



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 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:** None
- IV. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: Reminder of the Trick or Treat Safehouse held at the REC on Thursday 10/22.
 2. Council Members: None
 3. City Manager's Report: City Clerk, Rose Huéramo, reminded everyone about the filing period for candidate packets and how the election will play out depending on the number of candidates. City Manager, Zeke Jackson, had Police Chief, Peter Pavia, briefly speak about an incident that occurred at Lake Lida where a boy was hit by a car while riding an E-Scooter. The City Manager talked about the current efforts on providing education about E-Bikes with the community. The City Manager also stated that staff are currently working on the budget.
- 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 - 9/28/2026
 - b) Approve Special City Council Meeting Minutes – 9/21/2026
 - c) Approve Payroll - 8/31/2026 – 9/13/2026
 - d) Approve Payment Registers - 9/28/2026, 10/5/2026
 - e) Accept & Place on File- Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes- 8/3/2026Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move consent agenda items (a) through (e) 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 Awarding a Contract to Helm Electric Facility Solutions for the Downtown Upgrades, Phase 2.** Rochelle Municipal Utilities solicited bids for Downtown Upgrades Phase 2, including low-voltage work to convert multiple overhead services to underground along the Downtown Underground project route. Helm Electric Facility Solutions, Inc., dba Helm Electric, submitted the sole bid. Helm's proposal is \$479,485.00 plus a 15% allowance of \$71,923.00 for minor construction adjustments, for a total contract amount of \$551,408.00. The bid schedule identifies mobilization on October 1, 2026, substantial completion by December 1, 2026, and final completion by February 1, 2027. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Helm Electric Facility Solutions as the sole responsive bidder so RMU can continue the second phase of downtown underground improvements and coordinate service conversions with the construction schedule. Superintendent of Electric Operations, Blake Toliver, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Hayes, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-53, an Ordinance Awarding a contract to Helm Electric Facility Solutions for the Downtown Upgrades, Phase 2, be**

approved.” Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **A Resolution Accepting the Proposal from and Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Polar Consulting for Integrated Resource Plan Development.** Staff recommends accepting Polar Consulting’s September 25, 2026, proposal to develop an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Rochelle Municipal Utilities. The IRP will evaluate existing resources and future needs over a 20-year horizon and provide a resource strategy and five-year action plan. The Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act (220 ILCS 31/), enacted by Public Act 104-458 and effective June 1, 2026, requires this planning. Section 1-15(a) requires municipalities serving more than 7,000 retail electric customer meters to initiate the IRP process by January 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, with a preliminary plan posted by January 1 of the following year. RMU serves approximately 7,500 electric customers and falls within this requirement. Section 1-20 requires public stakeholder meetings before and after issuance of the preliminary plan, and Section 1-25 establishes public posting, comment, and final-plan procedures. The scope includes load forecasting, resource screening, five portfolios and six sensitivities, risk and resilience analysis, customer bill impacts, and stakeholder engagement. RMU-specific assessments address battery storage, local resiliency, large-load growth, transmission access, and municipal utility benchmarking. Polar was selected based on the completeness of its proposal and its staff’s familiarity with Illinois utilities. Chris Jewell, the proposed Project Manager and Technical IRP Lead, spent approximately twelve years at the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) as a Resource Planner/System Administrator. His experience managing municipal power supply portfolios provides knowledge directly relevant to RMU’s planning needs. Polar’s fixed fee is \$329,832. The proposed schedule begins October 12, 2026, with final completion by October 15, 2027. Payments will follow accepted milestone deliverables, with no upfront deposit. Optional services are excluded from this acceptance. Superintendent of Electric Operations, Blake Toliver, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **“I move Resolution R2026-36, a Resolution Accepting the Proposal from and Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Polar Consulting for Integrated Resource Plan Development, be approved.”** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for an Athletic Facility at 1135 Lincoln Highway.** The petitioner is seeking a proposed special use permit to allow an indoor athletics facility for the operation of a wrestling club. The proposed facility would provide indoor space for wrestling practices, instruction, training and other related athletic activities. The subject property is zoned B-2 Commercial Highway and is located at 1135 Lincoln Highway, Parcel 24-24-127-005. Sec. 110-160, District Use Classification List, an indoor athletics facility/wrestling club requires a Special Use. On Monday, October 5, 2026, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted 6-0 to approve the proposed Special Use. Community Development Director, Michelle Pease, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Arteaga, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **“I move Ordinance 2026-54, an Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for an Athletic Facility at 1135 Lincoln Highway, 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 6:52 P.M. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for City's use. Section (c) (5) and setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the City. Section (c) (6)."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

At 7:54 P.M. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, and seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voice vote all in favor.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:54 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voice vote all in favor.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Rose Huéramo, City Clerk