grazing, LLC will attend is at the Hegeler Carus Mansion for the first of the permit request dates.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Lacey Anderson on behalf of Ina Mae Grazing, LLC for a Mobile Food Vendor Permit and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-0

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a 2025 Raffle License Permit from Dani Piland of the City of La Salle Foundation on behalf of Jaiden's Tree of Hope Foundation and related matters.

The City of La Salle Foundation is not affiliated with the City of La Salle.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane, Demes

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-0

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from William Hocking of Detour Tap for a Special Event Permit to allow the extension of outdoor music until 11p.m. on Friday, May 16, Saturday, May 17, Friday, May 23, Saturday, May 24, Friday, May 30, Saturday, May 31, Friday June 6, and Saturday, June 7 at their location at 328 Third Street and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Lavieri, Jeppson

NAYS: Aldermen Reynolds, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Mayor Grove **Absent:** NONE
Abstain: NONE

MOTION DENIED: 2-5-0

Attorney McPhendran asked Mr. Hocking if he would like to pursue his request for food trucks considering the denial of his request for a permit for noise extension. Mr. Hocking indicated he would like to proceed with his request.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to deny the request from William Hocking of Detour Tap for a Special Event Permit to allow food trucks on Friday, May 23, Saturday, May 24, Sunday, May 25, Sunday, June 1, and Sunday, June 8 in the parking lot at their location at 328 Third Street and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Lavieri, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Mayor Grove

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-1-0

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve the Building Inspector's Report for April 2025 showing total fees collected of \$1,780 with total value of construction of \$184,636.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve Monthly Police Income Report for April 2025 showing total fees collected of \$6,566.20.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve Illinois Department of Revenue report showing sales tax collected for January 2025 of \$111,733.60 and Home Rule Sales Tax of \$100, 545.20 for a total of \$212,278.80.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

BIDS

APOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve a donation of \$500 as recommended by a straw vote of the Finance Committee pursuant to a request for a monetary donation of to the Better Fishing Association Kids' Programs and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Jeppson, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Mayor Grove

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-1

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request of Drew and Denise Bernabei for a Redevelopment Incentive Program grant totaling \$1,990 for premises located at 629 First Street and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Mayor Grove

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding potential amendments to City Code related to responsible bidders and related matters.

Attorney McPhedran advised Council members that this item was for discussion only. Peru and Ottawa have similar ordinances and discussions with individuals from those cities to obtain feedback prior to making decisions in La Salle is advisable. Deputy Clerk Bader indicated he would contact Peru and Ottawa officials for more information.

Attorney McPhedran clarified that the City may hire anyone for projects as long as they comply with all government rules and regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Thompson discussed issues resulting in the recent well drilling. City Engineer Brown contacted Alderman Thompson who spoke with those involved in the project. Alderman Thompson said there are a lot of variables that are out of their control, such as hitting a void as happened here. He said he understands what they are doing and why. Alderman Lavieri asked Engineer Brown to check the aquifer in relation to issues he's learned about from other communities' aquifers going dry. Mayor Grove asked for a brief synopsis from Alderman Thompson. Alderman Thompson discussed the process of drilling and when they hit a void it is called "loss of flow." He said they didn't know it was there; they are difficult to identify. Alderman Thompson said they are doing a very adequate job of mitigating that possibility.

Mayor Grove thanked Mr. Jamie Hicks for bringing the sewer line failure under the bridge over the Little Vermilion River to the City's attention. The location is difficult to see, and the failure might have gone unnoticed for some time. Tankers are hauling the sewage while the line is being repaired. Insurance does not cover the repairs and funds will be taken from the City's sewer funds.

Mayor Grove also commented on the landscaping outside City Hall. The contractor will be returning to complete the project now that the weather is cooperative.

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

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the resolution ratifying and confirming authority to provide certification of local approval in regard to Tri-County Opportunities Council and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane, Mayor Grove

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the ordinance authorizing ten-year agreement with the State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Transportation regarding maintenance of municipal streets and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane, Demes

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-0

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve an ordinance allowing waiver and variance to Geoffrey Knafelc and Jane Knafelc for variance and waiver of the requirement of providing a sewer ejection pump pursuant to Ordinance 2157 for premises being constructed at Lot 14 of Vermilionvue subdivision, commonly known as 120 Vermilionvue Trace, La Salle, Illinois, and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Reynolds, Jeppson, Crane, Demes, Thompson

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-1

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve an ordinance allowing waiver and variance to David Safranski and Karen Safranski for variance and waiver of the requirement of providing a sewer ejection pump pursuant to Ordinance 2157 for premises being constructed at Lot 4 of Country Aire subdivision, commonly known as 359 Ator Avenue, La Salle, Illinois, and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Jeppson, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds

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

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-1

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve an Ordinance amending Ordinances regarding certain aspects of compensation, hiring, and residency of paid on-call firefighters, first responders, and members of MABAS teams and related matters.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Jeppson, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regarding pending and/or potentially imminent litigation and related matters: Collective bargaining and related matters, and acquisition and/or sale of city real estate and related matters and the employment, discipline, appointment, performance and/or compensation of non-union and/or union personnel and related matters pursuant to the Open Meetings Act including 5-ILCS 120 Section 2(c)1-2, 5, 6, 11 thereof.

Deputy Clerk Bader reminded members there will be a meeting of the Finance Committee Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers for the initial review of the City budget for 2025-2026.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept, pay, and file the bills from April 28, 2025: \$781,162.07 (Total payroll \$238,832.48, Bills to be Paid \$244,327.84, Total Bills Paid \$298,001.75).

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Crane, Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:58 p.m.

Liz Bishop

Liz Bishop, City Clerk