

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL  
April 5, 2021**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove presiding 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 Grove, Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

**Excused Absence:** None

A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held March 22, 2021. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**PETITIONS**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to grant the request of Ameren Illinois to break ground at 2315 Chartres Street to retire gas service. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the requests of the Lighted Way Association and the Voluntary Action Center for 2021 Raffle Licenses. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request of La Salle Little League to hold a Tag Day collection on Friday, May 7, 2021 and Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Bucklin Streets and at Casey's General Store and Shell Gas station. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for February 2021 showing total fees collected of \$0.00 with total value of construction of \$0.00. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for March 2021 showing total fees collected of \$1,300 with total value of construction of \$965,136.00. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to hire Hopkins and Associates as auditor for the City of La Salle for fiscal year ending April 30, 2021. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee to establish a speed limit of 50 mph both eastbound and westbound on Raccuglia Drive from Chartres Street to Route 351 (St. Vincent Avenue) Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Chairman Bacidore stated that it was the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee to table any action until the next meeting regarding implementing additional measures to inform the public regarding potential changes to public streets.**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee to reject the establishment of any type of application fee for potential changes to public streets. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

### **APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

In regard to the promotion to the position of Sergeant, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski explained that when he became Chief, he did not automatically move someone in a rank position into investigations to fill his absence. He said he took his time, observed and supervised a bit. He explained that it has now been about seven months and he believes Curt Martin is ready to take on the position. Chief Smudzinski explained that Detective Martin has worked with him in investigations for the past 5 ½ years and has done a great job. He noted that investigations is not an easy role to step into, it takes time to learn. Chief Smudzinski stated that even though Curt Martin is third on the promotion eligibility list, he consulted with Attorney John Broyer and was informed that he has the right to promote him ahead of others. Chief explained that it would not make sense to pull Curt Martin from investigations when he has been there for 5 ½ years and is familiar with the work. The number two guy is also ready for a promotion and when something opens up within the department he will be promoted. Mayor Grove asked Chief Smudzinski if he had explained his decision to those higher on the promotion list, and Chief stated that he had and they understood.

**APPOINTMENT: Curt Martin to  
Sergeant of Investigation  
Division**

It was then moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to promote Curt Martin to the rank of Sergeant of the Investigation Division. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought forth.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Grove reminded the aldermen that the HVAC contract for library upgrades was previously awarded to John's Service and Sales, however the electrical portion of the job was not included in the bid. Mayor Grove stated that he received three electrical bids and would like to take a straw vote in regard to awarding the contract to the low bidder Ficek Electric & Communications Systems, Inc. totaling \$32,681. The straw vote will be ratified at the next council meeting. All alderman were in favor of accepting the bid from Ficek Electric.

City Engineer Brian Brown said that Ameren is installing a fiber optic line from their campus on Raccuglia Drive to Route 351, 351 to 11<sup>th</sup> Street east to Creve Coeur and south to Canal. Mr. Brown said he received a call last week and informed Ameren that they could not move forward until he saw a set of plans to ensure they were not in conflict with our water lines, etc. and to ensure we have some type of agreement in place that provides protections for the city since they are installing on our R.O.W. Mr. Brown said he just got the plans today, but asked if it would be possible to take a straw vote authorizing him to permit Ameren to move forward if he is comfortable with the plans. He said he also asked Ameren to prove that they have authorization from IDOT to work on 351.

Mayor Grove asked the City Engineer if we would be able to tap onto the fiber lines if we needed to. Mr. Brown said he thought the lines were for their own use, however he said it has been difficult to get much information out of Ameren.

