

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2010**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2010 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

PRAYER: The Prayer was said by City Clerk McKinney.

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

Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman T. McDermott, **“I move the Council appoint Councilman Berg as Mayor Pro-tem.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Berg, Eckhardt, Hayes, and T. McDermott. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION: **Rochelle Junior League All-Stars State Champions:** Read by Bruce McKinney. Originally read by Mayor Olson at the team’s send off on August 5th, proclaiming August 7th through August 12th as “Junior Little League Week” in Rochelle.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Mayor:** Not present
- **Council Members:** None

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

- **Carolyn Cryer:** Train noise; traffic on Hwy 38; Solvency of City’s funds; and Beautification of City.
- **Frank Beardin:** Supports turning the landfill gas into electricity.
- **Frank Smith:** Supports parallel parking on Second Avenue.
- **Naomi Patnode:** Also supports parallel parking on Second Avenue.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

- Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – July 26, 2010
- Approve Bills 07/16/10-07/22/10, 07/23/10-07/29/10
- Approve Payroll 07/12/10-07/25/10
- Establish Annual Trick-r-Treat Schedule October 31, 2010 from 5:00pm-8:00pm

Moved by Councilman Hayes and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (d) be approved by Omnibus Vote as Recommended.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Eckhardt, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Berg. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- 2) **Purchase of Bucket Truck – Electric Operations:** The 2010-11 Electric Operations Capital Budget includes \$150,000 for the replacement of a 1996 Ford unit known as E9. This unit is no longer being manufactured and will not meet dielectric (electric insulation) certification next year. Ideally this type of vehicle should be replaced approximately every ten years. Since the vehicle no longer meets the needs of RMU and is over fourteen years old, it is time to obtain a replacement. Subsequent to the required public notice, bids for a new bucket truck were opened on July 19, 2010, with three dealers submitting five bids. RMU General Manager, Edward Carr has reviewed the bids and recommends the acceptance of the apparent low bidder, Drake & Scruggs, with a bid of \$144,511. The 1996 Ford unit will be transferred to the Street Department to be utilized for tree work, replacing a 1984 GMC High Ranger bucket truck which will be returned to RMU for disposal (sale). Joe Orlikowski, Superintendent of electric was present to answer questions. There was no trade-in value offered. Moved by Councilman T. McDermott and seconded by Councilman Hayes, **“I move the Council accept bid C10-12 for a 2010 Non Over-Center Aerial Device Bucket Truck from Drake & Scruggs for a total of \$144,511 and reject all other bids.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Eckhardt, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Berg. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- 3) **First Avenue Lift Station Project:** To assist with public improvements related to the recent plant expansion of Sara Lee, an application for a Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant was submitted through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. A CDAP grant in the amount of \$720,000 was subsequently approved to assist with the construction of approx. 600 linear feet of sanitary sewer and upgrades to the existing lift station. The design and bid specifications for the project were prepared by Willett Hofmann & Associates with an estimated cost of \$794,000. Subsequent to the required public notice, bids were opened on July 29, 2010, with one contractor, Stenstrom Construction of Rockford, submitting a bid of \$1,199,879. RMU staff and our consultant, Joe Elsinger from Willett Hofmann, have reviewed the bid and recommend rejecting it at this time, since it was 57% higher than the engineer's estimate. We will plan to rebid the project at a later date when contractors will be bidding on work for the 2011 construction season. Kathy Cooper, Superintendent of the water department, was present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move the Council reject all bids for the First Avenue Lift Station Project.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Eckhardt, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Berg. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.
- 4) **Ordinance Approving Landfill Gas to Energy Project:** It is important that Rochelle Municipal Utilities maintain a diverse energy portfolio including base load energy from the Prairie State Project; peaking energy from local RMU owned facilities and the balance of the system's energy requirements through power purchase agreements. As discussed at the July 26, 2010 City Council meeting, representatives of the City and William Charles Energy have been meeting for some time about a local generation project which would utilize the landfill methane gas. These meetings have resulted in the development of several agreements between the City and Rochelle Energy Center, LLC. On July 20, 2010 the Utility Advisory Board recommended that the City pursue a renewable energy resource, such as a Landfill Gas to Energy Project, to be included in the RMU power supply portfolio. The proposed plant will be located and connect to the grid at the landfill site. The Power Purchase Agreement includes a term of 12 years ending on December 31, 2023 or 12 years after the plant commences operation, whichever is earlier. Construction of the plant and all related costs will be the sole responsibility of Rochelle Energy Center, LLC. The City will have the option of purchasing the plant 5 years after the plant commences commercial operations based on fair market value. The plant would produce 4.8 Mw of power which will be available to RMU at a reasonable rate for 12 years. The Site Sublease Agreement contains provisions which allow Rochelle Energy, LLC to locate the plant at the City owned landfill for the term of the Landfill Gas Agreement. The Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement documents the negotiated legal ownership of the methane gas and carbon credits, establishes a price for the methane gas and documents Rochelle Energy Center, LLC as the purchaser of the methane gas volumes required for the project. The Project Proponent Agreement appoints William Charles Energy as the agent responsible for registering carbon credits and allocates 50% of the net carbon credits, excluding defined costs, to the City of Rochelle. This project allows the City to take advantage of the local landfill gas resource, incorporate a “green” energy component meeting the needs of companies looking to reduce their environmental footprint and provide further cleaning of the landfill gas than is currently required. Alan Cooper, City Attorney, and Jeff Gregory of William Charles were present to answer questions. Councilwoman Hollonbeck asked if there was language in the agreement that Williams Charles Energy would refurbish the motors before the City purchased the plant. Attorney Cooper and Mr. Gregory discussed the language and agreed to amend the agreement to input language. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **“I move Ordinance 10-3945, An Ordinance Approving Agreements for Landfill Gas to Energy Conversion, be adopted as amended.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Eckhardt, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Berg. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

