



**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, August 24, 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.
1. VFW Presentation of Public Safety Certificates of Commendation – Commanders of VFW presented awards to Officer E. Silva, Dispatcher Kelchner, Firefighter Daughtery, EMT Baker.
- IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: Congratulations were extended to the Rochelle Fire Department and Rochelle Police Department on a successful Battle of the Badges charity event, with the Rochelle Fire Department earning the win. The event raised \$3,500 for Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center. The Rochelle Recovery Center held an open house on August 20, recognizing 30 graduates in recovery. The Class of 1966 was presented with an overview of the growth and development of Rochelle. Special guest Little Miss Peanut was present, with the first bag sold to Mayor Bearrows.
2. Council Members: None.
3. City Manager's Report: City Manager Jackson thanked the Council as he officially marked his first 90 days with the City and noted that there is much work ahead in the coming months.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY/CORRESPONDENCE:** Chicagoland Skydiving Center and Flight Deck Bar & Grill requested consideration of an adjustment to an extraordinary utility bill resulting from an underground watermain break. Staff determined the leaked water entered the sewer system, significantly increasing flow at the lift station and requiring additional staff response. Current City Code does not provide a utility forgiveness provision for commercial or industrial accounts, and the matter was presented to Council for consideration.
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS: Comprehensive Plan – Commercial Development:** Michelle Pease Director of Community Development, presented an update on the City's commercial growth and development, highlighting key growth areas, public investments, and reinvestment tools aimed at strengthening the City's commercial base.
- VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:
- a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 8/10/2026
- b) Approve Payroll - 7/20/2026 - 8/2/2026
- c) Approve Payment Registers - 8/10/2026, 8/17/2026
- d) Accept & Place on File - July Financials
- e) Approve Special Event Request - Fiesta Hispana - September 12, 2026
- Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"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. **A Resolution Authorizing an Amended Sewer Maintenance Agreement with the Village of Creston.** On January 9, 1995, the Water Reclamation Department entered into a Sewer Maintenance Agreement with the Village of Creston, with the most recent amended agreement going into effect on July 2, 2019. On July 7, 2026, Adam Lanning, Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation attended the Village of Creston's Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to discuss amending the current agreement to modify the labor and vehicle costs. The Village of Creston agreed to the proposed increases. The Water Reclamation Department is recommending the Council pass a new ordinance amending the current agreement to increase the labor costs and accepts the amended agreement. Adam Lanning was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Resolution R2026-32, a Resolution Authorizing an Amended Sewer Maintenance Agreement with the Village of Creston, be approved."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
3. **An Ordinance Amending the FY2026 Annual Budget and Authorizing the Issuance of an RFP for Advanced Communications Consulting Services.** The City's Advanced Communications System was started in 1996, and was at the forefront of technology at that time. The City has made \$9,412,750 in investments in the system according to its latest audited financial statements. The System has approximately 200 customers, and a projected loss of approximately \$400,000 related to CAPEX shown in the 2026 Budget. While the fund has operated at a surplus in 2023 and 2024, sustaining capital reinvestment is a concern and may not be viable in the operations present iteration. Management's first 90 days revealed lack of regulatory filings with the FCC and State of IL, resulting in ineligibility for federal grant funds to expand rural broadband. Other providers have obtained those funds and have been building out their service network in the City. Management recommends bringing in a consultant to examine our Advanced Communications system, and to determine a path to sale, minor service expansion based on our existing fiber backbone growth and expansion of the service leveraging grant monies/retained earnings. City Manager Zeke Jackson was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Ordinance 2026-44, an Ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Annual Budget of the City of Rochelle for the Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2026 and Ending December 31, 2026, 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 Amending Chapter 94 – Traffic and Vehicles to Establish an All-Way Stop and Certain Convert Yield-Controlled Intersections to Stop-Controlled Intersections.** City staff have received concerns regarding the flow of traffic and pedestrian safety at the intersection of N.9th Street and 10th Avenue. This is a T intersection with 9th Street serving as the through street and 10th Avenue having a controlled stop. This is a busy intersection with an annual average daily traffic volume (AADT) of 2900 vehicles on N. 9th Street and 2050 vehicles on 10th Avenue. Tilton Elementary School is located at the Northwest corner of this intersection and residential housing surrounds the remainder. At times, especially before and after school, this intersection becomes congested as vehicles are turning on and off 10th avenue to drop off and pick up children from school. As traffic moves through the intersection and motorists wait for approaching vehicles to clear, traffic becomes backed up causing confusion. This confusion is enhanced as the crossing guard stops traffic to safely move children through the intersection. After review of this intersection and based upon the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidance and warrants, along with best practices and engineering judgement, City staff have determined that designating the intersection of 9th Street and 10th Avenue as an all-way stop intersection will better facilitate the orderly movement of traffic and enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, and emergency responders. Stop signs encourage motorists to pay closer attention to pedestrians and other vehicles. Converting this T intersection to an all-way stop will provide several safety and operational benefits. Requiring all vehicles to stop can distribute right of way more fairly reducing backups and will create more predictable conditions allowing pedestrians safer opportunities to cross. This will also allow the

crossing guard to more effectively manage crossings. Additionally, Staff have received several safety concerns and reports of near misses from motorists, residents, and pedestrians at the yield intersections of Joanne Avenue & Westview Dr, 9th Avenue & 10th Street and Avenue B and S. 10th Street. As part of amending chapter 94 of Rochelle's municipal code and based on guidance and warrants from the MUTCD, Engineering judgement, and best practices, City staff believe it is in the best interest of the City to convert these intersections of from yield to stop intersections. Reasons for making these changes include visibility concerns, increased traffic, poor compliance, and pedestrian safety. Tim Isley, Public works Director was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Arteaga, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move Ordinance 2026-45, an Ordinance Amending Sections 102, 103 and 106 of Chapter 94 – Traffic and Vehicles to Designate the Intersection of 9th Street & 10th Ave as an All-Way Stop and Convert the Intersections of Joanne Ave & Westview Drive and Avenue B & S. 10th Street from Controlled Yield Intersections to Controlled Stop Intersections."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

5. **An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of City-Owned Property on Technology Parkway and Issuance of a Request for Proposals.** In support of the City's ongoing efforts to encourage corridor revitalization and commercial growth, the disposal of surplus property utilizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the redevelopment of the City owned vacant lot located on Technology Parkway is being requested. The site is zoned B-2 Commercial Highway and consists of approximately 3.79 acres. On the final plat to be recorded, the parcel is identified as lot 6. Michelle Pease, Community Development Director was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-46, an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of City-Owned Property on Technology Parkway and Issuance of a Request for Proposals, 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 7:31 P.M. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **" I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss collective negotiating matters. Section (c) (2), the purchase or lease of real property for City's use. Section (c) (5) and the (appointment, Employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal) of specific employee(s). Section (c) (1)."** Voting Yea: Arteaga, T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.  
At 9:03 P.M. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move return to open session."** Voice vote all in favor.

At 8:40 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 9:04 PM. Motion made by Councilor Hayes, Seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voice vote all in favor.

---

John Bearrows, Mayor

---

Rose Huéramo, City Clerk