
THE CITY OF ROCHELLE
Ogle County, Illinois

ORDINANCE
NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM HELM ELECTRIC FOR THE
DOWNTOWN UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION PROJECT**

JOHN BEARROWS, Mayor
ROSE HUERAMO, City Clerk

TOM McDERMOTT
BIL HAYES
KATE SHAW-DICKEY
DAN McDERMOTT
ROSAELIA ARTEAGA
BEN VALDIVIESO
City Council

Published in pamphlet form by authority of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rochelle
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. – City Attorneys
1804 North Naper Boulevard, Suite 350, Naperville, Illinois 60563

ORDINANCE NO: _____

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM HELM ELECTRIC FOR THE
DOWNTOWN UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Section 7 of Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois provides that a municipality that is not a home rule unit shall only have the powers granted to them by law and as such the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois being a non-home rule unit pursuant to the provisions of said Section 7 of Article VII, and may exercise only the powers expressly granted by law; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly granted non-home rule municipalities broad authority to “pass all ordinances and make all rules and regulations proper or necessary, to carry into effect the powers granted to municipalities.” 65 ILCS 5/1-2-1; and

WHEREAS, while “non-home rule municipalities have the authority to enact ordinances, such ordinances may in no event conflict with state law or prohibit what a state statute expressly permits . . . A local ordinance may impose more rigorous or definite regulations in addition to those enacted by the state legislature so long as they do not conflict with the statute.” (*Village of Wauconda v. Hutton*, 291 Ill. App. 3d 1058, 1060 (1997)); and

WHEREAS, the City of Rochelle has been planning for the relocation of all downtown electrical lines from above ground to underground as part of the City’s downtown improvement project; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the City prepared a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to solicit proposals for the downtown underground installation project; and

WHEREAS, the RFP was published on the Illinois Bid Network’s website as well as on the City’s website; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rochelle received three competitive bids, a summary of which is shown in the attached Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the proposal from Helm Electric was the lowest bid in the amount of \$895,014.79; and

WHEREAS, the bid from Helm Electric was below the engineer’s project estimate; and

WHEREAS, staff contacted Helm Electric’s references from prior projects, all of which provided positive reviews; and

WHEREAS, Helm Electric appears to be in good standing and employs certified and trained craftsmen; and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting Council approve a 15% contingency to allow for any unanticipated issues that may arise during the project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to accept and approve the bid from Helm Electric.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS:

SECTION ONE: That the City hereby incorporates all of the recitals above into this Ordinance as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION TWO: The Mayor and City Council hereby accept and approve the bid from Helm Electric in the amount of \$895,014.79 for the downtown underground installation project. Furthermore, the Mayor and City Council authorize contingency funds in the amount of 15% of the project (\$134,252.22) for a total of \$1,029,267.01. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute any documents necessary to carry out the intent of this Ordinance subject to review and revision by the City Attorney.

SECTION THREE: If any provision of this Ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is ruled unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid application or provision, and each invalid provision or invalid application of this Ordinance is severable.

SECTION FOUR: Where the conditions imposed by any provisions of this Ordinance are more restrictive than comparable provisions imposed elsewhere in any other local law, ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation, the regulations of this Ordinance will govern.

SECTION FIVE: The City Clerk shall publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form.

SECTION SIX: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

APPROVED this 14th day of July 2025.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

EXHIBIT A



BHMg Engineers, Inc.
9735 Landmark Parkway Drive
Suite 110A
St. Louis, MO 63127

Mr. Blake Toliver

July 3, 2025

City of Rochelle, IL

Ref: 3303 – Downtown UG Conversion

Dear Mr. Toliver,

The city received competitive bids for constructing the Downtown UG Conversion project on June 17, 2025 at 2 p.m. A total of three (3) bids were collected and received on time. A summary of bids is shown below:

Contractor	Proposal
JF Electric	\$2,166,455.00
Utility Dynamics Corp	\$1,733,000.00
Helm Electric	\$895,014.79

The bid from Helm Electric was the apparent low bid for Specification 3303K001 which did not include any noteworthy clarifications, exceptions, or price escalators. Although we have not had any past projects with Helm Electric, we have contacted their listed references for prior projects, and their references all provided positive reviews. Additionally, the company appears to be in good standing and employs certified and trained craftsmen.

Helm Electric's bid is lower than the engineer's estimate for the project of \$1,181,874.91 completed on 03/12/24. BHMg recommends awarding the contract to Helm Electric for the installation with it being the low bid.

With the city's approval, release, and financial approval, BHMg will assist with issuing contract documents. Should you have any questions concerning the bids or the project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Couch".

Chris Couch
Project Manager

bhmg.com
636.296.8600

Enclosures: Bid Tab, bids

Empowering teams that develop successful relationships for the future.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF OGLE) SS.

CERTIFICATE

I, Rose Hueramo, City Clerk of the City of Rochelle, County of Ogle and State of Illinois, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. _____, "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM HELM ELECTRIC FOR THE DOWNTOWN UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION PROJECT" which was adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rochelle on July 14, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Rochelle this 14th day of July 2025.

CITY CLERK