

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
June 1, 2021**

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held Monday, June 1, 2021 at 6:40 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove presiding with proper notices being duly and continuously posted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present - Mayor Grove, Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

Absent - NONE

A quorum was present.

Others Present: Economic Developer Leah Inman, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski, Finance Director John Duncan, Deputy Clerk Brent Bader.

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 May 17, 2021. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Crane to proclaim June 11, 2021 as Lily Rosploch Day.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Proclamation: Lily Rosploch Day is
proclaimed to be June 11, 2021.**

Alderman Herndon recommended that he would like to see June 11 till eternity become a forever day that the City of LaSalle will recognize. The council will reach out to the family and make sure this date works for them for the future.

PETITIONS

Moved Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground at 1335 Tonti Street to repair a gas leak.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request

from Designs and Signs on behalf of Save-A-Lot to install an illuminated, single facing wall sign at 802 Joliet Street.

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 Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request from Designs and Signs on behalf of JC Whitney to install a non-illuminated, single-facing wall sign at 1 JC Whitney Drive.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Danielle and Ryley Bunzell for a Redevelopment Incentive Program grant totaling \$2,482 for premises located at 414 First Street.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Aldermen Herndon and seconded by Aldermen Lavieri to accept and place on file the Monthly Police Income Report for April 2021 showing total fees collected of \$11,034.27.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

NCAT wrote a thank you to the city of LaSalle for their \$2,500 donation. NCAT stated that this donation will help make possible the transportation services for the community members.

Moved by Aldermen Ptak and seconded by Aldermen Crane to accept and place on file the thank you letter from North Central Area Transit.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Aldermen Ptak discussed the article that was published in the Chicago Tribune (Exhibit A) and written by Kevin Wallace, Mayor of Bartlett, Illinois. The city of LaSalle is not in favor of having less of our tax dollars coming back to the city of LaSalle. The city does not need this amount reduced that is given to the local government distribution fund.

The Council can set a Proclamation and for it to go on record in regards to the city's position. Alderman Ptak has a letter from the City of LaGrange that the city can use a sample letter. The city will send these letters to our local representatives and the Governor to state that we are aware and not in favor of it.

Moved by Aldermen Ptak and seconded by Aldermen Reynolds to form a proclamation to announce that the City of LaSalle is against the reduction in the distribution fund.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Herndon suggested contacting surrounding towns to share the proclamation with them. Deputy Clerk Bader will contact Spring Valley, Peru, and Oglesby.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to deny the request for a monetary donation towards the Illinois Valley YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign.

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 Ptak and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request to renew \$100 sponsorship with La Salle Little League for a sponsorship sign in Hegeler Park.

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 Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and accept the request from Danielle and Ryley Bunzell for a Redevelopment Incentive Program grant totaling \$2,482 for premises located at 414 First Street.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Aldermen Ptak and seconded by Aldermen Lavieri to approve a city vehicle and small equipment sealed bid sale.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Attorney McPhedran discussed how each vehicle should be sold "as-is" and with a set reserve. There will be a publication put together to advertise each of these vehicles with their specs. Mayor and council agreed to let Patrick Watson decide on the reserve prices on each of the vehicles.

Moved by Aldermen Ptak and seconded by Aldermen Reynolds to approve the trade of two lawnmowers to Smith Sales and Service for one new lawnmower.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Aldermen Bacidore asked to table the discussion for two weeks regarding a request for a no outlet or dead-end sign at the north end of Bartley, Aplington, and Hayley St.

Moved by Aldermen Bacidore and seconded by Aldermen Reynolds to approve the City's Ordinance as it pertains to electric bicycles and the associated fines.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Aldermen Demes recommended that stickers should be taken off of vehicles before sale of the city vehicles. Patrick Watson reassured the Mayor that the stickers are getting taken off and will be off before the sale of the vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

- This Friday and Saturday there will be Music and Art in the Park, at Pulaski Park, at 5th and Crosat. Music and Food start at 4pm. All the money that will be made will go to Rotary Park Foundation.
- Swimming Pool is open. It opened on May 22nd. Reminder to all that it's a nice, heated pool. Kudos to Linda for getting together a great team of lifeguards and staff.
- Thank you to the City Crew, Beth, Leah, Patrick, and Jerry went through the old Casey's building to see what they can salvage for the city. The outside of the building is cleaned up and looks better. Ax Church is planning to paint the building for their 'Week of Love'. Chief Janick was told that the fire department can use the building if they want it for the department.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve and request permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to close off a portion of U.S. 6 during the City's Celebrate La Salle 5K Run/Walk.

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 Herndon to approve and authorize the execution of a tax increment financing (TIF) district redevelopment agreement by and between the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois and Starved Rock Rentals, Inc. (503 3rd Street Project).

