

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2006**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2006 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers Hayden, Colwill, Hayes, Eckhardt, Councilwoman Hollonbeck and Mayor Olson. Absent: Councilman Berg. Also present were City Manager Alberts, City Attorney Cooper, and City Clerk McKinney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Hollonbeck moved and seconded by Councilman Colwill, **“I move the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 13, 2006 be approved.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

BILLS & PAYROLL: Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilman Hayden, **“I move the bills and payroll for the second half of November 2006 be allowed and paid when checked over and found correct.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor:
 - Stormwater Advisory Commission: With the resignation of Lisa Hardcastle, Mayor Olson suggested that Ray Stonebraker, presently an alternate, be made a regular member of the committee. Moved by Councilman Colwill and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move the Council approves the Mayor’s recommendation to appoint Ron Stonebraker to the unexpired term of the Stormwater Advisor Commission with term expiring July 1, 2008.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.
 - Gary Sparrow of DeKalb will be working along side our Airport Advisory Board.
 - Volunteers from the Downtown Association and City Staff have decorated the Downtown area.
 - Friday, December 1st is the downtown Christmas Walk and the Lighted Christmas Parade. The City is doing the tree lighting at City Hall with an auction of table-top trees in conjunction with the evening festivities.

- Council Members: None

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Resolution – Establishing Rules and Regulations for Issuing Permits for Fireworks Displays

According to the Illinois Fireworks Use Act, 425 ILCS 35/2, the City has the power to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the granting of permits for pyrotechnic and consumer displays. Section 66-142 of the Rochelle Municipal Code provides that supervised public displays of fireworks may be allowed by permit from the City. The Rules and regulations for fireworks displays have been developed to clarify the procedure for obtaining and displaying the necessary permit. These procedures include an application to the City Clerk at least 15 days in advance of the display, the requirement of a licensed lead pyrotechnic operator, proof of liability insurance not less than \$1,000,000.00 with the City named as an insured, inspection of the site by the City Fire Chief and timely notification of the Police Department. The City Clerk and the Fire Chief have reviewed and approved the procedures. Moved by Councilman Hayes and seconded by Councilman Hayden, **“I move Resolution R06-25, A Resolution Establishing Rules and Regulations for Issuing Permits for Fireworks Displays, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

2. **Hanger Rental Rates for Rochelle Municipal Airport** The management of our municipal airport operations includes the rental of individual hangar units. The current budget includes revenues for hangar rental of \$41,000. Monthly rates for the 31 units range from a low of \$85 to a high of \$295. The annual revenues would total \$43,920 if all units were leased for the entire year at the current rates that were established in July, 1999. The Airport Advisory Board has recognized the need for maintenance of airport hangar facilities and the associated need to identify financial resources to fund those maintenance activities. After considerable discussions, the Board has prepared a recommendation to adjust hanger rental rates effective 1 January 2007. The proposed rates would increase revenues by \$3,300 annually or about 7.5% assuming all units were leased. The additional revenues would be used to address the maintenance needs of the hangars. Norm Jenkins and John Kenny, Airport Advisory Board members and Don Elliott, Superintendent of the Airport, were present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman Colwill and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move Resolution R06-26, A Resolution Establishing Hangar Rental Rates for Rochelle Municipal Airport-Koritz Field Effective January 1, 2007, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

3. **Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 of Rochelle Municipal Code (Aviation)** Chapter 18 of the current Rochelle Municipal Code entitled Aviation provides all the necessary regulations and instructions related to our municipal airport and its operation. There have been no significant revisions made to this section of the code in recent years. The Airport Advisory Commission has spent considerable time reviewing the provisions of the code to insure that it continues to meet the needs of our municipal airport. They have recommended a number of changes that are designed to improve the clarity of the code and to make it more consistent with a "user friendly" facility. At their 23 October 2006 meeting, the Airport Advisory Board voted to recommend approval of the changes to the municipal code that they had discussed at previous meetings. City Attorney Alan Cooper has reviewed the proposed language changes and has also suggested non-substantive language improvements. Don Elliott was present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman Hayden and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move Ordinance 06-3496, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 (“Aviation”) of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Ordinance Adopting Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers’ Occupation Tax and Service Occupation Tax (“Sales Tax”) and Amending Chapter 90 of the Rochelle Municipal Code:** The City is authorized by State Statute, if approved by referendum, to impose certain “sales” taxes on the transfer of tangible personal property within the City up to one percent to be used for public infrastructure or for property tax relief or both. At a Special Council Meeting on August 31, 2006 the City Council voted to authorize a referendum which, if passed, would allow for an increase in the City Sales Tax of 3/4%. The approved referendum question was presented to voters at the November 7, 2006 election. By a vote of 1,235 yes to 899 no, voters supported the sales tax referendum. Following the passage of the referendum the City Council is required to pass an ordinance authorizing the increase which must be filed with the State of Illinois by April 1, 2007. According to State Statute, the additional 3/4 of 1% increase will take effect on July 1, 2007. The City will begin to realize the new revenue beginning October 1, 2007. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Colwill, **“I move Ordinance 06-3497, An Ordinance Adopting Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers’ Occupation Tax and Service Occupation Tax (“Sales Tax”) and Amending Chapter 90 of the Rochelle Municipal Code, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

