

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2020**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2020 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG & PRAYER: The pledge and prayer was led by City Clerk Sue Messer.

ROLL CALL: Mayor - On March 16th, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Pritzker suspended the in-person attendance requirement for public meetings allowing public bodies to conduct meetings electronically without having to comply with the physical quorum requirements or the conditions for participating electronically in a meeting. On March 31st Governor Pritzker extended the order until April 30th. On May 29th Governor Pritzker extended the order until June 27th. On June 26th Governor Pritzker extended the order through July 25th. On July 24th Governor Pritzker extended the order through August 22nd. As a result, Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey and Councilman Don Burke have notified the City Clerk of their desire to participate remotely. Unless there is a motion objecting to their attendance, the request of the council members will be deemed approved. Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers Gruben, T. McDermott, D. McDermott, and Mayor Bearrows and Councilmembers Burke and Shaw-Dickey attended remotely. Absent: Councilman Hayes. A quorum of six were present. Also present were City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and City Clerk Sue Messer.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC: None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor – Blood Drive at Fireman’s Social Hall on Tuesday, 7/28 from noon – 6:00pm
- Council Member
- Rochelle Area Community Foundation Check Presentation for a total of \$16386.00.
- Employee Introductions – Operator Water Dept., Dawson Williams.
- Good News

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:**

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – July 13, 2020
- b) Approve Exceptions – 07/08/20-07/14/20
- c) Approve Payroll – 06/29/20-07/12/20
- d) Accept and Place on File Financial Statement – June 2020
- e) Request from Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K to hold Peanut Days September 11-12, 2020
- f) Approve Restart Rochelle Grants: Beauty Bar, Flight Deck Bar and Grill

Motion made by Councilor Gruben and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, “**I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (f) be approved by Omnibus Vote as recommended.**” Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0. At 6:40 PM Councilman Burke experienced technical difficulties and conference call was dropped.

- 2) **City of Rochelle Community Survey.** In the Fall of 2019, the City of Rochelle partnered with Northern Illinois University to launch a community satisfaction survey. The survey, sent in mixed-mode format, was delivered via e-mail, phone and postal mail in both English and Spanish. Measuring satisfaction with City services, customer service and communication, the survey aims to guide staff in implementing improvements within the organization. Mindy Schneiderman, Assistant Director of NIU’s Center for Governmental Studies phoned conference to present the survey findings to Council. Jenny Thompson, Director of Marketing, Public Relations & Tourism was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Gruben, “**I move the Council accept and place on file the City of Rochelle Community Survey.**” Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- 3) **Ordinance Amending Section 6-46 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Delete One R-1 Liquor License and Create One R-2 Liquor License for El Sol Mexican Restaurant Located at 509 4th Avenue.** El Sol

Mexican Restaurant at 509 4th Avenue has submitted an application for a Class R-2 liquor license at 509 4th Avenue. El Sol wishes to upgrade from the existing Class R-1 liquor license, which allows for beer and wine, to a Class R-2 license which allows for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises by restaurants with no bar. The Liquor Commissioner, Mayor Bearrows, has reviewed the application and has no objection to the creation of a Class R-2 liquor license for El Sol. This action will result in a total of four Class R-2 liquor licenses in the City of Rochelle. Sue Messer was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **“I move Ordinance 20-5147, an Ordinance Amending Section 6-46 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Delete One R-1 Liquor License and Create One R-2 Liquor License for El Sol Mexican Restaurant Located at 509 4th Avenue, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4) **Ordinance Approving a FY21 Illinois Census Project Sub-Award Agreement Grant Sub-Award Agreement between the City and Region 1 Planning Council.** In 2019 the Mayor and Council approved a Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Local Complete County Committee (LCCC) for the City of Rochelle. Since that time, staff has registered the City as a Complete Count Committee at both the State and Federal level, joined the Regional Complete Count Committee and organized a large group of Census Partners to help spread the word. Members of our LCCC have spoken to several groups, distributed information through various channels and organized and participated in multiple events. The Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) in Rockford was selected to serve as the Regional Intermediary for the Illinois Census Office “Northern Region” of Illinois, which includes Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties. As the Regional Intermediary, the RPC has been awarded funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services to promote a complete and accurate count in the Northern Region. Earlier this year, the City of Rochelle submitted a sub-recipient application for grant funds and was awarded \$23,790 for Census outreach November 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The recent State of Illinois budget includes additional funds for Census outreach. Once again, the Region 1 Planning Council is requiring the approval and execution of a grant sub-award agreement. This agreement provides the means for the City of Rochelle to receive reimbursement for Census related expenses through the grant. The amount of the agreement is \$25,000 with a term of July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. As of July 21st, the self-response rates were as follows: National 62.3%, State of Illinois 67.0%, Ogle County 73.6% and Rochelle 70.6%. The City of Rochelle’s 2010 self-response rate was 73.5% with a final response rate of 77%. Sue Messer was present to answer. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Gruben, **“I move Ordinance 20-5148, an Ordinance Approving a FY21 Illinois Grant Sub-Award Agreement between the City and Region 1 Planning Council, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.
- 5) **Ordinance Amending Article IV, Section 2-264 of the Municipal Code to “An Early Separation Incentive Program for Certain Employees of the City of Rochelle”.** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic I would like to extend the early retirement incentive for one additional year. Thus far four City/RMU employees have opted into the program. Aside from the dates, nothing from the previous program will change. If approved the plan will go into effect immediately with an enrollment period effective upon passage of this ordinance through February 14, 2022. The date of any employee’s separation under this program shall be no later than February 28, 2022. Enrolled employees must agree to utilize and exhaust any accrued and unused vacation, personal and comp time such that no employee may receive additional payments. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Gruben, **“I move Ordinance 20-5149, an Ordinance Amending Article IV, Section 2-264 of the Municipal Code to “An Early Separation Incentive Program for Certain Employees of the City of Rochelle”, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.
- 6) **Construction Contract Change Order for Well 8 Rehabilitation Swaging.** Well 8 (located on Caron Road) suffered an equipment failure earlier in the year and requires a new pump, motor and cable along with repairing a damaged casing. The contractor had issues getting their dummy test to pass for the installation of the swage liner in the well casing. In order to get a clear picture of what the issue is in the well, the contractor recommends a COLOG investigation which includes a caliper log, gyroscope test, and ABI inspection to map out the exact alignment and diameter of the well. All the information obtained during the investigation will create a complete picture of the well and will help determine the size liner required. This will also give the City very useful information for any future maintenance or rehab of the well, if required. Adam Lanning, Utilities Superintendent was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **“I move the Council approve the construction contract change order for Well 8 Rehabilitation Swaging by Water Well Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$37,216.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.
- 7) **Resolution Authorizing Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co to Inventory and Auction Surplus Personal Property Owned by the City of Rochelle.** Earlier this year the City purchased the Hickory Grove Banquet and

Conference Center with the intent of demolishing and redeveloping the property. In order to clear the way for demolition, and recoup some of the costs associated with the building, staff recommends that we sell the personal property contained within the facility. Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co has offered to inventory and auction the personal property through an on-line platform. The only cost to the City for the auction services will be less than \$400 for the use of the on-line platform. A list of the items being auctioned will be presented to council at the August 10th meeting for ratification. Sue Messer was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor Gruben and Councilor D. McDermott, **“I move Resolution R20-27, a Resolution Authorizing Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co to Inventory and Auction Surplus Personal Property Owned by the City of Rochelle, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey. Abstain: Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:30 PM, moved by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Gruben, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Susan L. Messer
City Clerk, City of Rochelle