



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM
City of Rochelle Council Chambers—420 North 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge to the flag and prayer were led by Mayor Bearrows.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. A quorum of seven were present. Also present: City Manager Zeke Jackson, City Clerk Rose Huéramo, and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito.
- III. PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:**
1. Chamber of Commerce Week - September 14-18, 2026- Tricia, Director of Chamber, accepted the proclamation.
 2. Constitution Week - September 17-23, 2026- The D.A.R Organization accepted the proclamation.
 3. Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15 – October 15- City Officials and Staff came together and accepted the proclamation.
- IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: The Mayor acknowledged Councilor D. McDermott's birthday. He also requested a moment of silence for 9/11 and thanked Councilor T. McDermott for his service. The mayor noted that it is Women owned business month and the Chamber is holding a lunch event. The Mayor also announced that he will not seek reelection for mayor in 2027. He expressed how much he has enjoyed his experience working for the City of Rochelle but now sees that it's time to spend more time with family.
 2. Council Members: Councilor Arteaga reminded everyone to remain positive even when it's a difficult time for the Hispanic community. She commented on the success of the Hispanic Festival and thanked everyone who made it possible.
 3. City Manager's Report: None
 4. New Employee Introduction- Lauren Jackson was introduced to the council as Admin Assistant II/Deputy Clerk.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY/CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None
- VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 8/24/2026
 - b) Approve Payroll - 8/3/2026 - 8/16/2026
 - c) Approve Payment Registers - 8/24/2026, 8/31/2026, 9/8/2026
 - d) Approve Special Event Request - 2026 RTHS Homecoming Parade RouteMotion made by Councilor Hayes, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move consent agenda items (a) through (d) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **An Ordinance to Waive Competitive Bidding to Repair Blower #3 at the Waterwaste Treatment Plant.** The aeration blowers at the WWTP are components for the biological treatment of wastewater, and one needs repair. On April 27, Water Reclamation brought an ordinance to waive competitive bidding to repair the blower at the Treatment plant, due to the proprietary nature of the equipment, the original manufacturer is uniquely qualified to provide the maintenance necessary. Since that ordinance was approved, the blower needs an inverter. The Water Reclamation Department is asking to waive competitive bidding to permit Aerzen to complete the additional repair for the same reasons, increasing the quote amount by \$19,032.01. Aerzen is specifically qualified to complete it due to the proprietary nature of the equipment. They can provide compatible equipment and perform the service that meets the original design and operational requirements with seamless integration. Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation, Adam Lanning, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor B. Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-47, an Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements and Authorizing Aerzen USA Corporation to Install an Inverter for Blower # 3 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
3. **An Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements and Authorizing an Emergency Repair to the Well 12 Generator.** Well 12 is located on Hayes Rd. The generator located onsite has failed and needs to be repaired. Altorfer CAT provides maintenance to all the generators and is familiar with our system. With the need to repair the generator quickly, the Water Department is asking City Council to waive competitive bidding to ensure public health and safety if there was unexpected power outage or disaster. Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation, Adam Lanning was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor R. Arteaga, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Ordinance 2026-48, an Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements and Authorizing an Emergency Repair to the Well 12 Generator, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **A Resolution Approving a Permitted Facilities Agreement Between the City of Rochelle and BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings LLC.** BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings LLC currently owns a right of way and easement on the Well 8 property. With the new construction at Well 8, the city has asked bp to consent to improvements including an asphalt pad located approximately 11' from the bp center line and the installation of concrete bollards used to restrict traffic on or over bp's easement and centerline. The Water Department is asking the Council to approve a resolution to enter into a Permitted Facilities Agreement with BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings LLC. Adam Lanning, superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance R2026-34, a Resolution Approving a Permitted Facilities Agreement Between the City of Rochelle and BP Midwest Product Pipelines Holdings LLC, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
5. **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 70 – Ice Cream Trucks, Peddlers, Itinerant Merchants, Solicitors, Canvassers and Food Trucks and an Ordinance Amending Section 26-44 – Schedule of License, Permit or Registration Fees.** Together with the Police Department, the sections pertaining to peddlers have been condensed to address door-to-door peddler permits. The revised language includes an exclusion for constitutionally protected speech such as religious or political soliciting and implements a tiered penalty for those who disregard the regulation. The process to obtain a peddler permit has also been simplified to require the applicant to apply and receive the permit at the Police Department rather than requiring a visit to multiple departments. Instead of requiring applicants to obtain a new permit weekly, the revision proposes an annual renewal which includes a background check. An amendment to Section 26-44, our fee schedule, is proposed to

implement a flat \$50 annual fee for peddler permits. Peddlers are also required to pay a \$50 fee for fingerprints.

