



MINUTES

Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM

City of Rochelle Council Chambers – 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge to the Flag and the prayer was led by Mayor Bearrows.

- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. A quorum of seven were present. Also, present City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Clerk Rose Huéramo, and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito.

- III. **PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:**
 1. Arbor Day - April 25, 2025
 2. Motorcycle Awareness Month - May
 3. National Day of Prayer - May 1, 2025
 4. Municipal Clerks Week - May 4- 10, 2025

- IV. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
 1. Mayor's Report: A thank you was extended to all who contributed to the Food Truck Festival. April 3 – Rochelle Area Community Foundation will present available grants at the Lincoln Arts Center. May 1 – National Prayer Day will be observed at City Hall at noon. May 4 – Flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of all fallen firefighters. May 5 – Swearing-in ceremony for re-elected Council members will take place at 3:30 PM at City Hall. May 6 – A Small Business Incentive event is scheduled for 6:00 PM at City Hall. May 8 – Ribbon cutting ceremony for new business *Mindful Matters* will be held at noon. May 19 – Senator Arellano and the Illinois Tollway will host an I-PASS sticker exchange at City Hall from 3:00–7:00 PM. Also addressing the recent steer tailing event, clarifying that it took place outside of the City of Rochelle’s jurisdiction. The City is working with Ogle County to address the matter.

 2. Council Members: Councilwoman Arteaga reminded everyone that the 5 de Mayo Festival will take place on Saturday, May 3rd, and invited all to attend. She extended her thanks to the Rec Center and the Park District for hosting the event in their parking lot, as well as to City employees for their support. Councilor D. McDermott noted concerns about grass clippings being blown into the street and reminded residents to be mindful of the hazard this poses, particularly to motorcyclists.

- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.

- VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 1. **Non-Home Rule Sales Tax:** City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh presented options to address the upcoming loss of grocery tax revenue due to its elimination in January 2026. He recommended implementing a 0.25% Non-Home Rule Sales Tax, effective January 1, 2026, with collections starting in March, to help support the City’s budget and offset the shortfall.

 2. **GIS Presentation:** Doug Lynch and Casey Heuer of Cultivate Geospatial Solutions provided the City Council with a 2024 GIS program update, highlighting key accomplishments and ongoing city projects. They also outlined 2025 goals, including expanding advanced GIS applications, launching Esri GeoHUB, starting a Data Governance Strategy, and exploring PowerBI integration with VUEWorks.

- VII. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**
 1. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIUS VOTE with Recommendations:**
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 4/14/25
 - b) Approve Payment Registers - 4/14/25, 4/21/25
 - c) Approve Payroll - 3/31/25-4/13/25
 - d) Accept & Place on File - Ogle County Election Results

- e) Approve Special Event Request - Cut the Square, Flagg Twp Museum
- f) Approve Special Event Request - 90s Block Party - Fuzion Bar & Grill
- g) Accept & Place on File - March Financials

Motion made by Councilor Arteaga, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move consent agenda items (e) through (g) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **A Resolution Ratifying Emergency Expenditures for RMU Electrical Pole Repairs.** On March 14th, 2025, a significant straight line wind event came affected the RMU service territory. This event affected nearly 6000 of our 7500 customers. With the damage done to several pole lines it was determined quickly that we would need mutual aid/ contractors to help rebuild the system. Over the next 4 days our in-house crews, mutual aid, and contracting crews worked tirelessly to rebuild our system. I have nothing but great things to say about our crews and the outside crews we had helping. I'm bringing this emergency spending ratification to the council to ask for the approval for the expenditures that were made to rebuild our system. These costs include labor, lodging, food, matting, and materials needed to rebuild the system. Blake Toliver, Superintendent of Electric Operations, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move Resolution R2025-25, a Resolution Ratifying Emergency Expenditures for RMU Electrical Pole Repairs, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
3. **A Resolution Authorizing Revised Fiber Optic Internet Speeds.** The Advanced Communications Department is looking to increase the speeds available for our customers that will allow us to be more competitive. For existing customers under contract, it will allow us to basically double their existing bandwidth for the same price if they sign a new agreement. New customers will also be able to sign up for the new rates as well. Pat Brust, Director of Advanced Communications, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move Resolution R2025-26, a Resolution Authorizing Revised Fiber Optic Internet Speeds, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **An Ordinance Accepting and Approving the Proposal of Martin and Company Excavating, Pursuant to the Request for Bids for the 2025 Steward Road Multi-use Path.** The Steward Road Multi Use Path (MUP) was programmed in the 2025 CIP for completion as part of a development agreement for property along and adjacent to the proposed path extension. The project will consist of a newly constructed HMA path from Caron Court to the existing MUP at Ritchie /Steward Rd intersection. Tree and landscaping removal and replacement, along with new culverts under the path and grading and shaping of ditches will be part of the project as well. The project plans and specifications were developed by the City Engineering Department and advertised in the Rochelle News leader, and on the City website. Bids were publicly opened and read aloud on April 3rd at 11:00 am for the above referenced project. Separate bids were received as follows:
 - Bruns Construction submitted a bid for making the improvements in the amount of \$196,509.20
 - Martin and Company Excavating submitted a bid for the improvements in the amount of \$219,815.50
 - M2 Service Company submitted a bid for the improvements in the amount of \$286,391.98
 - Porter Brothers submitted a bid for the improvements in the amount of \$371,464.00
 - Elliott and Wood, Inc. submitted a bid for the improvements in the amount of \$405,000.00
 Bruns Construction has submitted a letter withdrawing their bid. The next lowest bidder, Martin and Company Excavating, submitted a bid approximately 2% higher than the Engineer's estimate of cost. Therefore, it is recommended to approve the bid proposal of Martin and Company Excavating. The project will be funded through the CIP fund #36-00. Furthermore, given the favorable contract unit

prices for multiple construction items it is recommended that approval be given to the City Manager and/or the City Engineer to negotiate further change order work, not to exceed \$16,000, within the proposed bid contract prices or agreed unit prices, to facilitate other improvements and upgrades to City drainage systems, pedestrian paths and/or streets adjacent to this project. It is anticipated that the construction project will be substantially complete by early September 2025. However, additional time will be granted for any additional work. Sam Tesreau, City Engineer, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2025-18, an Ordinance Accepting and Approving the Proposal of Martin and Company Excavating, Pursuant to the Request for Bids for the 2025 Steward Road Multi-Use Path, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

5. **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Second Extension to the Agreement with the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation for Economic Development Services.** On February 13, 2023, the City Council approved an extension of our revenue sharing agreement with the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDCO). To ensure the agreement remains aligned with the mayor's term, as required under Illinois statute, I am recommending an additional extension through May 2027. No other terms of the agreement will change through this extended period. This partnership has proven mutually beneficial for both the City of Rochelle and GREDCO, and I believe this extension is well justified. GREDCO continues to maintain a strong working relationship with both the Lee County Industrial Development Association (LCIDA) and Tom Demmer. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move Resolution R2025-27, a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Second Extension to the Agreement with the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation for Economic Development Services, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:33 P.M. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the City, Section (c) (6), and minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Act for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of minutes as mandated, Section (c) (21)."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

At 8:39 P.M. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:40 P.M. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Rose Huéarmo, City Clerk