

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

July 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois, was held
Monday, July 20, 2026, 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, Finance Director John Duncan, Economic
Development Director Curt Bedei, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Jason Stubler, Fire
Chief Jerry Janick, and City Attorney James McPhedran

A quorum was present.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:30 p.m.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to open the Public Hearing
regarding proposed Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year 2026-2027 and matters related
thereto.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Mayor Grove briefly reviewed the process for developing the Appropriations Ordinance, asked
for any comments regarding it, and explained that it is a working budget. City Attorney James
McPhedran clarified that just because the City appropriates for an item does not necessarily
mean those funds will be spent.

Mayor Grove asked again for any comments regarding the Appropriations Ordinance, and there
were none.

Moved by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to close the Public
Hearing regarding the proposed Appropriations Ordinance for fiscal year 2026-2027 and
matters related thereto.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

The Public Hearing regarding proposed Water Main Replacement Project was closed at 6:32 p.m.

COMMENTS

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

Mr. Wayne Zebron of 590 Baker Avenue came forward to report to the Council about the July 4 storm which resulted in him and at least six of his neighbors having sewage back up into their homes. Mr. Zebron hypothesized that the backup occurred because downspouts and/or sump pumps are improperly connected to the sanitary sewer rather than the storm sewer. He expressed his willingness to work with the City to resolve the issue.

Mr. Chris Duncan of the La Salle Business Association (LBA) was present to issue an invitation from the LBA in coordination with the City to the public to attend a meeting regarding the Illinois Community Canopy Tree Inventory and Management Plan Grant awarded in May by the Trees Forever group. The meeting will be held at the La Salle Public Library Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 7-8 p.m. The amount of the grant is \$37,310. The purpose of the meeting is to learn more about the grant and provide input regarding the types of trees to be selected as well as other greenery and beautification concepts. The Response Growth Collective which is the contractor for the grant will also be present to explain the process.

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 July 6, 2026. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

PRESENTATION

Kate Gillmann, Tourist Director at Heritage Corridor Destinations, appeared in Bob Navarro's stead to present updates on the City's visitor profile. She reviewed how the term visitor is defined, discussed visitor spending, local visitor interactions, and how the data suggests which markets to target for future visitors. Results are gathered from cell phone and credit card data.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from Ameren to break ground at 370 Ator Drive to install gas service.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to refer the request from Jeff Reitgraf to remove the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at 1432 La Harpe Street and related matters to the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee for review.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Mr. Jay Repsel and his team were present at the meeting. Mr. Repsel came forward to explain his request and respond to questions. Parking needs that night for other venues, which portion of the street would be closed, and insurance coverage were discussed.

City Attorney James McPhedran clarified that the City could only authorize use of City property.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Jay Repsel of Dreamwave Wrestling for a Special Event Permit to allow use of city owned property in the parking lot at Second and Wright Streets as well as potentially a street closure on a portion of Second Street between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on October 10, 2026, and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader advised that if food trucks were to be part of the event permits for their use could be obtained in his office.

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Starved Rock Runners to host the “Boo” Milby Memory 5K Run/Walk beginning at 8a.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the La Salle VFW, 2325 Donahue Street, and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept Monthly Police Operations Report for June 2026 showing total fees collected of \$8,829.01.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

BIDS

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of Finance Committee to donate \$250 donation to Voluntary Action Center for Meals on Wheels and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: Alderman Crane **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a three-year power contract with American Electric Power (AEP) for the City of La Salle's pump stations 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

City Attorney James McPhedran clarified that the term "related matters" on the agenda provides for the change from Dynegy as the proposed provider on the agenda to AEP.

Mr. Gary Curtin corrected the house number on his request during the Finance Committee Meeting indicating it is 139-143, not 139-141.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding request from Gary Curtin for Redevelopment Incentive Program (RIP) grant totaling \$1,500.00 for east side facing façade located at 139-143 Gooding Street 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 Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to confirm and ratify a straw vote taken at the July 6, 2026, Council meeting regarding a 2026 Raffle License request from The Center for Youth and Family Solutions and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to authorize Pay Request #1 for John Pohar & Sons, Inc. totaling \$79,823.70 for work completed to date on the Water System Improvements Hydrant & Valve Replacements 2026 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 Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to authorize Pay Request # 1 for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. totaling \$129,308.35 for work completed to date on the Road Improvements-MFT 2026 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

Mayor Grove asked Alderman Demes to discuss the sewer backup situation on Baker Avenue.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Herndon to invite Mr. Zebron to the front of the chamber for further discussion.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Types of valves used in the home's water system and connections to sanitary and storm sewers were discussed. City Engineer Brian Brown indicated the sewers on Baker Avenue would be assessed, televised, and cleaned.

Mayor Grove pointed out this issue is not unique to La Salle.

Mayor Grove indicated approximately 40-50 people attended the recent golf cart rides to the lake at Rotary Park and thanked everyone who assisted.

Rotary Park has been busy with baseball and softball tournaments.

Alderman Demes asked if any applications have been received for check valves. City Engineer Brown indicated he hasn't seen any applications for them for approximately four years.

Alderman Herndon asked about the status of fiber optic cable.

NEW BUSINESS

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4 at Hegeler Park from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve a Resolution authorizing temporary installation of sludge lagoon pipeline at the City of La Salle's Wastewater Treatment Plant 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

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve an Ordinance appropriating for all corporate purposes for the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2027, and related matters. Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

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 the bills: Total Submitted: \$1,089,914.12 (Total Payroll \$278,094.27, Bills to be Paid \$638,629.76, Total Bills Paid \$173,190.09).

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei provided an update on the NCICG (North Central Illinois Council of Governments) grant under which ten La Salle homes were selected for \$60,000 each for upgrades. Three of the homes have been completed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:21 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Bishop".

Liz Bishop, City Clerk