



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 27, 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 T. McDermott, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso and Mayor John Bearrows. Absent were Councilors Arteaga and Hayes. A quorum of five 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: Thanked Fire Chief Sawlsville returning from assisting the wildfires in Canada.
 2. Council Members: None.
 3. City Clerk: Rose announced that candidate packets for the April 6, 2027 Consolidated General Election are available, with petition circulation beginning July 28, 2026. Candidate filing will be accepted October 19–23, 2026, during regular business hours, and on October 26, 2026, until 5:00 p.m. Additional election information and candidate resources are available through the Illinois State Board of Elections and Ogle County Elections websites.
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.
- VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
1. **IDOT Route 251 Drainage - Hickory Grove Property.** City Engineer Sam Tesreau, along with IDOT representatives Mike Kuehn and Cliff Howlett, provided an update on the proposed Stormwater Detention Facility at the former Hickory Grove site. The proposal includes a dry-bottom stormwater detention basin on the eastern portion of the site with a surrounding sidewalk to create a park-like setting, as well as an additional detention area near the Tilton Manor Drive cul-de-sac. The project is intended to help reduce recurring flooding at Illinois Route 38 and Route 251, support IDOT's planned Route 251 reconstruction, and accommodate future development along the corridor.
- VII. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE** with Recommendations:
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 7/13/26
 - b) Approve Payroll - 6/22/26-7/5/26
 - c) Approve Payment Registers - 7/13/26, 7/20/26
 - d) Accept & Place on File Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - 6/29/26
 - e) Approve Special Event Request - Peanut Days - September 4 & 5
 - f) Approve Special Event Request - Heritage Festival - August 14-16
 - g) Accept & Place on File - June FinancialsMotion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, "**I move consent agenda items (a) through (g) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended.**" Voting Yea: T. McDermott, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.
 2. **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 94, Article IV, Section 221 Regarding Resident Only Parking.** In efforts to promote the health, Safety, and welfare of the City and its residents it is

necessary to amend certain portions of its traffic regulations contained within the City code from time to time. Residents located on the south side of 9th Avenue between 3rd Street and Main Street have requested this side of the street be posted as Resident-Only Parking. Rochelle Community Hospital is located on the east side of the 3rd Street & 9th Avenue intersection and as a result, hospital employees, patients, and visitors frequently park along the residential side of the Street. This has made it difficult for residents and their guests to find convenient parking near their homes. Parking on 9th Avenue between 3rd Street and Main Street is already limited as this is a narrow roadway with parking only permitted along one side. The proposed Resident-Only Parking designation will preserve this limited space to help ensure that residents have reasonable access to on-street parking near their homes. Rochelle Community Hospital has parking facilities available for its staff and visitors and those should be the primary source of parking for hospital-related activities. Tim Isley, Public Works Director, was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**I move Ordinance 2026-41, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 94, Article IV (4), Section 221 Regarding Resident Only Parking, be approved.**" Voting Yea: T. McDermott, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 6:58 PM. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, "**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 Setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the City. Section (c) (6).**" Voting Yea: T. McDermott, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

At 8:06 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**I move return to open session.**" Voice vote all in favor.

At 7:17 PM, City Clerk, Rose Huéramo, was excused from the executive session. The executive session continued with audio recording in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The City Clerk will prepare the executive session minutes within six (6) months of the date of the meeting.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:08 PM. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**I move the Council adjourn.**" Voice vote all in favor.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Rose Huéramo, City Clerk