Additionally, the proposed language removes the local regulation of food trucks, since food trucks are already regulated at the county level through the Health Department. Food truck operators must still obtain permission from the property owner to locate on said property and follow all rules of the road on which they operate. Jenny Thompson, Acting Assistant Manager, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor B. Hayes, **“I move Ordinance 2026-49, an Ordinance Amending Ch.70, Section 26-44 of the Rochelle Municipal Code Regarding Certain License, Permit, and Registration Fees, be approved.”** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Valdivieso. Nays: Mayor Bearrows. Motion passed 6-1.

6. **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 of the Municipal Code – Amusements & Entertainments.** In an effort encourage organizations and businesses to host community events in our Downtown or on other City-owned property, we propose a more simplified process for organizers to obtain a Special Event Permit. Upon Council approval, organizers will be asked to complete an online form with the particulars about their event including the date, time and place along with utilities and public works requests such as electricity, water access, trash cans, picnic tables and cones. Once complete, staff will then issue the Special Event Permit within two business days of receiving the application. Instead of requiring a Certificate of Insurance for every use of City property, we would only require a COI for events deemed high risk including those involving alcohol, fireworks, racing, bounce houses, large crowds or other activities our staff would consider high risk from an insurance standpoint. For example, the Kiwanis Club’s Peanut Days and DRA Sidewalk Sales would be considered low-risk, and the Heritage Festival would be considered high risk. Events with alcohol served would still be required to obtain the one-day special event license from the Liquor Commissioner, as usual. Chapter 10 also addresses coin-operated amusement devices and raffles. Staff proposes eliminating both of those sections of the code as they are outdated and rarely utilized. Coin-operated amusement devices applies to items such as juke boxes and dart board machines in establishments with liquor licenses, not gaming machines. Currently the code requires a \$10 raffle permit to conduct a raffle locally. This is not enforced and rarely do organizations hosting raffles obtain the permit. As such, staff is proposing it be eliminated. Jenny Thompson, Acting Assistant Manager, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey and seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **“I move Ordinance 2026-50, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10 Amusements and Entertainments, be approved.”** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
7. **An Ordinance Authorizing a Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the T-Hanger Project at the Rochelle Municipal Airport.** The City of Rochelle Airport has been awarded grant funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the Airport Improvement Program. This grant will provide estimated funding in the amount of \$1,188,045.19, of which \$1,153,309.00 are Federal funds. These funds will be used for eligible expenses associated with the 8-unit T-Hanger project that was approved by Rochelle City Council on December 8th, 2025. The grant program requires the City to enter into a formal grant agreement outlining the terms, conditions, responsibilities, and requirements associated with the award. Staff recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation that is consistent with the terms of the grant award. Tim Isley, Public Works Director, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor B. Valdivieso and seconded by Councilor B. Hayes, **“I move Ordinance 2026-51, an Ordinance Authorizing a Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the T-Hanger Project at the Rochelle Municipal Airport, be approved.”** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

8. **A Resolution Adopting the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Energy Action Plan.** The EnergySense Resilience Center at the University of Illinois System prepared an Energy Action Plan for Rochelle Municipal Utilities and the communities it serves. The plan was developed through stakeholder interviews, public outreach and feedback, energy assessments of major community facilities, and coordination with a community steering committee. Its development was supported by an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant obtained with assistance from the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone and Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. The plan provides a planning framework for 2026 through 2050 to help RMU maintain reliable, affordable electric service while preparing for state energy requirements and long-term changes in the power supply. Recommended strategies are organized into four focus areas: short-term energy efficiency; long-term resilience and sustainability; affordability and rate stability; and community engagement. Adoption by resolution will formally establish the Energy Action Plan as a guide for future utility planning, grant applications, and evaluation of potential programs and projects. Adoption does not authorize a specific capital project, contract, rate change, or expenditure. Any action requiring funding, a policy change, or separate Council approval will be presented to the City Council at the appropriate time. Blake Toliver, Superintendent of Electric Operations, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor B. Hayes, **"I move Resolution R2026-35, a Resolution Adopting the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Energy Action Plan, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:46 P.M. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor B. Valdivieso, **"I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss the (appointment, Employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal) of specific employee(s). Section (c) (1)."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

At 8:58 P.M. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voice vote all in favor.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:58 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voice vote all in favor.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Rose Huéramo, City Clerk