

Jason Anderson, Economic Development Director, commended Gary and RMU for their forward thinking, which is so important for economic development. Companies are looking at affordable and greener energy. He is neutral as to how we get the energy but feels this is a unique opportunity.

Public Commentary:

- Tom Smith: Spokesperson for a group that started in White Rock Township and now has several other area townships that have “jumped on their band wagon” who are opposed to the windmills. They have lived here all their lives and want to retire here, but do not want to have to look at industrial windmills. Feel that Rochelle should put in their industrial area, not in their area, especially when they don’t even get to vote on it.
- Dennis Probasko: Not in favor (show of hands was 30-35 present in the council chambers); Had a document from Batavia which they felt the Council should look at.
- Mark Hays: Lives in White Rock Township and lives close to the property with five windmills on it. It was brought to their attention at a late point in time. But the council can stop this from happening. If the majority of the people don’t want it, then it shouldn’t happen.
- John Kaminski: Economics of windmill; not all that stable; should be put off down the road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:40 pm, moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Chet Olson
Mayor, City of Rochelle

Bruce McKinney, CMC
City Clerk, City of Rochelle

- To answer Councilman Berg's question, the pension is at 79.8%, down from 98%.
- Councilman Eckhardt is concerned that this may happen again in the future with the market as it has been.
- Councilman Tom McDermott: "As a City we have an obligation to try to offset the gap in pension funding."
- **Terry Inman represented the Police Pension:** Discussed the restrictions and guidelines set by the state: can only invest in certain commodities; can only contribute 9.9%. Their only option, not that they want to, is to ask for the tax payers to contribute more
 - Councilman Berg: Recommended a public hearing.
 - Mayor Olson feels that we should go with the lower option.
 - Councilman Eckhardt felt that we should go with the higher option and come up with another idea to fund it.

As the tax payers will have to fund this increase, Councilman Berg suggested a public hearing. Councilman Tom McDermott said we could ask for more but not be tied into it.

Public Commentary:

- Jeff Pignato: Protested the levy increase; questioned the EAV figures. Mr. Alberts answered that the figures used are given to the City.
- John Kaminski: Don't need higher levy; suggested tabling the TIF district so that we could use the money in other areas such as the pension plan.

2) **Discussion Item 2 - Eagle View Wind Project:** The Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA) comprised of the cities of Rochelle, Batavia, and Geneva, continues to evaluate the possibility of adding a wind project to its energy portfolio. A public open house was held on October 7, 2009 to provide preliminary details on the project and allow those in attendance to ask questions. The proposed Eagle View Wind Project would be located northwest of Rochelle and would connect to the power grid at the Twombly Road substation. RMU General Manager, Gary Larsen, was in attendance to discuss the progress so far and the future of the project, along with a handout prepared by Gary Larsen and Ken Alberts given to the Mayor and City Council. Ken Alberts completed the summary, using visuals. Summary of items are:

- Provide NIMPA members with a renewable energy resource,
- Progress made includes application to DCEO for a grant up to \$5 million.
- Community wind project located 4 miles north of Rochelle; 8 large wind turbines planned for.
- Electricity to be delivered to RMU; eliminates cost and time to deal with PJM.
- Construction cost for 8 turbines is \$34 million. Source of funding: CREB \$31 million with 19.7 million received; grant for \$5 million; tax-exempt bonds \$1.5 million.
- Environmental and Community Impacts as well as benefits were given.
- Next steps to be taken
- Options to consider include:
 - Option 1 - capital investment and a contract with NIMPA;
 - Option 2 - expanding the scope with a partner;
 - Option 3 – do not participate in the Eagle View Project;
 - Option 4 – place the project on hold pending additional developments on federal or state renewable energy standards applicable to RMU.
- Cost impact of each option
- The Utility Advisory Board recommends a minimum of 1 Turbine for RMU. RMU and the City Manager support the UAB recommendation.

Discussion followed:

- City Manager Alberts will visit with the neighbors to discuss concerns.
- Councilman Berg, is concerned with the cost to tax payers; not mandated at this time and technology could change by the time we are mandated; sees no reason to get into the project. Later brought up the fact that our neighbors to the north are the ones who are going to have to look at the turbine(s).
- Councilman Tom McDermott also felt it is not mandated and we should wait until we are; doesn't want to increase taxes.
- Councilman Dan McDermott feels it will never pay for itself; questioned why Batavia is not interested in it; looked into the wind capacity in our area and it is moderate; he is against it.
- Councilman Hayes said it is renewable energy and a step in the right direction; wind turbines will help to offset the generation plant; feels we will be mandated by State and Federal; in favor of moving forward with the utilities.
- Councilman Eckhardt felt we need to consider and keep going by at least starting out with one.
- Mayor Olson said that we need to look forward as a way to continue to supply energy to our customers; we need to look at very seriously.

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

PRAYER: The Prayer was led by City Clerk McKinney.

ROLL CALL: Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers D. McDermott, Eckhardt, Hayes, Berg, T. McDermott and Mayor Olson. Absent: Councilwoman Hollonbeck. Also present were City Manager Alberts and City Clerk McKinney.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.: **National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month** (December 2009): Read by City Clerk, Bruce McKinney.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Mayor:** None
- **Council Members:** None
- **Employee Introduction:** Dan Davis, Network Support Technician, was introduced by Scott Koteski. Dan started in the Advanced Communications Services Department on November 9th. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois. His experience includes working toward becoming a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer as well as sole provider of both VoIP phone service and computer-related service for his last employer. Being a “jack-of-all-trades” will certainly be an asset here at the City. He and his wife, Ashley, look forward to moving to Rochelle.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – November 9, 2009;
- b) Approve Bills/Payrolls;
- c) Approve City of Rochelle Meeting Dates for 2010;
- d) Approve City of Rochelle Legal Holidays for 2010.

Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Tom McDermott, **“I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (d) be approved by Omnibus Vote as Recommended.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Eckhardt, D. McDermott, Berg, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: See Discussion Items below.

- John Kaminski: Stated that the public would like to know what the City’s plan is for the Wal-Mart TIF district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **Discussion Item 1 - Tax Levy 2009-10:** Annually the Mayor and City Council are required to adopt a Tax Levy Ordinance and file it with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Rochelle 2009-10 will be included as a business item on the December 14, 2009 City Council Meeting.
 - **General Fund: presented by Chris Frye, City Treasurer.** Her report showed the property tax levy from 2001 – 2008 plus 2 options for 2009. There has been an increase of 47% in the General Fund Taxes levied since 2001 to 2009. All other funds have increased about 88% over that same time period. The EAV showed the residential value of property went down and the industrial went up. The differences in amounts in Options 1 and 2 for the 2009 Levy compared to 2008 are a result of the Fire and Police Pension funds. Option 1 has a net increase of 4.99% from 2008; Option 2 has an increase of 17.63%. Representatives from the two pension plan boards were present to explain the need of extra funding from the City this year.
 - **Jason Fore: Fire Pension Fund:** Has some concerns with Option 1; not in the best interest of the pension fund. Last year they were funded at 95.9%. The pension board is doing a good job. but they are no longer getting interest returns in the double-digits; is now at 3.94% which is inadequate. Since last year they are paying out on more retirements and with the current firefighters making less pay, the percent paid into the fund is far less. The state recommendation is \$267,524; what they would like is \$232,000 (not 100% funded but hoping the City will make up the difference.)