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Alderman Demes started discussion of what fireworks are and are not legal in the state of Illinois. Aldermen Demes asked for a statement from the city in regards to what they are going to do in regards to fireworks. Attorney McPhedran and Chief Smudzinski conferred again in regards to the ordinance and fines. The city is prohibiting the fireworks that are the illegal types and setting fines at \$750. The City of LaSalle is a Home Rule Municipality so the city can double their fees to a max of \$1500. Additionally, the city has streamlined the definition by being consistent with the state statute. The city also regulated where they can be sold, Brick and Mortar Buildings only and zoning that have M1 or M2. This will keep them out of the neighborhoods and downtown. Aldermen Lavieri asked for the fines to be publicized. Aldermen Demes asked again for a statement to be drafted for city residents to state that the city has adopted an ordinance, fireworks are illegal in Illinois, and that the city will be enforcing this ordinance.

Moved by Aldermen Demes and seconded by Aldermen Reynolds to approve potential action on an Ordinance further regulating "Fireworks" within the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois amending Ordinance No. 2895.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Moved by Aldermen Demes and Seconded by Aldermen Reynolds to approve and

accept an ordinance amending Title VII: Traffic Code of the La Salle City Code regarding further regulating the use of certain non-highway and other vehicles within the City of La Salle.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

COMMENTS

- Aldermen Bacidore suggested that a nice painted fire truck or any sort of painted mural would look nice on the Old Casey's Building. He stated that he would possibly get in touch with the LP art department.
- Mayor thanked the LBA for their partnership. City planters and flowers are looking great around the city.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and place on file bills for June 1, 2021 with Total Submitted: \$908,859.43 (Total Payroll \$183,500.85, Bills to be paid \$107,483.33, Total Bills Paid \$617,875.25)

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.

ADJOURNED 7:18pm



Amy Quinn, City Clerk

Exhibit A

We're being squeezed, Pritzker

Stop siphoning money away from towns and villages



Gov. J.B. Pritzker answers questions at Kennedy King College on March 26. Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune

BY KEVIN WALLACE

For the past decade, Springfield has been taking a substantial portion of revenue from Illinois municipalities, arguing that state government needs the money more than local taxpayers.

Much of the revenue that cities, villages and counties count on to provide basic services comes from the state income taxes that are collected by the state and then redistributed

back to local governments on a per capita basis.

These funds can amount to up to 20% of a town's operating budget, or millions of dollars each year that are used to pay for such essential things as public safety (police and fire departments); transportation and storm/wastewater infrastructure (roads, bridges and flood prevention); and community health care and mental health programs.

These are the basic services that residents — regardless of where they live — pay for and expect. This revenue, which is cycled back to local governments through the Local Government Distributive Fund, reduces the need to increase property taxes, which in Illinois are already among the highest in the nation.

Local governments have been receiving a portion of LGDF for more than 50 years, but in 2011, Springfield increased the state income tax and also started taking a larger share of the local pie — dropping the agreed-upon 10% it gives back to just 6.06%.

This year, Gov. J.B. Pritzker has proposed taking an additional \$152 million from the approximately \$1.5 billion LGDF to fill the state budget gap. But as local mayors, many of us are facing our own budget challenges. The COVID-19 crisis and economic shutdown have wreaked havoc on local finances across Illinois. Absorbing and overcoming additional losses in LGDF money would be extremely difficult.

To make up for continued LGDF losses, towns will face the option of cutting services, laying off personnel or raising property taxes. Making matters worse, keeping LGDF payments at current levels places a heavier burden on towns that can least afford it — those already hurting from weaker tax bases (especially with main streets suffering) and sky-high property taxes.

And while we welcome federal relief through the American Rescue Plan, those dollars amount to a one-time disbursement and have restrictions on how they can be spent. In other words, federal aid does not replace LGDF dollars and certainly doesn't solve the long-term, structural problems that exist.

The best way to end this recurring fiscal battle and ensure some stability in the services residents rely on is for the state to restore LGDF funding to the agreed-upon 10% rate. Of course, it's easy for the state to argue that it's in no position to do that; however, if it continues relying on local funds to plug its own budget holes, Springfield will only face bigger, more difficult fiscal challenges down the road.

We understand the need to bring back some fiscal sanity to the state. But siphoning local revenue does nothing to fix an unsustainable system; instead, it merely shifts the burden by balancing the budget on the backs of local taxpayers.

Our nine regional councils of government representing 275 municipalities — including Chicago — are asking Springfield to do what it promised and, more importantly, to do what's right. If we expect to reemerge from the pandemic, we need to make changes that will help reposition Illinois, including its 1,300 municipalities, for a brighter future.

Kevin Wallace is mayor of Bartlett and chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, representing 275 municipalities in metro Chicago.