5. **2006/07 Tax Levy** Annually the City Council is required to adopt a Tax Levy Ordinance and file it with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. Last year, the City's property tax rate was \$0.87606 per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV). The City's actual 2005/2006 EAV of \$157,372,298 produced revenues of \$1,378,676. The estimated EAV for 2006/2007 is \$168,353,694 or an increase of 6.98%. By reducing the 2005/2006 property tax rate in 2006/2007 to \$0.84662 per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV), recommended by staff, approximately \$1,425,312 would be generated, an increase of \$67,726.60 or about 4.99% above last year. It would also represent the eighth consecutive year with a City tax rate less than 1% of the EAV. The decreased property tax rate is made possible by the significant increase in the EAV (\$10,981,396) primarily in the industrial classification. Bob Withrow was present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman Hollonbeck and seconded by Councilman Colwill, **"I move Ordinance 06-3498, An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Rochelle 2006/07, be approved."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

6. **Resolution – Authorizing Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Rochelle and other Public Agencies for the Formation of the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle Commission** The City through RMU, and other governmental entities in the Northern Illinois Region have been working together for several years to bring redundant, high speed fiber optic based communication services to the region. The Northern Illinois Technology Triangle is a result of this effort. Although the NITT stands for "Northern Illinois Technology Triangle", the real purpose of the intergovernmental cooperation is to improve the economic and community vitality of the Northern Illinois Region. In a study conducted by the Regional Development Institute of Northern Illinois University, it has been shown that most business growth in the greater Northern Illinois region is associated with international trade. The proposed NITT is a high speed network that would connect Rochelle to Rockford, Ogle County, Boone County, Northern Illinois University and Winnebago County via a ring of fiber. The fiber optic cable would begin in Rochelle, travel east on I-88 to I-294 where it will head north and connect to fiber along I-90 which will then proceed to connect to new fiber that IDOT is constructing along I-39 from Rockford to Rochelle. A network of this type in our region would set us apart and give us a competitive edge in the global market place. Approval of the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle Commission is required to facilitate the ICC grant administration and future technology initiatives. This authorization for membership allows the City, through RMU, representation in the NITT Commission. It does not include any financial obligation at this time beyond the annual dues of \$1,000. Richard Heinemann, Boardman Law Firm, and Ryan Alderks were present to answer any questions. Both Ogle and Boone Counties have already passed a resolution for. Moved by Mayor Olson and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **"I move Resolution R06-27, A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Rochelle and Certain other Public Agencies for the Formation of the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle Commission, be approved."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, Colwill, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

7. **City Manager's Report:**

- **Tourism Board Appointment** The Rochelle Tourism & Visitors Association consists of nine (9) member as follows: Three (3) at-large members, two (2) members from the commercial business sector, one (1) member from the local lodging industry, one member from the local Chamber of Commerce, and two (2) members from the City of Rochelle. The City of Rochelle has the right to designate their members with at least one being an elected official. Mayor Chet Olson currently represents the City of Rochelle as the elected official. Sue Messer has accepted an appointment by the City Manager as the second member from the City. She replaces the position formerly held by Lisa Cowley.
- **Greater Rochelle Area Planning Council Meeting** The Mayor and City Council members are invited to attend the December GRAPC meeting to be held in the Council Chambers on December 7 at 7 p.m. Roger Dahlstrom from NIU will present his findings on the Growth Impact Study he compiled and will discuss possible recommendations.

Discussion Item 1

Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition In late 1997, a wide variety of history, heritage, and tourism organizations across Illinois joined together to form a coalition for mutual development of the Lincoln Highway Corridor as a destination for travelers and as an alternative route for crossing the state. Ross Freier, Rochelle Tourism and Visitors Association, to update the Council in the Interpretive Plan that the Tourism Board will have completed next year..

At 8:09 p.m., Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Bruce McKinney, CMC
City Clerk, City of Rochelle

Chet Olson
Mayor, City of Rochelle