ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING

SUBJECT: Ordinance Approving an Employment Agreement for the City of Rochelle, Illinois, City Manager

Staff Contact: Jillian Condon, HR Director

Summary:

In December 2025, the City engaged Arndt Municipal Support to lead the recruitment process for a new City Manager. Arndt received 40 applications and conducted preliminary interviews, background and reference checks, social media reviews, and work history evaluations to identify the most qualified candidates for consideration by the City Council. With input from staff and community stakeholders, the Council has selected Zeke Jackson as the next City Manager.

The City is proposing an employment contract with Mr. Jackson beginning April 13, 2026, and expiring May 1, 2029. Under this agreement, Mr. Jackson will be under contract immediately, with an official start date of June 8, 2026. He will be eligible for Executive Level benefits and will receive an annual salary of $190,000.

Funding Sources:

Source:	Budgeted Amount:	Proposed Expenditure:

Strategic Plan Goal Application: -

Securing a City Manager is integral to the entirety of the strategic planning process.

Recommendation:

Approve an Employment Agreement for the City of Rochelle, Illinois, City Manager Zeke Jackson.