

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
DISCUSSION ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING**

SUBJECT: Rebuild Illinois Downtown & Main Street Capital Grant

January 2022, the City received confirmation we were awarded the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns & Main Street Capital Grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Funds were finally released from the State of Illinois in June 2023.

The grant amount is for \$1,151,974 and covers parking lot restoration, the construction of two new lots and public restrooms.

A committee consisting of Mayor Bearrows, Councilperson Rosie Arteaga, City Manager Fiegenschuh, and key staff members was formed to move the project forward.

Two new lots will be constructed to increase greater parking options and create more connectivity and walkability to our Downtown. The demolition of the vacant old bank drive-thru on the corner of Lincoln Highway and Lincoln Avenue and the corner of Washington and 2nd Avenue will be the location of the new lots. Seven lots will be reconstructed and repaired.

The grant proposed a public restroom structure with 2 separate restrooms. As we continue to enhance our Downtown, the opportunity for a gathering space has always been a direction to move towards. With the destruction of the community gazebo area, the need for replacing the gathering space became important.

The project also includes major electrical service improvements including placing all electric lines underground.

This grant opportunity, with other funding sources that may be available could allow us to finally achieve this.

We are finalizing a plan for future maintenance of the facility, but at this time the plan will be to do it in house. We have also had discussions with some local organizations to contract to book and run the facility, but no decisions have been made at this time.

As we proceed forward with the grant, we are proposing this for discussion and need input. A simplified budget is attached for your review.