- 5) **Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code – Parking on Second Avenue:** It was brought to the attention of City staff that a difficult parking situation existed on Second Avenue. Upon investigation, several code violations were identified including: perpendicular parking, vehicles protruding into the right-of-way and unlicensed vehicles parked on the street. This parking condition affects the access for residents, business owners and emergency vehicles that may need to respond to the area. City staff members have been working with residents and business owners on Second Avenue in order to find a solution. Many of the businesses were constructed prior to the implementation of parking requirements and as a result have limited parking options available. As a result, staff believes it is appropriate to allow perpendicular parking on the street under the following conditions: all vehicles must be licensed and vehicles cannot extend more than 20 feet into the right-of-way. Perpendicular parking is proposed on the north side of Second Avenue where there is not parkway between Washington Street and 7th Street and on the south side of Second Avenue in areas where there is not parkway starting 40 feet west of the intersection of Second Avenue and Washington Street and ending 175 feet west of the intersection. Allowing perpendicular parking should assist with meeting the parking needs and provide better access for the area. Chris Limas was present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman McDermott and seconded by Councilman Eckhardt, **“I move Ordinance 10-3946, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Allow Perpendicular Parking on Second Avenue, be adopted.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Hollonbeck, Eckhardt, Hayes, T. McDermott, and Berg. Nays: None. Motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **South Main Shared Use Path Project:** In 1996 the City established a 1.5% municipal utility tax (MUT) with a portion of the proceeds designated for sidewalk repair and replacement. In 2008, proceeds from the MUT were expanded to include the construction of new sidewalk extensions and connections. Several new potential routes were discussed at that time, including one along South Main Street linking Veteran’s Parkway to Lake Lida. The City of Rochelle was recently notified that approximately “\$80 million in federal funds will be awarded to eligible communities for local projects that expand travel choices and improve the transportation experience in Illinois.” These federal funds will be administered through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) which seeks to improve the quality of life in Illinois. One of ITEP’s goals is to promote the expansion of travel choices such as walking and bike trails. The South Main Street shared-use path meets a majority of the requirements included in ITEP’s guidelines. The deadline for submitting a project application, including letters of support from the community, is August 31, 2010. City Engineer, Sam Tesreau provided the council with an overview of the project and responded to questions the Council had.
- 2) **Illinois Route 251 Closure and Detours:** The Illinois Route 251 overpass through the City of Rochelle will require some extensive rehabilitation due to structural deterioration. Supplementary support structures have been added to the overpass pending the start of the rehabilitation project in spring of 2011. IDOT has advised the City that traffic will be disrupted for a much shorter time period if the overpass is completely closed during construction, as opposed to staged lane closures (90 days versus 180 days or more). In order to accommodate the closure, City staff and IDOT representatives have discussed a detour route that utilizes Jack Dame Road. City Engineer Sam Tesreau provided an overview of the detour route and responded to questions the Council had. Upon concurrence of the Mayor and Council, IDOT will draft an Agreement of Understanding between the City and State to be approved at a future council meeting.

Councilmembers Eckhardt, Berg, and Hollonbeck mentioned they are unable to be at the next regular meeting.

City Clerk, Bruce McKinney announced a Special Executive Council Meeting on August 16th, to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act and to discuss non-union employees. The meeting will be held in the Rochelle Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:14 pm, Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilman T. McDermott, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Dennis Berg
Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Rochelle

Bruce McKinney, CMC
City Clerk, City of Rochelle