

Meeting of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee of the City of La Salle
April 19, 2021
Immediately Following the Finance Committee Meeting - City Hall Council Chambers

Chairman Bacidore called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Present- Alderman Bacidore, Alderman Ptak, Alderman Reynolds, Alderman Lavieri, Alderman Jeppson, Alderman Herndon, Alderman Crane

Absent- None

Others Present- Deputy City Clerk Brent Bader, Attorney Jim McPhedran, Alderman Demes, Economic Development Director Leah Inman

A quorum was present.

It was moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve and place on file the minutes of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee for April 5, 2021. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

In regard to the agenda item for further discussion regarding additional measures to inform the public regarding potential changes to public streets, Economic Development Director Leah Inman reported back to the committee her findings as far as the capabilities of the new GovPilot software. She explained that the software allows the user to pick a specific address and then the software can determine other addresses within a pre-selected radius. Those addresses can then be exported and used for the purpose of creating a mailing as a means to notify residents. She stated that owner information is pulled from the County Assessor's office. At this time, the county does not provide email addresses as it is private information.

Discussion continued among the committee members as to details such as who would actually take care of preparing and mailing these letters, the cost element and the types of situations where this could be used. Overall, the aldermen felt the software was a helpful tool. Director Inman said the mailings would be prepared by City personnel that could include herself, Beth Ketter or Deputy Clerk Bader.

Attorney McPhedran suggested this could be done as an informal practice. He said from what he is hearing from the discussions of the committee this would be done on a case by case basis. He said that seemed like a reasonable approach as if it was done across the board in some situations it could be quite costly. Attorney McPhedran suggested that when an issue is brought before the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee, at that time the committee can determine an appropriate radius so the city staff knows which residents are to receive the notifications. Attorney McPhedran reminded the committee that there had been previous discussions about providing additional notification on a physical sign placed in the area in question so people driving by could also be made aware. Attorney McPhedran explained that the addresses provided by the County Assessor are the addresses where tax bills are sent. These addresses would have nothing to do with a tenant in a rental property.

Leah Inman responded that with the tax bills there is the option choose the street address or the mailing address. Alderman Lavieri commented that this software could also be helpful when notifying residents regarding variance requests or zoning changes.

Alderman Herndon stated that he agreed with Attorney McPhedran that deciding who should be notified should be done on a case by case basis.

Alderman Demes said he did not think notification was necessary when a stop sign is requested as the change could affect a large number of residents so a mailing would be quite costly, but he did think it was a useful tool for notification purposes when a request is received that would change the traffic flow or parking on a certain street.

Alderman Reynolds inquired if the software was up and running and ready to be used. Director Inman stated that it was. She added that as people begin using the software for certain types of licenses, email addresses will also be collected. This could provide an opportunity down the road for some notifications to potentially be sent via email.

Alderman Ptak asked Director Inman if this software is what she had hoped it would be. He said it seems as if it has taken awhile to get up and running. Director Inman responded by saying that there has been a lot of building going on in the background and one of the final training sessions on Work Orders is taking place this week. She indicated that they did not want to release the program to everyone until all the kinks were worked through. However, the portion being discussed this evening is up and ready to use.

Alderman Bacidore asked if the committee wanted to put this to a vote. Attorney McPhedran stated that the law does not require this type of notification for the specific circumstances being discussed and therefore cautioned the committee about putting a formal policy in place. He explained that once a formal policy is in place, it has to be followed. Attorney McPhedran said it is important to be transparent and give as much notice as possible, but cautioned the committee that what they choose to make as policy must then be adhered to.

Chairman Bacidore said that it is his understanding that it is the consensus of the committee that these notifications will be handled on a case by case basis. Attorney McPhedran said he thinks that is a good place to start. He said this most likely will be a work in progress and the committee can always change it in the future.

In regard to the request to change the speed limit to 40 mph westbound on 24th Street from Chartres Street to the La Salle Peru border, Alderman Crane said he agrees with changing the speed limit to 40 mph, but as he thought about this more in the weeks since the last meeting, he feels the issue should be tabled until the new construction is completed. Alderman Demes said it is difficult to do 30 mph on that road and thinks we should change it now.

City Engineer Brian Brown asked Attorney McPhedran if a conversation with Peru is warranted since the south side of the road is in Peru. Attorney McPhedran said we probably should reach out to Peru however he noted that the city is currently in discussions with Peru regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement concerning this roadway where Peru tentatively may pay 25% of the road improvements. Attorney McPhedran made it clear that the agreement has not been finalized.

Alderman Crane once again suggested tabling the issue. The committee was in agreement and will recommend to the City Council that the issue is tabled at this time.

