



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM**  
**City of Rochelle Council Chambers—420 North 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068**

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- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge to the Flag and prayer were led by Mayor Bearrows.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. Absent: Councilor Arteaga. A quorum of six were present. Also, present City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and City Clerk Rose Huéramo.
- III. PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:** None.
- IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: The Mayor thanked the community for the strong turnout at the Two Ton Food Drive held on 11/20.
  2. Council Members: None.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None.
- VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIUS VOTE with Recommendations:**
    - a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting - 11/10/2025
    - b) Approve Minutes of Committee of the Whole Budget Workshop - 11/17/2025
    - c) Approve Payroll - 10/27/2025-11/9/2025
    - d) Approve Payment Registers - 11/10/2025, 11/10/2025 (RMU), 11/17/2025
    - e) Accept & Place on File - October Financials
    - f) Establish December 8, 2025 as 2026 Budget Public Hearing
    - g) Approve Amend 2026 Meeting DatesMotion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move consent agenda items (a) through (g) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
  2. **A Resolution Establishing the Small Business Interior Improvement Grant Program.** The City of Rochelle, in its continuing effort to support development within the Downtown, has created a Small Business Interior Improvement Program for business owners and operators within the Downtown TIF District. The City will provide a 50% matching grant, with a maximum amount of \$10,000 to Downtown business or building owners who complete eligible interior improvements. Improvements must be made within six months of application approval. A complete list of eligible expenses, boundary map and applications procedures are available for pick up at the Community Development Department located at 420 N 6th Street and on the City's website at [www.cityofrochelle.net](http://www.cityofrochelle.net) Grant applications will be available January 2026. Community Development Director Michelle Pease was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Resolution R2025-52, a Resolution Establishing the Small Business Interior Improvement Grant Program, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

3. **A Resolution Approving the 2025-2026 Risk Insurance Renewal Package.** In preparation for the City's risk insurance renewal, we collaborated with our broker, Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA), to provide the City with renewal options that align with procuring the most comprehensive coverage for our complex exposures while securing the best pricing. Considering this, we are recommending that the City obtain coverage for our 2025-2026 risk insurance and workers' compensation programs through the Illinois Municipal League's Risk Management Association (IMLRMA). This proposal is based on RMA's ability to provide a risk insurance package that encompasses the coverage required for the City's niche operations while furnishing us with renewal pricing resulting in a 14% decrease in premium. The risk insurance program we are recommending is RMA's MIN/MAX Risk Sharing Pricing Option, which allows us the opportunity to share-in the financial results of our claims experience. Given the City's claims history in the previous 5 years, this option would have presented an overall savings of \$273,684 - funds that could be utilized for other municipal purposes. Given this, the City will set aside at least \$316,200 in a loss reserve fund to prepare for claims that exceed the minimum loss fund. In addition, RMA's cyber insurance will be in excess of our current carrier's limits, providing for more robust cyber coverage. They are also including our power generation assets – coverage that has proven to be extremely challenging in today's market. A spreadsheet detailing the renewal and expiring premiums is attached for review. Human Resource Risk & Safety Coordinator Britt Zick was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Resolution R2025-53, a Resolution Approving 2025-2026 Risk Insurance Through the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
4. **An Ordinance to Approve the Minimum/Maximum Premium Agreement between the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) and the City of Rochelle.** The City has concluded that the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association's Minimum/Maximum Premium Agreement provides a risk sharing option that best allows the City the ability to assist in controlling the cost of our risk insurance, increasing our cash flow, and having better control over our claims management. In order to put this recommendation in place, IMLRMA's Minimum/Maximum Premium Agreement has been provided to City Council and is attached to this memo. Human Resource Risk & Safety Coordinator Britt Zick was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move Ordinance 2025-74, an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association Minimum/Maximum Premium Agreement, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
5. **An Ordinance to Approve Membership in the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) and Authorize the Execution of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Contract.** The City has determined that it is in our best interest to move our risk insurance package to the Illinois Municipal League's Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) to provide coverage for the City's risk management and workers' compensation programs. In order to facilitate this membership and respective contract, IMLRMA's Bylaws, Intergovernmental Cooperation Contract, and anticipated cost of participation in the plan have been provided to City Council and are attached to this memo. Human Resource Risk & Safety Coordinator Britt Zick was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move Ordinance 2025-75, an Ordinance Approving Membership in the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association and Authorizing the Execution of a Intergovernmental Cooperation Contract, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

