

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2020**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6th Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG & PRAYER: The pledge was led by City Clerk Sue Messer and prayer was said by Pastor Alsop.

ROLL CALL: Mayor - On March 16th Governor Pritzker, due to the Covoid 19 pandemic, suspended the in-person attendance requirement for public meetings allowing public bodies to conduct meetings electronically without having to comply with the physical quorum requirements or the conditions for participating electronically in a meeting. On March 31st Governor Pritzker extended the order until April 30th. As a result, Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey, Councilman Dan McDermott, Councilman Bil Hayes, and Councilman John Gruben have notified the City Clerk of their desire to participate remotely. Unless there is a motion objecting to their attendance, the request of the council members will be deemed approved. Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers Burke, T. McDermott, and Mayor Bearrows and Councilmembers Shaw-Dickey, D. McDermott, Hayes and Gruben attending remotely. Absent: None. A quorum of seven was present. Also present were City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and City Clerk Sue Messer.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC: Recognition of Jason Bird's Retirement – Mayor Kane of Princeton congratulated Jason on his retirement.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor – Informed residents about the garden plots. Stressed the importance of completing the 2020 Census. Golf Course will open May 1st with restrictions. Thanked Hormel Foods and Ogle County Health Dept. along with Rochelle Hospital and Katherine Shaw Betha Hospital for COVID-19 testing. Recognition of new leadership at RMU, Adam Lanning, Utilities Superintendent; Toby Lindeland, Director of Electric; Jay Mulholland, Director of Water/Water Reclamation; Pat Burst, Director of Advance Communication; Sarah Brooks, RMU Customer Service Supervisor.
- Council Members

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – April 13, 2020
- b) Approve Exceptions – 04/08/20-04/21/20
- c) Approve Payroll – 03/23/20-04/05/20
- d) Accept and Place on File Financial Statement – March 2020

Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, “**I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (d) be approved by Omnibus Vote as recommended.**” Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- 2) **Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Modify the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Assistance Program** RMU currently offers up to \$300 annual utility assistance for customers that are at or below the 150% of the federal poverty level. The proposed resolution will temporally modify the annual utility assistance by increasing the amount to \$500 for customers that are at or below the 200% federal poverty level for the duration of six months from the day of this Resolution. In 2019, 109 customers received assistance totaling \$32,700. So far this year, 43 customers have received assistance totaling \$12,900. The program is funded by the sale of renewable energy credits generated by the Rochelle Energy Center at the landfill. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, “**I move Resolution R20-16, a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Modify the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Assistance Program, be approved.**” Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- 3) **Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative Premium Renewal Rates July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.** On September 25th, 2017 the City Council approved the Resolution Accepting Membership to the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefits Cooperative (IPBC) in the sub pool known as Quad Cities Health Insurance Pool (QCHIP). Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois remained the insurance carrier. IPBC’s fiscal year is based on July 1-June 30th. The City currently offers health insurance benefits to all full-time employees. The premiums continue to be shared cost with the City and the employee currently paying 15% of the monthly premium for single coverage and 18% of the monthly premium for family coverage for existing employees. With new employees, that started after January 1, 2020 on “tier 2” with single at 18% and family at 21%. The tier 2 rates will continue to increase until they reach single at 20% and family at 25% in 2021. The IPBC board approved the 2020/2021 premium rates for the members and the sub pools and were presented to the members in late March. The average renewal rate for IPBC is 5.4%, with some increases up to 10.6%. The renewal rate for QCHIP members, including Rochelle, is 5.7%, which will keep our premium rates still below the 2018/19 premium amounts. In 2019/20 there was a reduction by 8%, leaving the new premium amount still be approximately 2.76% less than the 2018/19 premium amounts. The total premium for a family is going from \$1,786.20 to \$1,888.01 and single from \$696.51 to \$736.21. The insurance plan will be reviewed for 2021 with possible changes in the plan structure to stabilize or reduce rates for the future. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor Hayes, **“I move Council approve the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative Premium Renewal Rates for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
- 4) **Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 45-OH Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone.** In December of 2015 the Mayor and Council approved an Ordinance Establishing the Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone. The zone encompasses the City of Rochelle along with the City of Dixon, Ogle County and Lee County. The zone was established to provide incentives to promote the economic growth of the area, to reduce unemployment and to encourage expansion, rehabilitation and new construction of structures within the zone for a term of 15 years. Since establishing the zone, multiple ordinances have been approved to add properties to the zone. The proposed amending ordinance moves a single connecting strip near Dixon so that another regional enterprise zone can expand to cover the 4,000 acre Duke Solar project. Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone Administrator Andy Shaw will attend the meeting remotely to answer any questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **“I move Ordinance 20-5112, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 45-OH Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone to move a connecting strip near Dixon, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
- 5) **Engineering Agreement with BHMG Engineers, Inc. for 138 kV Prologis Park Substation.** BHMG has submitted a proposal to provide engineering and construction management services for the proposed 138 kV Prologis Park Substation to provide 34.5 kV and 13.8 kV to the proposed loads. The project requires energization of systems by fall 2021 with long equipment lead times therefore it is important to get this project moving. The agreement is written on a time and material basis with a not to exceed amount of \$695,000. Total project cost including engineering is estimated at a range of approximately \$8-12 million depending on numerous factors such as future loading and what combination of equipment we select to meet future loading. The proposed project will follow provisions for cutting expenses by 10% for the 2020 fiscal year. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer any questions. Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **“I move Council approve an Engineering Agreement with BHMG Engineers, Inc. for 138 kV Prologis Park Substation for an amount not to exceed \$695,000.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:11 PM, moved by Councilor T.McDermott and seconded by Councilor Burke, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Susan L. Messer
City Clerk, City of Rochelle