

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011 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, and Mayor Olson. Absent: Councilman Eckhardt. Also present were Interim City Manager McKinley and City Clerk McKinney.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.: None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Mayor:**
 - Ryan Carson, turned in an application for the open position on the Planning & Zoning Commission, as he was born and raised in Rochelle and has interest in the City's future. He does not live within the City's limits but is able to be a member-at-large. Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilwoman Hollonbeck, **"I move we appoint Ryan Carson as a Member-at-Large on the Planning and Zoning Commission."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Berg, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
- **Council Members:** None
- **Financials – January 2011:** Included in Council Agenda Packets.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – February 14, 2011.
- b) Approve Minutes of Special City Council Meeting – February 11, 2011.
- c) Approve Bills 02/04/11-02 thru 02/17/11: \$2,003,758.72.
- d) Approve Payroll 1/10/2011-1/23/2011: \$204,409.79.

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

- 2) **Ordinance Amending Municipal Code – Authorize Regulation of Vicious Animals:** The Rochelle Police Department is periodically called upon to respond to situations which involve injuries resulting from an animal attacking a person or another animal. The Rochelle Municipal Code does not currently define vicious animals and lacks regulation and prohibition of these animals within the City limits. The Illinois Animal Control Act allows local units of government to impose restrictions which further control and regulate animals providing they are not specific to breed. Following a situation last year, which resulted in an injured dog being euthanized, Detective Terry Inman recommended an amendment to the Rochelle Municipal Code to address vicious animals. Several ordinances from other communities were reviewed and Police Chief Higby and City Attorney Cooper have worked together to finalize the proposed amendment. The modifications will provide police officers with clear definitions and the authority to declare an animal vicious. The amendment also allows for the impoundment and eventual extermination of the animal should it be deemed necessary at the owner's expense. Chief Higby was available to answer questions. It was felt that it is important that there is recourse for this problem. Ms. McKinley explained that if there is a problem determining if a dog is vicious or not, the City Manager should be able to help determine the final decision. Moved by Councilman D. McDermott and seconded by Councilman Berg, **"I move Ordinance 11-4011, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Authorize the Regulation of Vicious Animals, be adopted."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Berg, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- 3) **Illinois Commerce Commission Petition – Industrial Rail Crossing on Steward Road:** The Economic Development Department has been in contact with three industries that are interested in locating facilities on Steward Road, east of Illinois River Energy. All three projects will require rail served sites. Two of the industries are currently negotiating the terms for acquisition of the land and the assurance of rail to the site is crucial in moving forward. In order to provide rail access to these sites, the City will need to extend the City Industrial Rail system across Steward Road. The first step in extending the rail is for the City to file a petition with the Illinois Commerce Commission requesting permission. The proposed rail extension would provide several benefits to the City including: increased capacity for rail car storage, increased safety by separating rail cars containing hazardous materials, and increased rail revenues which could be used to fund future rail improvements. Jason Anderson, Economic Development Director was available to give more information and to answer questions. He explained they are working arrangements out with IRE (Illinois River Energy) and was able to show on a map where the rails would go. They can't move forward until they know that the ICC views a petition and gives their permission. The details also need to be worked out with the County Road Engineer; they do not see any problems with this. Moved by Councilman T. McDermott and seconded by D. McDermott, **“I move the Council authorize the City Manager to file a petition before the Illinois Commerce Commission for an extension of the City Lead Track across Steward Road near the Illinois River Energy property.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers Berg, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Hollonbeck, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) **Route 251 Overpass Closure and Detour:** As reported last fall, the Illinois Route 251 overpass through Rochelle will require some extensive rehabilitation in 2011 due to structural deterioration. The Mayor and Council approved a Letter of Understanding on September 13, 2010 related to a 90-day closure of the overpass and an associated detour route. The project is expected to begin in late March or early April and the Illinois Department of Transportation will install detour signage and barricades approximately one week prior to commencement of the project. City Staff have developed a plan to proactively communicate this information to the public which includes: radio, newspaper, the City's website, and personal contact with local industries and organizations. Interim City Manager, Meggon McKinley provided additional information on these plans and responded to questions from the Mayor and City Council. Routes have been drafted and will be updated during the closure. They will register with Map Quest and the schools. They will provide the information on the city website, press releases and a place to call. The final maps will be forwarded to the Council and the major vendors in town so they can get out to their employees and truckers. Mayor Olson suggested getting in touch with some trucking companies and alert them of the situation and the routes to be used. The mayor has had some complaints regarding trucks heading to Jack Dame Road. This should help with that situation as well. Sam Tesreau, City Engineer, said that it's good that Jack Dame Road is usable during this time. Most of the overweight trucks come off of Interstate 88 and use Jack Dame Road to go to the Intermodal. They are not allowing overweight trucks on the detour routes within the City (80,000 lb. limit). Mr. Tesreau commented that IDOT is aware of the tight schedule. He also stressed the importance of the overpass repair; it is something that needs to be done and soon.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:29 p.m., Councilman Berg moved and seconded by Councilman T. McDermott, **“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