

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL  
July 30, 2018**

**A regular meeting and Public Hearing of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held Monday, July 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove presiding with proper notice being duly and continuously posted.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present-** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

**Absent:** None

A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds that the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Monday, July 16, 2018 are accepted and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION**

Chief Andy Bacidore presented Terry Trench with a plaque recognizing his retirement as a volunteer firefighter after 23 years of service. Chief Bacidore described Mr. Trench as a dedicated member of the department who could repair just about anything. Chief Bacidore stated that Mr. Trench is most known for his fire prevention activities, taking the Safe House under his wing and doing many fire prevention presentations to the schools.

Mr. Trench thanked the City for the honor and privilege of serving the City for 23 years. He thanked his friends and family, many of whom were in attendance, for their support. He also thanked the members of the La Salle Fire Department who passed their experience on to him and made his job easier. He said the City of La Salle has a great group servicing them. He also thanked Police Chief Rob Uranich and his department for assisting at scenes through the years, making the department's job much easier.

Mayor Grove thanked Mr. Trench for his dedication to the City and his willingness to work with surrounding cities and for the pride he and all department members take in our facility and equipment. He thanked the department for finding a home for the old ladder truck which honors those like Mr. Trench who have served in this capacity.

**PETITIONS**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Demes to grant the requests of Allison Nichols on behalf of Special Olympics Illinois and St. Margaret's Foundation for 2018 Raffle Licenses. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Herndon to grant the of Ameren Illinois to break ground at 11th Street West of Sterling Street to install a new pole. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the request from Starved Rock Runners, Ltd. to conduct the 36th Annual Canal Connection 10K race on November 4, 2018 beginning at LP High School and utilizing City streets to the I & M Canal with assistance and traffic control provided by the Police and Fire Departments. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Prior to voting, Alderman Schneider pointed out that Stan's Ice Cream had auto insurance, but not General Liability Insurance. Clerk Brown stated that she would review what they have had in the past. Alderman Bacidore questioned why we have to allow ice cream trucks. Attorney McPhedran stated that by law they are authorized to operate and we have an ordinance that outlines the requirements to operate within the City. Attorney McPhedran indicated that the council could approve the request subject to appropriate insurance documentation being provided.

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Ptak to grant the request from Stan's Ice Cream for a Peddler Permit to sell packaged ice cream from a vehicle subject to obtaining appropriate insurance coverage. Each and every alderman has a copy. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Alderman Bacidore Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 7-0**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**7:04 p.m.** Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Duncan to open the Public Hearing to receive comments concerning the proposed Appropriation Ordinance.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Finance Director Duncan reviewed the 2019 Appropriations which covers May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 and highlighted changes from prior years and upcoming projects. The Police Pension contribution in the general fund shows is \$1,045,000 which is an increase from the prior year and that is in conjunction with meeting the recommendation on the pension payment calculation to get us compliant with the State Statute to be 90% compliant by 2040. The Police Department accounts for 50% of the overall General Fund budget.

Alderman Ptak asked if this current administration has been meeting its recommended pension payments. Finance Director Duncan stated that we have been, but 15-30 years ago, that was not the case.

The Fire Department budget has a \$35,000 capital outlay to pour a new concrete entrance. In the Street Department budget, \$50,000 has been allotted for demolitions. This is down from prior years, however the main concentration this year is the Vendome which will be paid through TIF Funds.

In the Street Department budget, \$100,000 has been allotted for vehicle purchases and for the upgrade or upkeep of equipment. In the Miscellaneous account, \$130,000 has been allotted for

the façade grant program with \$125,000 earmarked for the façade grant program and the remaining \$5,000 for other items. Under professional services there is a \$200,000 budget which are for payments made to Azavar for collecting utility taxes. However, there is an offsetting revenue account, as the City has an agreement where anything recovered in utility taxes by Azavar is split 45/55 with the City.

The overall bottom line in the General Fund is a projection of 7.7 million dollars in income, which leaves us with a decrease in fund equity of approximately \$351,000. We are currently 1.8 million dollars in the hole so we will increase that debt landing at over \$2 million mark this year. Alderman Duncan asked where we were last year. Finance Director Duncan stated that we are reducing it. He added that when he started in 2013, it was \$800,000, so we are reducing this through a slight increase in the revenue stream.

In the Garbage Fund, which is also a pass through account, \$15,000 has been built in to the appropriations in order to host an e-recycling event so residents can get rid of their tvs and electronics.

Regarding the Motor Fuel Tax account, based on the revenues we receive and after the the bond payment of \$116,000 is made, there is about \$128,000 in the fund. The City Engineer recommended that we do not have a program this year in order to let the fund grow. He may have an oil and chip program, but that would only cost approximately \$5,000. Then in the following year some larger projects can be done. It has been appropriated for in case something comes up, but there are no plans to spend it. Finance Director stated that the bond will drop off in 2021.

