

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilman Hollonbeck, "**I move the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of May 14, 2007 be approved.**" Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilman Hayden, "**I move the Council accept and place on file the reports of the Rochelle Stormwater Advisory Commission meeting of March 21, 2007 and the Airport Advisory Board meeting of March 26, 2007.**" Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

BILLS & PAYROLL: Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, "**I move the bills and payroll for the second half of May 2007 be allowed and paid when checked over and found correct.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Hollonbeck, Berg, Eckhardt, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor:
 - Proclamation for Hunger Awareness read by City Clerk and accepted by Amber Wood of the Northern Illinois Food Bank.
 - Thanked Tourism Board, Downtime Association, Lincoln Hwy. Association, and all those involved in the dedication of the mural
 - Thanked the VFW for the nice Memorial Day event even though the parade was rained out.
- Council Members:
 - Councilwoman Hollonbeck thanked those who supported the garage sale for the four charitable organizations involved, each group receiving \$500.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Amber Wood of the Northern Illinois Food Bank thanked the City and businesses, including Sullivan Foods who collected donations for the hungry.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

- 1) **Variance Request – Fencing 320 North 11th Street** The City has received a request from John and Johnette Sexton for a fence variance at 320 North 11th Street. Due to the lot configuration, and disabilities of two of their children, the petitioners have requested fence variances relating to setbacks. The petitioner has requested a variance which would allow a fence to be extended 50 feet into the side yard from the rear of the house. The city zoning ordinance allows a 20 foot extension from the rear of the house. At the May 8, 2007 meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals the Sexton's variance request was considered at which time the Sexton's changed their request to 17.6 foot on the south side and beyond their door on the north side. The ZBA voted 4-0, to recommend approval of a fence variance of no more than 17 feet 6 inches beyond the allowed 20 feet subject to any recommended changes after staff investigation. Following the ZBA meeting, Chris Limas, Community Development Director, conducted a site inspection and found that a variance of 24 feet on the north side of the house was appropriate. Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilwoman Hollenbeck, "**I move Ordinance 07-3563, An Ordinance Approving a Variance for Property located at 320 North 11th Street, be approved.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Hollonbeck, Berg, Eckhardt, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

2) **Agreement between the City of Rochelle and TENG Engineering Technology Building**

In March 2004, RMU contracted with TENG Engineering to prepare a "Technology Center Planning Design Report". Since that time, the concepts of a Business and Technology Park as well as the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle (NITT) project have been developed. Since some of the communication services that are proposed to be offered by RMU in the future require a "hardened" (storm resistant) facility, it is imperative that the design of a proposed Technology Center be completed by a consultant experienced in this field. The installation of the NITT fiber optic cable from Rochelle to Rockford is scheduled to commence no later than next month. An informal agreement has been reached between the City and IDOT to locate the electronics necessary to light the IDOT fiber in a proposed Rochelle Technology Center. A proposal has been received from TENG & Associates to provide civil, architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and fire protection engineering design services for the proposed 22,500 square foot Technology Center at a cost of \$373,746. It is important to recognize that the services required are somewhat specialized and requires an experienced firm such as TENG & Associates to complete. Some of this work has been already been started to demonstrate the City's commitment to the Business and Technology Park in recruiting a potential business to the Park. It's very possible that the size will be smaller than mentioned. As this project was not in the budget, the cost will be offset by some other projects being deferred. The degree of technology that is being built into the building is extremely important and raises the cost. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Hayes, **"I move Agreement 07-3564, An Agreement between the City of Rochelle and TENG Engineering for Professional Design services for a Proposed Technology Center, be approved."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Hollonbeck, Berg, Eckhardt, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

3) **City Manager's Report**

- **Safety Seat Inspection** On Saturday May 19th, Sergeant Bergeron, Detective Inman, and Dispatchers Milburn and Nambo held a Safety Seat Inspection at Wal-Mart from 1-4 p.m. These personnel are trained and certified in the installation of car seats. They reported that the turnout was low (only six inspections). These events are conducted quarterly as time allows. The public may also come to the police department, while these personnel are working, for assistance in car seat installation.
- **New Residential Electric Services** A summary prepared by Joe Orlikowski indicates that a total of 46 new electric residential services were installed in 2006. That number included 9 homes in the City and 37 in rural subdivisions served by RMU. For the first 4 months of 2007, there have been 13 new residential services, 9 in the City and 4 in rural subdivisions.
- **Financial Statement** Mr. Alberts said that he was proud of all the staff. Bob Withrow and his staff completed the General Fund Budget for the previous 12 months. There was a Revenue shortage of 5% but the expenses were short by 11%. All the Chiefs and Directors should be commended for keeping their costs down.
- **Police Training** There was a Taser gun training; the training was focused on how to use the equipment and officers experiencing a taser gun.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) **Discussion Item 1 - City Property – 108 N 9th Street** The City of Rochelle purchased the property located at 108 North Ninth Street on October 7, 2004. The property consists of a house and two lots and is currently vacant. It was originally purchased anticipating future expansion of the Rail Fan Park facilities. Ross Freier, Rochelle Tourism and Visitors Association, has provided input on the use of the property and was in attendance at the council meeting to discuss alternate ideas. One idea is to create an additional parking lot for the Railroad Park with two or more islands for hook-ups for RV Campers. Another idea is tearing down the house which the gift shop is currently in and expanding the current parking lot at the Railroad Park and then building a replica depot gift shop with a few parking spaces on the 108 N. 9th Street property. Mr. Freier also gave the many advantages gained by the City from the Rail Fan Park. The council was in favor of the expansion plans.

Discussion Item 2 - Sidewalk Improvement Program Beginning in 1996, the City has performed an annual sidewalk replacement program. In March 2006, Street Department personnel inspected and rated the condition of sidewalks that have not been replaced as part of the annual program. Based on their condition, the sidewalks were organized in a seven year program to address remaining deficiencies. Year 2 of the program includes replacement of over 6800 linear feet, 41 accessibility ramps, and 17 alley approach ramps. The estimated cost for the second year of the program is \$198,452.95. The budgeted amount for the 2007 sidewalk program is \$200,000. City Engineer, Sam Tesreau, was in attendance to answer questions and present those areas that are in the 2007 program. There was also a drawing presented to show those areas. They will go out for a bid in June. Will be seeking grants for safe routes to school programs. Mr. Alberts mentioned that this will be the first year using the new materials for sidewalks. Mr. Alberts said that they hope there is not a dramatic difference in the bids from what is estimated so they can complete this year's program as planned. Mayor Olson mentioned that the nursing homes will be in touch with the City Manager in regards to sharing the cost to put in front sidewalks so the elderly would be able to take walks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

At 8:00 pm Councilman Berg moved and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Bruce W. McKinney, CMC
City Clerk, City of Rochelle

Chet Olson
Mayor, City of Rochelle