

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Absent: None. Also present were Ken Alberts, City Manager; Alan Cooper, City Attorney; and Judy Schermerhorn, Deputy City Clerk (in the absence of Bruce McKinney, City Clerk).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of January 28, 2008 and the Special Council Meeting of January 28, 2008 be approved.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Moved by Councilman Hayden and seconded by Councilman Hayes, **“I move the Council accept and place on file the reports of the Airport Advisory Board Meeting of November 26, 2007.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

BILLS & PAYROLL: Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilman Hayes, **“I move the bills and payroll for the first half of February 2008 be allowed and paid when checked over and found correct.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor:
 - Proclamation for National Engineer’s Week, February 17 – February 23, 2008 was read; Sam Tesreau accepted the proclamation and also announced that there are scholarships available for students going into the engineering field and where to obtain applications.
 - Proclamation for National FFA Week was read; the Mayor presented it to two FFA students from RTHS.
 - Thanked employees celebrating February anniversaries, mentioning Phil Orlikowski and John Elliott who both have 24 years of service.
- Council Members: Councilman Colwill mentioned that Bill Parsons recently passed away. He had played a big role in the RTHS Alumni scholarship program for students going to college. There are 26 - \$1,000 scholarships available each year. Applications are now available.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Jeana Abbott, Director of Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce, presented the council with new area maps and guides for 2008. She will bring the City a supply for our use as well as handouts to citizens.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. **Resolution Establishing the Official Zoning Map for 2007:** Illinois Municipalities are required to certify their zoning maps annually no later than March 31. The map is required to indicate all of the existing zoning classifications for the preceding year, in this case effective December 31, 2007. The resolution which upon approval by the Mayor and City Council, will authorize the City Clerk to certify the official map by signature and seal for the calendar year 2007. Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilman Hayden, **“I move Resolution R08-02, A Resolution Establishing the Official Zoning map for Calendar Year 2007, be adopted.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **Resolution Establishing Water Reclamation Rate Schedule:** The current Water Reclamation Rate Schedule was established in 1993. Due to the increased costs associated with providing these services, a review and analysis of the current price schedule was conducted by Willett-Hofmann and Associates. This analysis compared revenues and expenses as well as an estimate of projected capital improvements for the next ten years. The review indicated that costs associated with providing water reclamation services necessitate an increase. In an effort to minimize the impact on our customers, RMU staff and their consultant have recommended that the rate increase be implemented over a three-year time period. The first phase would be effective April 1, 2008. The findings and proposed rate schedules were presented at the January 23, 2008, Utility Advisory Board Meeting and the UAB recommended adoption of the rate schedule. Gary Larsen and Kathy Cooper were present to give in-depth information and to answer questions. Moved by Councilwoman Hollonbeck and seconded by Councilman Colwill, **“I move Resolution R08-03, A Resolution Establishing City of Rochelle Water Reclamation Rates, Effective with Billings Issued After April 1, 2008, be adopted.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **Ordinance Amending 2007/08 Budget - Dement Road Utility Extensions:** The 2007-08 Budget was approved by the City Council on April 9, 2007. Since the approval of the budget several actions have occurred which have accelerated the development of the Rochelle Business and Technology Park, including the decision by Allstate Insurance to locate in the park. The construction schedule required to meet the needs of the park development will necessitate bids being let and possibly awarded in the 2007-08 budget year. For this reason a budget amendment is proposed for the utilities along Dement Road including: Sanitary Sewer Main and Water Main.

Sanitary Sewer Main: The sanitary sewer main project includes the engineering and construction of approximately 2600 feet of sewer main from the current point of terminus, north on Dement Road, to the Allstate Facility. The budget amendment request for the sewer main extension is \$280,355.00 with funds to be budgeted in the Water Reclamation Capital Outlay Budget.

Water Main: The water main project includes the engineering and construction of approximately 2,700 feet of 12” water main to be extended from the current point of terminus, north on Dement Road, to the Allstate Facility. The budget amendment request for the water main extension is \$294,827.00 with funds to be budgeted in the Water Fund Capital Outlay Budget.