In the Park and Recreation appropriations, there is nothing new to the account. It shows a surplus of \$60,000, but there is currently a \$60,000 deficit. Where they have over spent in other years, they will under spend this year so there is no deficit. The Public Parks Fund is the fund where the City contributes to the parks. The revenue in these two accounts come from different sources. In order to get an idea of true expenditures for parks, these two accounts must be added together.

The Library sets their own budget, so those are plug in numbers, but Finance Director Duncan stated that he is in agreement with their numbers.

New this year is a Shared Services Fund. The City of La Salle is the custodian of the fund. This is a zero balance fund. The Phase I projected revenue and disbursements are shown in this fund.

The Ambulance Service is projected to have a decrease of \$250,000 in the fund equity, due to an ambulance purchase. However, we have \$700-800 in cash, so we are paying cash so there will be no debt service.

In the Water Fund \$200,000 has been appropriated for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Booster Station project. There is equity in this fund which allows infrastructure projects to be done which is the reason water rates were implemented in 2011. In the Sewer Fund there is a 1 million dollar expense for the Hegeler Park Sewer Separation Project. We have a \$600,000 grant to offset the costs, however this grant is not shown as revenue because we are unsure if the funds will be received within this fiscal year.

Regarding the TIF Funds, Finance Director Duncan stated that TIF Funds cannot be transferred to the General Fund and can only be used for infrastructure and development projects. Pension obligations are not a qualifying use of TIF funds. The TIF funds are healthy. The TIF fund expenditures at this time are lights at Rotary Park, the demolition of the Vendome, some additional parking at the Rotary Park Dog Park, roadwork on N. 2959<sup>th</sup> road and potentially a pathway to Prairie Park with some costs being offset by grant money.

After all those projects are completed, \$294,000 will still be added to the TIF funds. TIF IV is the only TIF losing money. There is still a bond payment in that TIF and it is projected to lose \$107,000, but the overall effect of the TIF's is a positive. The bond will expire in 2020.

There were no questions or comments from the alderman or from the public.

**7:23 p.m.** Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to close the public hearing.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to grant the from Designs and Signs for a Sign Permit to install a 18" x 29" double-face, wall sign at 527 First Street (Rawfully Yours). Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to deny the request from Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra for a monetary sponsorship of its 2018-2019 season in order to remain consistent with current giving practices. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Schneider to refer the request of Megan Haynes for a rear yard setback variance from 25' to 0' and a front yard setback from 25' to 5' to construct a garage on premises located at 1732 Zinc Street to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Monthly Police Income Report for June 2018 showing total fees collected of \$7,195.96. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

## **BIDS**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Demes to award the low bid of \$32,867 to Cruz Concrete of Spring Valley for the 2018 Fire Station #1 Concrete Entrance Replacement project. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL: AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**BIDS: Cruz Concrete- \$32,867**  
**Universal Asphalt & Exc. \$37,508**  
**M/M Peters Construction \$40,787.96**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Ptak to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee in response to the request from neighbors residing on North Marquette Street to designate the alley running north and south between St. Vincent Avenue and Marquette Street as a private drive to be used by residents only from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Oak Road, to designate the north south alley running between Lindberg Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street as one way south, installing a stop sign on Oak Road at Marquette Street and installing speed bumps in the south half of the alley.

**ROLL CALL: AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Alderman Bacidore reported that it was the recommendation of the the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee regarding the request from neighbors residing on North Marquette Street to close "Oak Road" to vehicular traffic from St. Vincent Avenue to Marquette Street to table the issue until litigation is resolved.

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept the recommendation of the Streets, Alleys and Traffic Committee to table the request to close "Oak Road" to vehicular traffic from St. Vincent Avenue to Marquette Street until litigation is resolved.

**ROLL CALL: AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Moved by Alderman Duncan and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to change the time of the Regular City Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Finance Meetings from 6:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the remainder of the calendar year.

**ROLL CALL: AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Schneider and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to authorize, pay and place on file Pay Estimate #4 to Universal Asphalt & Excavating, Inc. totaling \$49,598.62 for the 2018 Non-MFT Program-2<sup>nd</sup> and Wright Street, 1<sup>st</sup> and Gooding Street Parking Lot Improvements and Lindberg Road Bus Lane at Lincoln School. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL: AYE:** Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Alderman Duncan reported on communication he has had with Republic in regard to establishing some type of standard to evaluate their service. He has proposed to meet with Republic on Thursday to discuss this matter.

