

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 2026

**A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois, was held
Monday, September 14, 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 6:31 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 and the recent passing of La Salle citizen and former alderman Demetrio Salazar.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, City Engineer Brian Brown, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, and City Attorney James McPhedran

A quorum was present.

COMMENTS

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

Vietnam combat veteran Mr. Dale Butkovitz advised the Council that Saturday there had been a motorcycle race on Tonti Street where he lives. He also mentioned there's an area on Tonti by the alley where patching work still needs to be completed.

Mr. Joe Guskusky came forward with a request regarding 698 North 2853rd Road, La Salle. He made it clear that he is very happy with and supportive of endeavors in the City and that his request has to do with an unusual set of circumstances leading him to make a deannexation request. Mr. Guskusky explained the circumstances involving an addition to the home, septic system and well requirements, municipal water supplies, and related costs.

Economic Development Director Curt Bedei indicated Mr. Guskusky's three minutes were finished.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to extend the time limit for another three minutes for Mr. Goskusky to complete his remarks.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Mr. Goskusky explained plans for creating three additional lots on the same property which would remain within the City of La Salle. Easements were discussed.

It was agreed this item would be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Summer Rachas thanked the Council for sending the Hocus Pocus Hags to the City's Trunk-or-Treat event last year in Hegeler Park. She indicated over 900 people attended last year leading to concerns about parking; she has turned in paperwork to Deputy City Clerk Brent Bader requesting McArthur Road be closed between Route 351 and Hennepin Street for the event to address safety concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to accept and place on file minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held August 31, 2026. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

PRESENTATION

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to approve having Mr. Mark Schneider of Axe Church make a presentation to the Council.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Mr. Schneider of Axe Church indicated church members are revisiting cities that were part of Hope Week to update them. Weather was a significant challenge this past year. Mr. Schneider indicated the church now has the capacity to work larger, costlier projects and would like to be contemplating these larger projects year-round.

The Council expressed appreciation for the work done during Hope Week.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request for a 2026 Raffle License from Swing for Jack and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

City Attorney James McPhedran explained the following request for a dead-end sign would not need to be sent to the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee because the majority of the neighbors have already signed off on it. Additionally, the sign would not take away from anyone's parking or use of their property.

Alderman Crane cited past practice of sending sign requests to Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee.

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to refer the request from Stephen Tremper of 441 Baker Avenue for a "Dead End" street sign on Baker Avenue, west of St. Vincent Avenue, and related matters to the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee for review.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to refer to the Planning Commission the request from Frank Senica III, Haley Senica aka Haley N. Duncan and Wyssling Consulting, as their interests may appear, for a Special Use Permit to add ground-mounted solar panels at 641 U.S. Highway 6 and related matters.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from the Rotary Club of La Salle for a Special Event Permit for the use of City-owned property at Rotary Park, including playground shelter and path to Prairie Lake, to host a Rotary Polio Walk with golf carts and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** Alderman Lavieri

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to accept the Building Inspector's Report for August 2026 showing total fees collected of \$8,943.74 with total value of construction of \$1,186,234.21.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Crane to accept the Monthly Police Operations Report for August 2026 showing total fees collected of \$6,071.85.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2026 showing total cash balances in La Salle State Bank of \$11,150,266.64 and in Hometown National Bank of \$6,998,809.98.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept and place on file a thank you letter from the Voluntary Action Center.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

BIDS

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Thompson to accept the resignation of Jackson Piecha of La Salle Public Works.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

(See below for the appointment of Charlie Faletti to the La Salle Public Library Board; it was made out of order.)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the proposal for investment strategies for City investments by Studio Investments and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: Alderman Thompson **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1-0

Lavieri Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept and place on file the Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Audit 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

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding applying for a Midland Foundation grant to help develop and start new businesses on behalf of the IV Startup Starved Rock Program and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

(ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS)

Moved by Alderman Jeppson and seconded by Alderman Herndon to appoint Charlie Faletti to the La Salle Public Library Board.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Crane and seconded by Alderman Demes to authorize payment of Pay Applications #2 & #3 for John Pohar & Sons, Inc. totaling \$440,873.45 for work completed to date on the 2024 Water System Improvements – Hydrant & Valve Replacements project and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to authorize payment of Pay Application #1 for Grunloh Builders Inc. totaling \$48,772.80 for work completed to date on the 2024 Water System Improvements – Water Treatment and Well project and related matters.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

NEW BUSINESS

Flock cameras were discussed. La Salle has had six of them for 3-5 years. La Salle's cameras are audited regularly by the Police Department to check for misuse of them.

The increased number of FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests to the Police Department due to availability of body cam footage was discussed. In La Salle it has resulted in the need to hire an additional person to handle the volume.

There will be several retirements in the Wastewater Department, necessitating new hiring.

There is a company interested in providing residential fiber optics in La Salle; they are currently in Streator. Contracts are being reviewed preliminarily.

LP Homecoming parade is Thursday, September 24. While the St. Bede Homecoming parade does not go through La Salle, the City's police and fire departments will be present.

Rock the Block is Friday night, and BBQ N Blues is Saturday night, finishing with fireworks.

There was discussion regarding the process of deannexation. City Attorney James McPhedran indicated since there are a number of issues with the Guskusky property he would appreciate time to review all of them so the future meeting regarding them could be as productive as possible. The protocol for asking additional questions during the meeting was discussed.

Moved by Alderman Crane to allow further, brief discussion with Mr. Goskusky. After further discussion, it was decided Mr. Goskusky's request would be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.

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

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to approve an Ordinance adopting a plan to encourage participation by minority persons, women, persons with disabilities and veterans in the La Salle Rivers Edge Recovery Zone.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve an Ordinance authorizing Variance in regard to Ordinance regulating the construction of fences and related matters (Hack Premises – 2102 Rockwell Road).

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

City Engineer Brian Brown updated the Council on current projects. Sewer cleaning and televising is ongoing, the grading for the sledding hill at Rotary Park is completed, the Bucklin Street sewer issue is resolved, concrete and asphalt will be installed (weather permitting), the water and sewer valves project is advancing well, the lagoons are over 60-75% done, the lead line project is on a break, and the road overlay program has a few more locations to complete.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and file the bills: Total Submitted: \$634,152.65 (Total Payroll \$250,673.93, Bills to be Paid \$273,243.91, Total Bills Paid \$110,234.81).

ROLL CALL

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

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 7:27 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "Liz" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Bishop" follows in a similar but slightly more compact script.

Liz Bishop, City Clerk