

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

Monday, June 8, 2026

6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Alderman Jeppson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Jeppson, Herndon, and Crane

Excused Absence: Chairman Ptak and Alderman Lavieri

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to appoint Alderman Jeppson Chairman Pro Tem of the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Demes to allow Alderman Lavieri to attend the meeting remotely due to personal illness or disability.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, and Crane

Excused Absence: Chairman Ptak

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Finance Director John Duncan, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Jason Stubler, and Attorney James McPhedran

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting from the May 26, 2026, meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

City Engineer Brian Brown explained that he and Economic Development Director Curt Bedei met with North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) regarding

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a number of infrastructure projects. One eligible project is sewer lining and replacement; locations for the repair work must be identified to obtain the funding. After reviewing at least 30 hours of sewer videos, Brown concluded there must be a more efficient way to take the video and code it using artificial intelligence (AI). He reached out to several different companies. SewerAI was the most responsive. Brown asked for a proposal for next year's budget; however, since the City's budget has not yet been passed and due to time constraints for the funding request, he is seeking pre-authorization to enter into an agreement with SewerAI in order to meet the August 27 funding request deadline.

Brown further explained that the company (Sewer Tech) that took the videos also provides coding; however, the data must be entered manually into a program to determine the best course of action.

Brown reported that he also reached out to the company that took the videos for the City last two winters. They also provide coding; however, the data must be entered manually into a program to determine the best course of action, which is very time-consuming. That company anticipates a 5% increase in their fee next year; however, they indicated if they do not have to do the coding, they would not increase their price to the City. That savings nearly covers the \$18,000 cost for Sewer AI to do the coding.

Brown further explained that SewerAI takes the data they derive from the sewer televising review and creates an implementation plan. The approximate cost of that is \$7,500 per year; SewerAI indicated they would give it to the City free for the first year. The initial price quote was \$24,000: \$12,000 to be on the platform and \$12,000 for coding 40,000 feet of sewers at 30¢ per foot. Brown discussed pricing further with them and SewerAI came back with \$18,000 as the price.

Engaging in this project will assist the City in seeking a \$1.5 million, zero-matching, 100% covered grant through CDBG.

Council members discussed the proposal further reviewing the costs involved and the roles of Sewer Tech and SewerAI. Brown further explained that the result of the review by SewerAI will provide the City with a list of hot areas most in need of attention. Having the areas documented will facilitate the grant request process. The review by SewerAI is expected to be specific as to the extent of repairs needed which should help the City stretch its dollars for repair costs as well as save time.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Crane to recommend that the City Council approve a 12-month agreement with SewerAI for sewer and stormwater data management at a cost of \$18,000 and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** Chairman Ptak **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0

COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Pro Tem Jeppson adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

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

Liz Bishop, City Clerk