

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

June 23, 2025

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois, was held
Monday, June 23, 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

ROLL CALL

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

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

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

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

Dawn Hicks criticized Nathan Watson, the City's handling of the relationship with CL Enterprises, and the potential future business relationship with Watson and his new company Glenstone Development.

Amber French, one of the owners of Bankshots Sports Bar & Grill soon to be located in the old Illinois Valley Food Center building, discussed detailed plans for use of the building converting it into a family friendly billiards hall, restaurant, and bar. The building is 28,000 square feet.

Kerry Izzo-Dauber of the La Salle Speedway thanked the council for Special Permits approved by the Council at the previous meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held June 9, 2025. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

PRESENTATION

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to hear a presentation and proposal from Nathan Watson of Glenstone Development regarding potential development of the former City Public Works building at 500 Second Street and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to authorize the Mayor, Finance Director John Duncan, Economic Director Curt Bedai, and Attorney James McPhedran to negotiate a formal agreement with Glenstone Development to be brought back to the Council for review.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aldermen Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Mayor Grove

NAYS: Alderman Demes **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-1-0

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from American Nickeloid Company Community Credit Union to install an illuminated, double-facing ground sign at 154 Third Street and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a 2025 Raffle License from Charles Raley on behalf of The Wave for Charities and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request for a 2025 Raffle License from Kayla Orr on behalf of The Center for Youth and Family Solutions and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Chris Vaske of LP Band Parents to hold a Tag Day Collection on Friday, August 15, 2025, and Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the intersection of 11th and Bucklin Streets and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request from William Hocking of Detour Tap for a Special Event Permit to allow the extension of outdoor music until 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 28; Friday, July 4; Saturday, July 5; Saturday, August 23; Saturday, August 30; Saturday, September 13; Saturday, September 27; Saturday, October 4; all in 2025, and all at their location at 328 Third Street and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0-0

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

COMMUNICATIONS

BIDS

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of Finance Committee regarding extension of prior contract with SewerTech for further sewer cleaning and televising at a cost of \$173,373.45.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of Finance Committee regarding purchase of a backup diesel generator for City Hall and the La Salle Police Department from Cummins at a cost of \$48,490 and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of Finance Committee regarding one-year renewal of membership with North Central Illinois Council of Governments at a cost of \$2,874.60 and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to authorize Pay Request #2 for Municipal Well & Pump totaling \$231,583.87 for work completed to date on 2024 Water System Improvements/Deep Well Drilling project and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to authorize Pay Request #3 for Municipal Well & Pump totaling \$225,366.12 for work completed to date on 2024 Water System Improvements/Deep Well Drilling project and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to authorize Pay Request #10 & Final for Otto Baum Company, Inc. totaling \$52,556.41 for work completed to date on Masonry Restoration project and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Deputy City Clerk Brent Bader indicated there was an error on one of the dates in the previous request by La Salle Speedway for Special Permits for extended noise hours. Wednesday, September 3 should have been Saturday, September 13. In addition, the Sunday, August 17 event is scheduled to conclude by 6 p.m., making a permit for that day unnecessary. Bader requested a straw vote for the September 13 permit request; the straw vote indicated the council will be inclined to approve the request when formally made.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to forward the Petition for Annexation and Rezoning of Donald L. Ashley, Trustee under a Trust Agreement dated July 5, 2001, and Sue M. Ashley, Trustee under a Trust Agreement dated July 5, 2001 (premises in the vicinity of the corner of Chartres Street and Wenzel Road) to the Planning Commission for review.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Bader discussed the ordinance issues for the proposed billiards hall in the former IV Food Center: a limit on the number of pool tables and signed waivers by a parent required for minors present in a billiards hall. Bader suggested reviewing the ordinances and identifying necessary changes. Attorney McPhedran indicated state gaming ordinances would also need to be reviewed.

Alderman Herndon asked Amber French is she planned to have gambling in the business.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to give Ms. French time to speak further to the Council from the podium regarding her plans. She described intended locations, times of operation, and equipment available in the building. She is applying for a gaming license through the state.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Economic Development Director Bedei provided an update on the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) home rehab project. It is entering the next phase where work on the homes will begin.

Bader indicated Katherine Orsini from FYA had requested a raffle license a few hours ago for an event Saturday, June 28 in partnership with the Food Pantry. As a new business owner, he was unaware of the process for obtaining a license. A straw vote was taken, and it was agreed to grant the license in the interest of supporting community non-profit organizations and in the hope that future requests will be in keeping with the required timeline.

Alderman Lavieri asked for clarification on the practice of the Mayor voting on various motions throughout the meeting. Bader explained this issue was discussed at a recent municipal clerk seminar. The cities of Peoria and Normal were cited as examples where the mayor's votes are marked in both the minutes and on the ordinances. The purpose is that the public then knows where the mayor stands on various issues.

Mayor Grove shared the news that Police Chief Mike Smudzinski has provided notice of retirement with his last day to be October 10, 2025. The Mayor spoke of the Chief's exemplary 28-year commitment to and service of the City. La Salle native Jason Stubler who currently serves as a Commander in the City of Naperville will be the new chief beginning October 6, 2025.

Smudzinski updated the Council on the receipt of \$45,102.13 grant from the State for body cameras, squad cameras, and storage. Docking stations are not covered; the cost is approximately \$900.

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

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the Resolution of the City of La Salle consenting to and authorizing an amendment under the Strong Communities R2 Amendment PID# 52439 regarding grant increase and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Grove stated there was no need for an executive session.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file total submitted bills of: \$780,340.45 (Total Payroll \$236,149.93, Bills to be Paid \$440,714.56, Total Bills Paid \$103,475.96).

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Liz" on the top line and "Bishop" on the bottom line.

Liz Bishop, City Clerk