

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 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 Hayes, T. McDermott, D. McDermott, Berg, Hollonbeck, Eckhardt and Mayor Olson. Absent: None. Also present were City Manager Alberts and City Clerk McKinney.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.:

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October 2010:** Read by City Clerk McKinney and accepted by Ruth Carter of HOPE, here in Rochelle. The past year HOPE served 491 victims; thanked our Police Department for their working relationship with HOPE. Chief Higby reported that the numbers are staggering with 161 domestic battery calls so far in 2010 compared to 139 last year; they are high-risk calls for police officers.
- **Fire Prevention Week – October 3-9, 2010:** Read by City Clerk McKinney and accepted by Brian Johnson, Fire Chief. Chief Johnson mentioned that there are about 100 fire fighters lost a year; just that day he received word of three that were just lost. He stressed the importance of smoke alarms and keeping the batteries in working order.
- **Public Power Week – October 3-9, 2010:** Read by City Clerk McKinney and accepted by Ed Carr, Director of RMU.
- **2010 Census Appreciation Presentation to Chris Limas:** Chet Olson read the appreciation plaque from the Census Bureau which was presented to Chris Limas, Census Chairman, who in turn thanked the committee and persons who were involved in taking the census.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Mayor:** Mentioned the board meeting he recently attended at the Illinois Municipal League Conference in Chicago; there were many interesting and productive meetings; he also had a chance to be on the panel and to speak at the City Clerk's session. From there he attended the Illinois Public Airport Association annual conference in Galena; good to keep in focus with that as we are in the loop for a grant and was able to talk to those involved in the monies being provided.
- **Council Members:**
 - **Bil Hayes:** Went on a trip to the Energy Campus in southern Illinois; was very impressive tour of the coal plant.
 - **Dave Eckhardt:** Who also went said that it was a very enlightening experience; state-of-the-art facility.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

- **Sonya Wiley – Quiet Zones for Trains:** Increasingly frustrated with being kept awake by trains; feels there is a real need to look into; as a licensed professional counselor she feels the lack of sleep can lead to erratic behavior. Says there is a federal mandate the city needs to look into.
- **Vickie Novak – Quiet Zones:** Wants to know how to make a formal complaint so that it is recorded; she mentioned petitioning for quiet zones. She wants an explanation as to why nothing has been done.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – September 13, 2010;
- b) Approve Bills 09/03/10-09/10/10 totaling \$1,970,801.26;
- c) Approve Payroll 08/23/10-09/05/10 totaling \$194,865.40;
- d) Request for a 10K Crop Walk. October 10th starting at 2:00, starting at the First Presbyterian Church and end at the Methodist Church.

Moved by Councilman Eckhardt 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 Berg, Eckhardt, Hayes, Hollonbeck, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

2) Audit Report Fiscal Year 2009-2010: On March 8, 2010 the Mayor and City Council approved a contract with Sikich, LLP to perform an audit of the City’s financial operations for fiscal years ending April 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. This is the first year Sikich has completed our annual audit. Sikich designed and performed the audit in order to verify that the financial statements are free of material discrepancies. This included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts reported in the financial statements. The audit also assessed the accounting principles applied; estimates made by management and evaluated the overall financial statement presentation. The auditor’s opinion, as noted on page 1 of the Auditor’s Report, indicates that the financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2010 “present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Rochelle.” It further states that cash flows “ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” Fred Lantz, Partner-in-Charge of Government Services for Sikich, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the City’s Financial Statement, using a Power Point presentation and handouts, and responded to questions from the Mayor and Council members. Moved by Councilman Eckhardt and seconded by Councilman Berg, **“I move the Council accept and place on file the Audit Report 2009/2010 (10-3957) as prepared and presented by Sikich, LLP.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Berg, Eckhardt, Hayes, Hollonbeck, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

Finance Manager Chris Frye also provided a presentation comparing the actual General Fund revenues, expenditures and fund balances for years 2006 through 2010.

3) Resolution Granting Tax Abatement – Project Private Label: The Economic Development Department has been informed that a local company is considering expanding its operations in the Midwest. The company’s Rochelle facility is being considered as a possible site for this expansion. Economic Development Director Jason Anderson is recommending that the City provide financial incentives to this business in the form of property tax abatements. This project has been evaluated to determine the anticipated economic impact to the community including estimated job creation of 30-40 positions with average starting salaries of \$30,000 and an estimated capital investment of \$10,200,000, which includes a building expansion of 336,000 square feet. Based on this evaluation a three-year abatement schedule has been proposed. Attracting businesses to locate and/or expand in the City of Rochelle is extremely important in creating jobs for our citizens, particularly in view of our area’s high unemployment rates. Chris Limas, Community Development Director, was present to answer questions. Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilman D. McDermott, **“I move Resolution R10-23, Resolution Granting Real Estate Tax Abatement to Project Private Label, be adopted.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Berg, Eckhardt, Hayes, Hollonbeck, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **Development Agreement – ITC Industrial Park:** On September 13, 2010 the Mayor and City Council approved a preliminary plat for the Interstate Transportation Subdivision. This subdivision, located on the north side of Illinois Route 38 near the intersection of 15th Street, has been annexed into the City for some time and is currently zoned I-2, General Industry. City Staff and Attorney Cooper have drafted a Development Agreement consistent with this zoning which formally details the responsibilities of the Developer related to onsite and offsite infrastructure improvements as well as financial obligations that will exist beyond anticipated grant funds. City Attorney, Alan Cooper provided a summary of the agreement and responded to questions from the Mayor and Council Members. The developer has 200 acres he intends to develop part of it for Project E-Rail, a large manufacturing facility of 25-foot cars and test track. Mr. Cooper reviewed the standard parts of the agreement and mostly discussed the parts that are not standard. According to Mr. Alberts there will be an action item on the next agenda.
- 2) **Salaries of Elected Officials:** State law requires that any changes in compensation for elected officials be established at least 180 days prior to the date when the officials take office. An election will be held in April for the positions of Mayor and three council members with elected officials taking office in May of 2011. To amend the compensation levels for officials with terms beginning in May of 2011, an ordinance would need to be approved by Council before the end of October. The current compensation levels for the Mayor (\$20,000 plus \$2,500 for liquor commissioner responsibilities) and Council Members (\$5,000) were established by ordinance on October 25, 2004. At that time only the Mayor's compensation was changed from \$11,000 to \$20,000 (plus \$2,500 which remained the same). The council member's compensation has not changed since October of 1998 when it was increased from \$4,500 to \$5,000 with the Mayor's compensation increasing from \$8,000 to \$11,000. At the request of the Council, a compensation analysis for elected officials has been compiled which includes several communities in Illinois with a City Manager form of government. City Manager, Ken Alberts gave his observation as a result of this analysis:
 - Rochelle has significant enterprise operations that are the responsibility of the council and should be reflected in their compensation.
 - It's accurate to say that the council doesn't serve for the compensation but for the community's interest.
 - Compared to other communities his recommendation is that the council's pay should remain at \$5,000 and the current compensation for the Mayor could be adjusted to a lower level but not lower than the previous \$11,000 plus the \$2,500 as Liquor Commissioner. He provided them with copies of figures from other cities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:19 pm, Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilwoman Kathy Hollonbeck, **"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