The sale of properties within the park will produce revenues to cover the sewer and water main portion of the budget amendment. Gary Larsen was present to answer any questions. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Berg, **“I move Ordinance 08-3644, An Ordinance Amending the city of Rochelle Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08 for the Extension of utilities (Sanitary Sewer and Water) Along Dement Road, be adopted.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

4. **Resolution to General Assembly Regarding Police and Fire Pensions:** The Illinois Municipal League has conducted a Fiscal Analysis of the Downstate Police, Fire and IMRF Pension Systems dated February 2007. This study was conducted as a result of serious concerns expressed by many Illinois municipalities about the long-term financial health of their police and firefighter pension funds. In addition many Illinois municipalities are concerned about the cost of these pension systems on their municipal budgets. In view of these concerns, the Illinois Municipal League has requested that local resolutions be passed by municipalities that will communicate these concerns to our state legislators. According to information provided to management, the majority of municipalities have been unable (or unwilling) to provide the necessary public funds to insure that the pension funds are fully funded. According to the latest Actuarial Valuation Report for the period ending April 30, 2007, the Rochelle Firefighters Pension is 95 percent funded, while the Police Pension Fund is 108.5 percent funded. It is imperative that the City balances the objective of providing reasonable and competitive pension benefits to all our employees with the need to be fiscally responsible to our citizens. Adopting this resolution is intended to communicate to the state legislators the importance of this balance. Mayor Olson, as a board member of IML, spoke briefly on information he has: there has been an influx of retirees, not only in Rochelle but all over the state. Bob Withrow was also present to answer questions regarding the pension funds. Jason Fore, representing the Fire Fighters, and Terry Inman, representing the Police Officers, both requested that this resolution be postponed until further information can be presented to the Council. Following many questions and discussion, Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilman Berg, **“I move Resolution R08-04 (A Resolution Urging the General Assembly not to Pass Legislation that Results in Unreasonable Benefit Improvements and to Support Legislation that Protects the Financial Integrity of the Police and Firefighter Pension Programs) be delayed until there is more research with all the groups involved (IML, FF and Police lobbyists.)”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hayden, Hayes, Berg, Colwill, Eckhardt, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0. It will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting when the council can be better educated.

5. **City Manager’s Report:**

• **Rochelle Fire Station**

Firefighters recently noticed movement in the northwest wall of the fire station. Upon initial assessment, City Building and Engineering Staff believe this may indicate a major structural problem. The engineering firm of Willett Hofmann and Associates has been retained to conduct further structural investigation.

• **Recycle Rochelle Reusable Shopping Bags**

Reusable Shopping Bags are now available at Rochelle City Hall and Rochelle Municipal Utilities. The bags are available for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling are seen in many ways in and around our community. Members of the Recycle Rochelle Initiative encourage citizens to demonstrate their support in making Rochelle a better place to live through the use of these reusable bags. Sue Messer handed out bags to the Council. In one days time there were already 115 sold. They will also be available to the public at the annual Rochelle City Expo.

• **Nomination for Government Engineer of the Year**

City Engineer, Sam Tesreau, was recently nominated for the Government Engineer of the Year by the Rock River Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. The nomination will be submitted for possible recognition at the state level.

- **Home Rule Referendum**

Mr. Alberts expressed his appreciation to the members of the Home Rule Committee who spent countless hours working to make this initiative a reality. Although the referendum was not approved, local citizens were informed on this complicated topic and potential benefits.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Capital Plan – General Fund Infrastructure Improvements:** Several City staff members have met over the past few months with the goal of developing a Capital Plan which addresses future general fund infrastructure needs for the City of Rochelle. Items included in the plan are current commitments, anticipated projects, and maintenance needs of existing infrastructure. The group is working to not only identify and prioritize projects but also to identify associated revenue streams. City Engineer, Sam Tesreau, presented a 10-year plan of the Streets/Roadway Infrastructure Improvements in a handout to the Council as well as with a Power Point presentation. Due to time restraints he completed the Power Point presentation through 09/10 and will have to complete it at a later date.

Press Release: At this time Gary Larsen announced a press release that was going out that night regarding the passing through of higher wholesale electrical costs starting this week. This will become apparent to all electrical customers this month with an average increase of 10 – 15% over those in the past six months.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:35 p.m. Councilman Colwill moved and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

s/ Chet Olson

Chet Olson
Mayor, City of Rochelle

s/ Judy Schermerhorn

Judy Schermerhorn
Deputy City Clerk, City of Rochelle