

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilman Hayden, "**I move the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 10, 2007 be approved.**" Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Moved by Councilman Hayden and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, "**I move the Council accept and place on file the reports of the Plan Commission meeting of November 19, 2007.**" Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

BILLS & PAYROLL: Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, "**I move the bills and payroll for the second half of December 2007 and the first half of January 2008 be allowed and paid when checked over and found correct.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor: Recognized and thanked the employees who had anniversaries in the month of January.
- Council Members: None
- Employee Introductions:
 - Sherry Hoffman-Koteski: Sue Messer introduced our new part-time custodian for City Hall and Building/Engineering Services. Sherry has previous custodial experience and a positive "get it done" attitude.
 - Robin Olszewski: Chief Buck introduced the new 911 Dispatcher in the Police Department. Robin has been working on his degree in Criminal Justice and recently completed an internship with the Rochelle Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

- Don Karper: Recognized Dave and Kim Bradford, who have gone out of their way to support the troops over in Iraq, by presenting a certificate and a flag that has flown over the headquarters in Bagdad
- Dan Fish: Introduced himself as a candidate for circuit judge in the 15th judicial circuit. He explained his past experience. and gave his reasons for running for judge.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Ordinance to Replace and Impose a Municipal Utility Tax: An Ordinance was adopted by the Mayor and City Council in 1996 which established a municipal utility tax of 1.5% on gross revenues of natural gas businesses and electric companies serving customers within Rochelle. Proceeds received were intended to be used for sidewalk repair, Dement Road, and flood control. In 2002 the original ordinance reached its sunset threshold and a new ordinance was adopted. The 2002 ordinance earmarked proceeds for sidewalk repairs, flood control, and street improvements in areas lacking curb, gutter, and sidewalk with an ending date of April 2008. A majority of the funds received through the Municipal Utility Tax (MUT) have been used to repair or replace existing sidewalks. Since 1997 over 250,000 square feet of sidewalks have been removed and replaced along with the construction of accessibility ramps. In 2006 all of the city's sidewalks were evaluated and rated based on their condition. Following this assessment a multiyear program, through 2013, was established to address deficiencies. City Engineer, Sam Tesreau, recommends that the MUT be extended through April 2013 with proceeds being used for sidewalk repair or replacement, construction or reconstruction of sidewalk accessibility ramps, new or missing sidewalk extensions and/or connections, and the construction of street improvements in areas lacking curb, gutter and sidewalk. The new Municipal Utility Tax would be the same as the 2002 ordinance which equates to approx. 1.5%. Sam Tesreau was present to better explain and answer any questions. After discussion, it was moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Colwill, "**I move Ordinance 08-3636, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 90 (Taxation) of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Add Articles Extending Municipal Gas and Electric Rates through April 2013, be adapted.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Digital TV: Jenny Hartnett gave a presentation on the upcoming Digital Television Change. She explained that the television stations are converting to digital broadcasting in February of 2009. At that time all analog TV's using an antenna will not work. Consumers are able to get a converter box, which is available online or through a retailer. Coupons are available to help with this purchase (two \$40 coupons available per customer). Cable TV will still work as well as digital TV's. Brochures are available at City Hall.

2. Traffic and Parking Code Revisions: Representatives of the Downtown Association met with city staff several months ago to discuss possible changes to Chapter 94, Traffic and Parking, of the Rochelle Municipal Code. Discussions included parking restrictions, parking fine amounts, and the future addition of bike racks. Don Elliott has prepared a recommendation for revisions to Chapter 94, which will address a number of the concerns, and was in attendance to discuss these proposed changes. Besides the list of recommended areas of changes given to the council, Councilman Colwill suggested parking on just one side of Sunnymeade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:50 p.m. Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss the employment of specific employees (Section (c)(1); pending or imminent litigation (Section (c)(11); and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under Open Meetings Act (Section (c)(21)).”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

At 9:08, Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move the Council return to Open Session.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:08 p.m. Councilwoman Hollonbeck moved and seconded by Councilman Hayes, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

s/ Chet Olson

Chet Olson
Mayor, City of Rochelle

s/ Bruce W. McKinney

Bruce McKinney, CMC
City Clerk, City of Rochelle