6. **A Resolution to Withdraw from the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) and Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF).** The City of Rochelle is a member of the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) and the Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF) which respectfully provide the risk insurance program and workers' compensation coverage for the City. As part of our fiduciary responsibility, we worked closely with the City's broker, Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA), on our 2025-2026 renewal strategy and have determined that it is in the City's best interest to withdraw from both ICRMT and IPRF, and to move our risk insurance package to the Illinois Municipal League's Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) to provide coverage for the City's risk management and workers' compensation programs. Human Resource Risk & Safety Coordinator Britt Zick was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Resolution R2025-54, a Resolution to Withdraw from the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust and the Illinois Public Risk Fund, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
7. **An Ordinance Amending Section 4 of Chapter 6 to Strike Limitations on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.** The proposed ordinance would amend Section 6-4 of the Rochelle Municipal Code to remove restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Under the current Rochelle Liquor Code, alcohol sales must cease at 7:00 p.m. on December 24, and all establishments must remain closed for alcohol sales throughout December 25. The ordinance strikes the existing provisions that mandate early closure on Christmas Eve and full closure on Christmas Day. With the amendment, establishments would follow regularly permitted hours on both December 24 and December 25. The City seeks to modernize its liquor regulations and provide consistency in operating hours for local businesses. Removing these holiday-specific limitations supports business operations while maintaining compliance with the Illinois Liquor Control Act. City Clerk Rose Huérano was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2025-76, an Ordinance Amending Section 4 of Chapter 6 to Strike Limitation on the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
8. **An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026, of the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois, in an Aggregate Principal Amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the Purpose of Financing Various Technology Center and Related Improvements within the City and Paying for Costs Related Thereto.** City staff has determined that need for upgrades to the electrical system at Technology Center to support current and future technology infrastructure and service demands. These improvements may include facility upgrades, equipment, site improvements, and related infrastructure. Due to the absence of sufficient funds currently available in existing budgeted accounts or reserves, a financing mechanism is required. The City proposes issuing Alternate Revenue Source General Obligation Bonds under the authority of the Local Government Debt Reform Act (30 ILCS 350/1 et seq.). These bonds will be repaid primarily through Technology Center revenues, and other legally available City funds. The ordinance will be published in the Rochelle News-Leader. Director of Advance Communications Pat Brust was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2025-77, an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026, of the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the purpose of financing various Technology Center and related improvements within the City and paying for cost related thereto, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

9. **An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026, of the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois, in an Aggregate Principal Amount not to Exceed \$3,500,000 for the Purpose of Financing Various Rochelle Municipal Airport and Related Improvements and Paying for Costs Related Thereto.** Over the past year, City staff have been working on plans to build a new 8-unit airplane t- hangar at Rochelle's Airport. Staff discussed this project with City Manager Fiegenschuh explaining the need for additional hangar space at Rochelle's Airport and the funding necessary to complete this project. City Manager Fiegenschuh reached out to Raymond James, a public finance and debt investment banking firm, to explore alternate revenue bond options and run scenarios to fund a new airport hangar. General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) is a good funding option for Rochelle's Airport because this provides immediate capital for large projects and preserves general funds for essential services, supporting fiscal stability while continuing to invest in infrastructure. Spreading repayment over a decade for large capital expenses like these will reduce stress on the airport operating budget and prevent increased project costs from postponing these projects to a later date. The cost of constructing a new 8-unit T hangar including engineering fees is \$1,902,697. All upfront costs for these projects must be paid by the city. However, once complete, the city will receive \$1,204,737 in grant funding towards the overall cost of the 8-unit T hangar. With City Council support and approval, the City of Rochelle plans to issue General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) not exceeding \$3,500, 000. The amount issued to finance the construction of one new 8-unit aircraft hangar is \$2,000,000. The bonds will be repaid using Pledged Revenues, federal grants, and other city funds. The ordinance will be published in the Rochelle News-Leader. Director of Public works Tim Isley was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move Ordinance 2025-78, an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026, of the City of Rochelle, Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 for the purpose of financing various Rochelle Municipal Airport and related improvements and paying for costs related thereto, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Open Session) A Motion to Approve Closed Session Minutes - 8/11/2025, 8/25/2025, 9/8/2025, 9/22/2025** Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move the Council to Accept the contents of Executive Session Minutes from 8/11/2025, 8/25/2025, 9/8/2025, 9/8/2025, 9/22/2025 with the understanding that these minutes will remain confidential."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

At 7:03 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"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). and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Act for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated. Section (c) (21)."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

At 7:29 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voice vote all in favor. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:29 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voice vote all in favor. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

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John Bearrows, Mayor

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Rose Huéramo, City Clerk