A straw poll was taken with all aldermen in favor of authorizing City Engineer Brown to permit Ameren to continue with the installation of the fiber lines if the plans were suitable. Attorney McPhedran asked that Ameren is notified that formal action will be taken at the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and place on file **Ordinance 2923:** An Ordinance further regulating parking within the City of La Salle in the vicinity of 240 First Street. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: Alderman Demes Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion carried 7-1**

**Ordinance 2923: Further  
regulating parking within the City**

**of La Salle in the vicinity of 240 First Street.**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and place on file **Ordinance 2924**: An Ordinance further regulating parking within the City of La Salle (Handicapped parking at 1045 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 328 Crosat Street) Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Ordinance 2924: An Ordinance further regulating parking within the City of La Salle (Handicapped parking at 1045 9th Street and 328 Crosat Street)**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and place on file **Ordinance 2925**: An Ordinance further regulating parking within the City of La Salle in the vicinity of 206 Marquette Street. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: Alderman Lavieri

**Motion Carried 7-0-1**

**Ordinance 2925: Further regulating parking within the City of La Salle in the vicinity of 206 Marquette Street.**

City Engineer Brian Brown explained that this next ordinance is necessary as part of the intergovernmental agreement with IDOT for work being done on 351 of which the city has some cost sharing. In the agreement it states that we have to enforce parking as it is stated in our ordinances. In looking at our ordinances, Mr. Brown said he discovered that our ordinances showed restricted parking in certain areas on Route 351 near Hegeler Park, near Lincoln school and on Canal near Lock 16. The following ordinance will formally clarify that parking is allowed in those areas.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve and place on file **Ordinance 2926**: An Ordinance clarifying parking regulations on certain portions of Route 351 (Joliet Street/ St. Vincent Avenue) Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Ordinance 2926: An Ordinance clarifying parking regulations on certain portions of Route 351 (Joliet Street/ St. Vincent Avenue)**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve and place on file **Ordinance 2927**: An Ordinance authorizing agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation regarding improvements to Illinois Route 351/US Route 6 (Joliet Street/St. Vincent Avenue). Each and every alderman has a copy.

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**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Ordinance 2927: Ordinance authorizing agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation regarding improvements to Illinois Route 351/US Route 6 (Joliet Street/St. Vincent Avenue).**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve and place on file **Resolution 202104:** A Resolution for Improvement under Illinois Highway Code (Portion of Crosat Street). Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Resolution 202104: A Resolution for Improvement under Illinois Highway Code (Portion of Crosat Street).**

City Engineer Brown explained that the above Resolution is for the Crosat Street improvements from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. This allows the city to use Rebuild Illinois funds. The City receives six installments of \$105,000. Instead of taking money from Motor Fuel Tax, we are going to use Rebuild Illinois funds. Because this is fully a city project, we are allowed to use the Rebuild Illinois Funds.

City Engineer Brown said this next resolution allows us to use Motor Fuel Tax funds to pay for those items the city is responsible on the route. This includes items such as parking, ADA ramps and other items. Mr. Brown said he and the Mayor verified all items that IDOT indicted to be the city's responsibility to pay for. Mr. Brown explained that the total cost of the project is \$3,200,000 with the city's portion being \$100,000. However, the actual city improvements cost \$578,000, but the state pays 80% of those improvements with the city being responsible for the balance of \$115,600.

Mayor Grove asked if there was any chance to have the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Route 351 to be replaced with concrete. City Engineer Brown said it may be difficult to request this from IDOT at this stage of the game. Mr. Brown said he will mention it.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve and place on file **Resolution 202105:** A Resolution for Improvement under Illinois Highway Code (Illinois Route 351/US Route 6-Joliet Street/St. Vincent Avenue). Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Resolution 202105: A  
Resolution for Improvement  
under Illinois Highway Code  
(Portion of Crosat Street).**

Alderman Demes asked if it would be possible to look at the increasing the speed limit to 40 mph on 24<sup>th</sup> Street west from Chartres Street to the city limits. Alderman Crane seconded Alderman Demes' motion and suggested the topic be sent to the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee for further consideration.

