

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
January 10, 2021**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held Monday, January 10, 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 Jeff Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Crane

Absent: Alderman Ptak, Alderman Herndon

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Superintendent of Public Works Patrick Watson, Finance Director John Duncan, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Engineer Brian Brown, City Attorney Jim McPhedran, Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski

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 December 27, 2021. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve and accept the Monthly Police Income Report for December 2021 showing total fees collected of \$4,464.05. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve, accept, and place on file the Treasurer's Report for December 2021 showing total cash balances in LaSalle State Bank of \$11,626,612.51 and in Hometown National Bank of \$5,811,224.08.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the purchase of leaf vac for the Public Works department with final price of \$103,857.82, including three old city trade-ins. Purchase will be made with Bonnell Industries and the city will be using Sewer funds.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** Aldermen Ptak, Herndon **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

APPOINTMENTS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to accept the Mayor's recommendations of appointments to Nancy Nieslawski for the Library Board and Mike Nieslawski to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** Aldermen Ptak, Herndon **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to authorize and pay Final Pay Estimate to Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. totaling \$53,028.00 for work completed to date one the 2021 Patching Program project.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** Aldermen Ptak, Herndon **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Mayor asked if the Council could put the discussion of the 2022 Motor Fuel Tax Project and the Estimated Costs on hold until all council members are present and more of a paired down list would be available to discuss.

Alderman Crane asked if the new Peru Subdivision would affect the LaSalle's side of the plans with the Wenzel Road project. City Engineer Brown explained that there are no changes to the present plan and that it will remain as two lanes for the time being. Alderman Crane mentioned that it would be nice to see a walk path included in the Wenzel project. Peru will probably put a sidewalk along the subdivision but there is no right away on the south sides. City Engineer Brown did state that there is definitely a walk path currently in the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Bacidore mentioned that Alderman Herndon had some concerns in regards to the snow removal. Alderman Bacidore stated that he is not happy with the current snow plow system when the plows come out when the police say it's slippery. Mayor Grove reminded Bacidore that weather reports and Accuweather were stating that everyone was advised to stay in for the night. He also reminded the Council that salt only works if it is 15-20 degrees fahrenheit or warmer. That particular weekend did not get above that temperature. Mayor Grove discussed the work hours of the city workers from Friday, Dec. 31 - Saturday, Jan. 1st. City Workers logged 78 hours that weekend. Mayor Grove asked Alderman Bacidore to suggest some ideas for the City and for Superintendent Watson to improve the current snow plow system. No suggestions were given. Mayor did remind the council that this was the first snow of the season also. Fire Chief Janick did confirm there were no local accidents in town that weekend. Alderman Crane stated that since he has had the experience within the City Street department, he would sit down with Superintendent Watson to discuss any ideas or suggestions with him for the next time the snow hits. Alderman Bacidore asked to also join in on that conversation whenever it may take place.

Alderman Bacidore stated he received complaints from Illinois Cement workers from last Saturday/Sunday (January 8th-9th) ice. Superintendent Watson had workers out by 7am that Sunday morning. Mayor reminded Alderman Bacidore that the city has to be mindful of when

they send the workers out. On a Sunday, most are not going to work or school. Mayor also reminded the Council that city workers need to receive a minimum of 8-hour break between their plow shifts. Superintendent Watson stated that 10 people make for a full plow crew. The salt crew has 4 workers. It takes about 4 to 6 hours for a normal plow shift to plow the city depending on how much snow. Mayor did ask Superintendent Watson to make sure Illinois Cement hill gets done on those snow/ice days. Illinois Cement does run 24 hours a day. Finance Director Duncan did a quick estimate on how much it took financially for a plow crew to go out. He estimated the cost to be about \$2,500 to send a crew out, gas, wear on vehicle, and salt.

Alderman Crane spoke in regards to the Public Works building meeting that took place last Wednesday. Engineer Brown stated that they did take the ideas and suggestions and measured and drew up what engineer and architectural work would have to be done to start this project. The drawings have been given to the Mayor and will be passed onto Superintendent Watson. The city is looking at what they can do on their own and then get other local contractors involved. Mayor and Alderman Crane both agreed that Wednesday's meeting was very productive.

COMMENTS

Alderman Crane wanted to compliment Superintendent Watson by stating that most of his recent agenda items are looking forward to bettering the city. Watson is doing a great job by updating and purchasing equipment. He has a vision for the future of the city. Crane stated that more has been done in the last 5 months than it has in the last 5 years.

Mayor Grove also stated that Supt. Watson does a good job doing his homework on equipment and pricing before it is even presented to the Council. Mayor also stated that Superintendent Watson is trying to get some money back for every piece of old equipment from the excess inventory.

Finance Director Duncan wanted to speak in regards to Republic and the past and current issues that the city is facing with this company in regards to waste and recycling pickup. Since March 2021, the City has met with Republic and begun a complaint spreadsheet. The company agreed with hesitation at the time of doing a root cause analysis. The City has been in contact with Republic multiple times before March 2021 but, as of March 2021, the city began logging each and every complaint. Duncan has stated that they have gone through peaks and valleys within this time frame. The city will see corrections being made but then log 5 complaints in a row and Republic can not stay consistent. The company continues to create a handful of excuses. This has then led to a weekly contact with their district manager, since Oct. 2021. Currently, every Friday there is a 2pm conference call to review any complaints for the week. The City does not feel that they have got to an acceptable standard, with the last two weeks being tragically bad. The city has averaged 25 to 30 complaints in the recent two weeks. The City would like to see Republic get to an average of only 5 complaints in a week. The contract comes due in one year. The city is continuing to attempt to resolve the issue for the residents and hold Republic accountable as best as the city can. The best thing for the residents is to not call customer service but to call City Hall. The City has daily email/phone communication, and weekly district manager phone calls. The city is looking forward to the contract ending in one year.

Mayor stated the drivers for Republic are trying and short staffed. The containers are not the issue with this pickup problem at the time. Mayor would have liked to see more communication

and ownership from Republic. The city will continue to do their best with Republic and hope they will do their best working with the city also for the next year. Duncan also stated that there is a lot of labor involved in the city's current contract. The drivers are constantly changing for the better routes. Good drivers are going onto different, less labor intensive routes. Duncan reminded the Council that It is hard to find good help and hard to retain that good help.

It was advised to put any live Christmas trees still out for Republic and if they do not get picked up in the next week then residents can call City Hall.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Crane to accept, pay, and place on file bills for December 27, 2021 with Total Submitted: \$676,874.22 (Total Payroll \$185,801.48, Bills to be paid \$391,187.91, Total Bills Paid \$99,884.83). Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None **Absent:** Aldermen Ptak, Herndon **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

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

Voice vote. all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED 7:13 pm

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

Amy Quinn, City Clerk