Alderman Duncan read a statement in response to the remarks made by Julie Ajster at the July 16, 2018 meeting. (Exhibit #1)

**NEW BUSINESS**

At the last Finance Meeting, Terry Happ approached the committee inquiring about the possible purchase or lease Lot 12, Block 127 Original Town of La Salle and lease a small portion of Canal Street/La Fayette Street right-of-way in the same vicinity. Attorney McPhedran stated that if the Lot were to be sold it must be done through auction or an appraisal conducted by a qualified appraiser and pursuant to law. The properties could also be leased with a renewable two year lease.

Attorney McPhedran stated that he understood from City Engineer Brown, that Mr. Happ is currently getting an appraisal and researching possible impact fee amounts.

Mayor Grove conducted a straw poll to see if the aldermen were in favor of possibly selling Lot 12 if the appraisal is completed, collecting an impact fee and leasing the City right-of-way. Aldermen Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Duncan, Herndon and Schneider were in favor. Alderman Lavieri was not in favor. He stated he believes it will just bring a lot of messy activity in that area with no real gain to the City.

**COMMENTS**

Cathy Tomlinson inquired about the City's ordinances specifically pertaining to pit bulls. She indicated that a pit bull killed a neighbor's dog on Gooding Street. This pit-bull has been reported in the past. Police Chief Uranich stated that the City has been in contact with La Salle County Animal Control and the City Attorney and there are various avenues the City can take. He stated that the City has to be sure we approach it in the proper way. Attorney McPhedran stated that we have one of the most updated ordinances on this matter, but certain jurisdiction lies with the County and the State as opposed to the municipality. Attorney McPhedran stated that he had heard this was the first incident with this dog, but if there are more there is potential chance for taking action. Mrs. Tomlinson stated she does not want this to happen to anyone else. She indicated that there are two pit bulls that were not leashed.

Attorney McPhedran stated that there are more restrictions if an attack is animal on animal, but if there are multiple complaints and they can be documented then there are more options. Attorney McPhedran assured Mrs. Tomlinson that Chief Uranich is on working on this. Mrs. Tomlinson asked what she can do to help get this dog out of the neighborhood.

Chief Uranich said that legal steps have to be taken and that he does not have the authority to remove people's personal property without following the proper procedures. Mrs. Tomlinson stated that she understands that but is willing to help if needed.

Eagle Scout candidate Max Rupert, stated that his project near the Lock 16 mule shed will begin this Saturday. Mayor asked him to come back and give us an update and show us pictures of the final product.

## **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to pass and place on file  
**Ordinance 2745:** An Ordinance Appropriating for All Corporate Purposes for the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Ordinance 2745:**  
**An Ordinance Appropriating for All Corporate Purposes for the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019.**

Moved by Alderman Demes and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to pass and place on file  
Ordinance 2746: An Ordinance an Ordinance Providing for the Regulation of and Application for Small Wireless Facilities. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

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

**Motion Carried 8-0**

**Ordinance 2746: An Ordinance Appropriating for All Corporate Purposes for the City of La Salle, La Salle County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019.**

## **COMMENTS**

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri that bills submitted totaling \$277,206.42 (Total Payroll \$176,329.69, Bills to be Paid from \$42,713.90, Total Bills Paid \$58,162.83) be accepted, paid and placed on file. Each and every alderman has a copy.

**ROLL CALL:** AYE: Alderman Demes, Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Duncan, Herndon, Schneider

NAY: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Motion Carried 8-0**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Herndon to adjourn the meeting.  
Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

**ADJOURNED 8:08 p.m.**



July 30, 2018

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Carrie Brown, City Clerk



Since I was not here at the last meeting, I feel compelled to respond to the remarks made by Julie Ajster. I read the minutes from the meeting and I see she tried to explain her involvement even though she does not live in LaSalle, Peru or Oglesby and does not pay real estate taxes in LaSalle County. I still do not understand her obsession with a feasibility study to first see if police sharing makes sense.

There is a widely held theory or belief that she is doing this because of a vendetta or grudge against Chief Bernabei. If she does not accept that, I can explain the logic behind that theory.

If that theory is true, she has an obligation to be truthful and transparent to her Facebook followers and not use them to advance your agenda and false narrative.

Let me make something perfectly clear to her. Neither I, the Mayor or any of my fellow Alderman and I suspect the Mayors, Aldermen or Commissioners of Peru and Oglesby have made a final decision on the feasibility of police sharing but the majority have a strong belief that it is worth the study and I might add the general public agrees as well.

This is a process, an investigation, a study, to see if police sharing will improve police services and efficiencies and come with significant cost savings.

What I really question is her motives in trying to stop the process before it is completed. That is what leads me to the conclusion that her intentions are not what she says they are.

What I do know is that if it does work and this becomes a reality and a savings to the taxpayers are as projected and the police are given a new facility to work in, it will be a catalyst to bring three communities that I live in and she does not, closer together. The whole tri-city area will be a better place to live in. Maybe she would even consider moving here.