In regard to the re-evaluation of the operation of certain non-state licensed motorized vehicles within the City of La Salle, Chairman Bacidore asked for input on the matter.

Alderman Lavieri said that he felt this topic was covered thoroughly a few years ago.

Alderman Demes explained his personal encounters and concerns with a particular resident who operates a three-wheeler bicycle. He explained safety concerns as the resident does not obey traffic signals which can endanger the operator and others. Alderman Demes explained that because this type of bicycle is currently not regulated by any city ordinances and the operator is not required to have any type of license, the most our police department can do is issue a bicycle citation. Alderman Demes said he is in favor of passing an ordinance similar to that of Geneseo which requires registration, inspections, and stickers for various types of motorized vehicles. Alderman Bacidore asked Alderman Demes specifically if he was in favor of golf carts. Alderman Demes stated that he was in favor.

Alderman Bacidore expressed concern that the operators of golf carts and other vehicles of that nature will not obey traffic signals. He said, even if they are told, they will not obey the rules.

Alderman Crane said the city has the right to institute fines for failure to comply. Alderman Bacidore responded that if you fine them \$50, but they do not lose their license, it does not have much impact.

La Salle resident Mike Girton said if you look at Dixon's ordinance they have fines from \$100 to \$700. This allows repeat offenders to be given higher fines. Mr. Girton said he spoke with a Dixon Police Lieutenant and asked if they have had any hiccups with the ordinance. The Lieutenant said they have not had any issues with the side by sides. Mr. Girton explained that in Dixon, a sticker cannot be obtained until all requirements of the ordinance are met which include age requirements, proof of insurance, presenting a valid license etc. Mike Girton indicated that Dixon does have a curfew in place for the operation of these types of vehicles.

Attorney McPhedran stated that in the draft ordinance that this council considered some years ago, but did not pass due to the lack of a second on the motion, many of the same items the Dixon ordinance covers were also outlined in our draft ordinance. Attorney McPhedran pointed out that the Dixon ordinance seems to exclude some of the things that this council is indicating they want to include. He said in his reading of the ordinance, it does not talk about things such as golf carts. Attorney McPhedran also noted that within the draft ordinance prepared years ago, many of the items Mr. Girton mentioned such as an age requirement, holding a valid driver's license, providing proof of insurance, fines and penalties were included.

Alderman Crane said he would want to create our own ordinance any way and not necessarily use what another community has done.

Mayor Grove said we could always try this for a year and see how things go.

Alderman Demes said the last time this was brought up it was basically in regard to possibly allowing golf carts in downtown La Salle from Third Street to Canal Street, border to border.

Alderman Lavieri responded by pointing out that if someone meets all the requirements that were laid out in the draft ordinance, you are basically back to motorcycle and cars as those requirements come with a cost of \$20,000 for a four-wheeled vehicle. Without these requirements, we are back to the

same problem because the police have to catch them and that does not make it any safer for those on the road.

Alderman Demes said he thinks we need an ordinance to control electric and other small, motored unlicensed bicycles that are all over town and disobeying traffic signals and rules of the road. Alderman Bacidore said the same thing will happen with golf carts as with the bikes Alderman Demes is referring to.

Alderman Demes said his main point in supporting action on this matter is to have some tool that the police can use to control the bicycles that are electric and the small motorized unlicensed bicycles to ensure they have to obey the State of Illinois traffic laws. Alderman Demes said if the council chooses not to allow golf carts he was fine with that.

Alderman Demes said he liked the Mayor's idea of trying this for a year. Alderman Lavieri pointed out that these vehicles are expensive and people may go out and buy something knowing this ordinance was passed only to have it possibly change in a year and not be allowed to use it.

Chairman Crane said he would like to see further discussion on this matter and is not in favor of using another city's ordinance. Alderman Jeppson said he felt we need more that 15 minutes to talk about this.

Chairman Bacidore called for a roll call vote to see if there were three committee members in favor of moving forward with further investigating a potential ordinance regarding the operation of non-state licensed motorized vehicles.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Alderman Ptak, Alderman Jeppson, Alderman Crane

Nays: Alderman Reynolds, Alderman Lavieri, Alderman Herndon, Chairman Bacidore

Motion failed: 3-4 (Chairman Bacidore broke the tie vote by voting nay)

Attorney McPhedran provided copies the draft ordinance that was considered a few years ago for the aldermen to use as a reference point.

Alderman Ptak wondered how the committee felt about the downtown boundaries previously suggested. Alderman Crane and Demes felt there needs to be whole town boundaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Carrie Brown, City Clerk