**Chairman Bacidore announced a meeting of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee on April 19, 2021 immediately following the 6 p.m. Finance meeting to consider Alderman Demes' suggestion.**

### **COMMENTS**

Mike Girton requested that the council reevaluate the Non-Highway Vehicle Ordinance. He said he did a bit of research and obtained a copy of Dixon's ordinance regarding this issue. Dixon is a larger town and they were having issues with motorized bikes. Their ordinance got control by requiring a bike permit and insurance. They also have side by sides, but their Police Chief said those were not as much as a problem as the motorized bikes. They made the fines large enough in their ordinance, (\$100-\$750) that obtaining a permit and insurance was less costly than getting a fine, which encouraged owners to get the permit, hence giving the city more control. Mike Girton gave a copy of Dixon's ordinance to Deputy Clerk Bader who will provide copies to each alderman. Alderman Crane clarified that in Dixon's ordinance, it also addresses golf carts, side by sides as well as the motorized bicycles. Alderman Crane requested that the issue also be sent to the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee for further evaluation. Alderman Jeppson seconded the motion. Mayor Grove said the council did consider this topic a few years ago, but at that time decided not to allow these types of non-highway vehicles within the City of La Salle.

**Alderman Bacidore stated that this issue will also be discussed at the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee meeting scheduled for April 19, 2021 immediately following the 6 p.m. Finance Meeting.**

Alderman Herndon wondered if the pedi-cab will be operating this year. Deputy Clerk Bader said he has not heard anything.

Superintendent Bumgarner said Ameren will be here tomorrow morning to replace the transformers at the pump station which were temporarily replaced during last week's outage. There will be no service disruption. Mayor Grove complimented the Public Works department and Pump Station staff for keeping service to businesses and our 9,300 residents during last week's outage. Tom Lijewski, who has worked in the water department for over thirty years, said this was the first outage of this magnitude that he has seen in his career with the city.

Alderman Lavieri said he noticed an invoice for a pump at Well #6 and wondered if there was a service issue. Jeff Bumgarner explained that it was actually a replacement of a pump that the manufacturer had warrantied previously. He said that there is an issue with the power feed and we have filed an insurance claim for this current bill. One pump was installed and failed so the manufacturer replaced that pump assuming it was equipment failure. The replacement pump then failed and that is the invoice Alderman Lavieri noticed. Superintendent Bumgarner explained that manufacturer will not replace the pump again as they believe the problem is on our end. Mr. Bumgarner said they will

either file a claim through Ameren as it seems there have been recent power spikes. He indicated that Ameren had been out at the site investigating these power spikes, but Mr. Bumgarner was unsure if they would accept liability for the pump failure. Alderman Crane wondered if the original specs could have been incorrect or installation was done incorrectly. Superintendent Bumgarner said he did not believe that was the case as it is the same type of pump that had run for many years before, this pump was just from a different manufacturer.

For clarification in regard to the Resolutions passed earlier in the meeting, City Engineer Brian Brown said that where it indicates Route 6, this is only for the portion of Joliet Street from Third Street to Fifth Street where it is both Route 6 and 351. Route 6 itself is not being repaved. Mayor Grove recapped that the 351 improvements go from Canal Street to the Flying J. Crosat Street improvements are from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, work will be done on 24<sup>th</sup> Street west from Chartres to the La Salle State Bank building. City Engineer Brown said in the future he would like to add Chartres from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> using the same type of funding as we are using on Crosat Street. Alderman Reynolds asked if 24<sup>th</sup> will be widened a bit. City Engineer Brown said it would be wider, but not three lanes. He said it will also have curb, gutter, and storm sewer. Alderman Crane asked if there would be sidewalk. City Engineer Brown said there will not be sidewalk at this time, but it will be set aside for sidewalk.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and place on file bills for April 5, 2021 with Total Submitted: \$287,642.24 (Total Payroll \$167,379.68, Bills to be Paid \$82,546.51, Total Bills Paid \$37,716.05) Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to adjourn the meeting.  
Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Mayor Grove announced that tomorrow is election day and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

**ADJOURNED 7:11 p.m.**



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Carrie Brown, City Clerk