

Minutes of the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Commission
of the City of La Salle, Illinois
Monday, August 4, 2025
Immediately Following the Finance Committee Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers

Chairman Demes called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Demes, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, and Crane

Excused Absence: Aldermen Ptak

Others Present: Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski (arrived 6:15 p.m.), and Attorney James McPhedran (arrived 6:18 p.m.)

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held April 28, 2025.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION

Chairman Demes asked if anyone would like to speak to the committee regarding the traffic conditions on Hennepin Street between McArthur Road and Eleventh Street.

Deputy City Clerk Bader provided clarification that because speakers would be directly addressing the committee regarding a particular agenda item, the three-minute time limit established for the public comment period at City Council meetings would not apply.

LeeAnn Pyszka referenced the previous City Council meeting at which she originally raised the issue of adding speed bumps on Hennepin Street. She reminded everyone that there had been a question of feasibility of speed bumps for the owner of a Challenger who lives on the street. She then indicated Gordon Parks, the owner of a Challenger, who lives on Hennepin Street, and was also present at the meeting.

Gordon Parks stated he has lived on Hennepin Street for 36 years. He frequently observes cars exiting the pool parking lot at excessive speeds, drivers using Hennepin Street to avoid the nearby stoplight on Eleventh Street, and numerous drivers not stopping for the stop signs on Hennepin Street and McArthur Road. He stated he would be comfortable with two speed bumps on Hennepin Street. He also suggested that inbound traffic for the pool parking lot be routed going one-way east so when they exit they either turn right on McArthur or go straight on Hennepin. He is especially concerned for the safety of the children. He also mentioned numerous speeding electric scooters.

Alderman Crane asked Mr. Parks if there was a particular time of day and/or time of year when traffic is busier on Hennepin; Mr. Parks indicated during pool hours is when the traffic is most problematic.

Police Chief Smudzinski was asked about providing police officers at the location to monitor traffic. The Chief advised everyone it is alright to call the police department with information regarding speeders; with the Flock cameras throughout the City cars are easier to trace. The Chief recommended utilizing random stationary patrols to try to reduce speeding and stop sign violations.

Shane Link talked about witnessing numerous close calls on Hennepin Street between cars and scooters. Others commented that this is an issue throughout the community.

Chairman Demes asked if the police had issued any citations in that area of Hennepin Street; the Chief said they had not, but of course, they were not on site 24/7.

Alderman Lavieri pointed out pool season is coming to a close and speed bumps are undesirable in the winter because of plowing.

Chief Smudzinski emphasized that he would send patrol cars to monitor the stop signs.

It was mentioned the police department's speed trailer was useful in deterring speeding.

Deputy City Clerk clarified that no motion was necessary if no action was taken on the agenda item.

Alderman Crane and Chief Smudzinski encouraged neighbors to call the police department or the Chief directly to advise them of effective activity or violations occurring.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Demes asked if there were further comments.

Deputy City Clerk Bader clarified that this was now a public comment period during which speakers could comment on any topic of their choosing and which would be subject to the three-minute time limit. The previous comment period during this meeting was for residents who had been invited as witnesses to the agenda item; there was no time limit for those comments.

Joseph Thompson, 427 Fifth Street, addressed the request for a sign near his home because he has an autistic son and there are concerns with speeding traffic, particularly with traffic from the high school, including buses. The width of the street is also problematic because it creates parking issues.

Deputy City Clerk Bader clarified that Mr. Thompson's issue was an agenda item for the City Council immediately following this meeting and would be addressed then. He also stated that Mr. Thompson could be invited to the podium to address the Council regarding the issue when it was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Chairman Demes adjourned the meeting at 6:31p.m.

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

Liz Bishop
City Clerk