

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

**June 22, 2026**

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois, was held Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove with proper notices being duly and continuously posted. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Jeff Grove, Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, and Crane

**Others Present:** Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, City Engineer Brian Brown, Police Chief Jason Stubler, and Acting City Attorney Patrick Herrmann

**A quorum was present.**

**COMMENTS**

Mayor Grove opened the floor for public comment, inviting residents to share their thoughts and concerns.

Ms. Dawn Hicks complained about water testing results, the perceived lack of response to her concerns, and the recent fire at Carus Chemical underscoring the need for a safety plan.

Vietnam combat veteran Dale Butkovitz spoke about his experience with Agent Orange, thanking all the doctors and nurses in Peru, Ottawa, and Chicago who provided care for him.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held June 8, 2026. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

## **DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Stratus Network to break ground to extend Fiber Optics Network at 525 First Street and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to approve the request from Frances Ann Happ to install single-facing, non-illuminated sign to be installed on the building at 126 Industrial Drive and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve the request from Frances Ann Happ to install a directional sign in City right-of-way in front of Air Products at 126 Industrial Drive and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Frances Ann Happ to install a directional sign in City right-of-way in front of 325 Civic Road and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Cotie Hoover to install an illuminated, wall-mounted sign at 901 First Street and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the Request from Stage 212 to remove and replace the electronic message, single-facing wall sign and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the request from Cameron Graper of Ax Church for a Special Event Permit to allow street closure on Tonti Street between Canal and First Streets for an Ax Kids Summer Party event from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, June 28, 2026, and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **BIDS**

#### **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Alderman Ptak emphasized that the Stalker Message Trailer only collects speed, volume, and time data and does not collect personal information such as photos of drivers, license plates, or vehicles.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the purchase of a Stalker MC360 Message Trailer (3'x6') w/Strobes for the Police Department at a cost of \$23,617.00 and related matters.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0-0

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader explained that the Illinois Valley Building Trades discovered that the request they thought they had sent via fax regarding the Tag Day had not been received. Deputy Clerk Bader contacted each Aldermen individually to facilitate approval of the request in time for the event Father's Day weekend since it was held prior to tonight's meeting.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Herndon to confirm and ratify a one-on-one poll of the City Council regarding a 2026 Tag Day from Illinois Valley Building Trades and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to authorize payment of Payout Request #1 for Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. Totaling \$11,260.83 for work completed to date on the 2026 Striping Program and related matters.

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Demes

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0-0

Grant writer Ali Braboy, on behalf of the La Salle Business Association, explained that the grant for the Tree Inventory Project for the City has been approved and requested the City’s approval of The Response Growth Collective as the contractor for the project.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve The Response Growth Collective as the contractor for the Tree Inventory Project and related matters.

**ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Demes, Thompson

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0-0

Mayor Grove expressed appreciation to Ax Church for their volunteer efforts around the Illinois Valley during the recent Hope Week, as well as local neighbors such as Spring Valley where there was a carnival.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to authorize a letter of support from Mayor Grove for the City of La Salle to be recognized as a Dementia Friendly Community and related matters.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

**DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Grove stated there was no need for an executive session.

Police Chief Stubler announced La Salle will host its first National Night Out Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at Hegeler Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Deputy Clerk Brent Bader recognized WLPO reporter John Small who was present at the meeting on his birthday.

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei expressed appreciation to the La Salle Business Association and Ali Braboy for spearheading the grant process for the tree beautification project.

Mayor Grove mentioned that Bedei's wife Tara Bedei serves as Mayor of Streator which was recently hit by tornadoes.

City Engineer Brian Brown indicated the sledding hill at Rotary Park will be bid July 1. He indicated the MFT program will hopefully start later this week, and the Valve and Hydrant Program started today. More work on the VHP is needed than anticipated.

City Engineer Brian Brown also provided an update on the status of water testing. He cited the May 11, 2026, City Council meeting where Ms. Hicks originally mentioned the violation shown on the City's annual report on the water. On May 13, 2026, T.E.S.T., the company that is responsible for testing the water, explained that there was an issue with equipment owned by the subcontractor that affected one of the two required samples.

Brown requested results from the previous quarter and the following quarter. All four of those test results, as well as the unspoiled result, indicated City water was well below the acceptable maximum limit for water to be considered safe. Due to one of the two December samples being unreliable, a violation was required to be reported.

Brown indicated T.E.S.T. is taking steps to perform the tests themselves and not use a subcontractor.

Brown indicated striping will be completed on the Safe Routes to Schools project once the paving work is finished; striping in the parking lots at Rotary Park will be donated.

Mayor Grove announced that Sunday, July 12, 2026, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the City will be implementing retired Alderman Jim Bacidore's suggestion to provide tours of Rotary Park via golf cart.

Mayor Grove indicated a third potential vendor for providing fiber optic cable to the City has been in contact.

Permits for solicitors were discussed.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills: Total Submitted: \$888,859.65 (Total Payroll \$248,213.27, Bills to be Paid \$492,102.58, Total Bills Paid \$148,543.80).

### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane, Demes, Thompson, Ptak

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0-0

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.**

**ADJOURNED** 6:52 p.m.

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

---

Liz Bishop, City Clerk