

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2020**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 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 led by Pastor Cowan.

ROLL CALL: Mayor - On March 16th, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Pritzker 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. On May 29th Governor Pritzker extended the order until June 27th. On June 26th Governor Pritzker extended the order through July 25th. On July 24th Governor Pritzker extended the order through August 22nd. As a result, Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey and Councilman Bil Hayes 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, Gruben, T. McDermott, D. McDermott, and Mayor Bearrows and Councilmembers Hayes and Shaw-Dickey attended remotely. Absent: None. A quorum of seven were present. Also present were City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and City Clerk Sue Messer.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC: Daughters of the American Revolution Proclamation in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor – Condolences for the Peters family on the passing of Tom ‘Pete’ Peters. Letter of appreciation from Countryside Village relative to Police dispatchers, Police, Paramedics and Fireman. Reminded the Community the Hickory Grove auction is currently online ending August 20th at 9PM.
- Council Member-Thanked all crews involved for the quick response following the storm.
- Remarkable Resident – Christopher Tenggren.
- Good News-Blake Toliver, Toby Lindeland and the Electric Department and Chief Sawlsville for an incident take placed on N. 2nd St involving a major power outage.
- City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh- Read thank you cards from Naomi Baldwin Revive Rochelle Grant and a thank you note from Sweet Blessings for being a choice of Cash Mob Program.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – July 27, 2020
- b) Approve Exceptions – 07/15/20-08/04/20
- c) Approve Payroll – 07/13/20-07/26/20
- d) Accept and Place on File Minutes of Planning and Zoning Commission – 07/06/20

Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor D. 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) **Ordinance Approving the Preliminary and Final Plat of Subdivision at the Northwest Corner of Ritchie Road and Ritchie Court.** The City of Rochelle has petitioned to subdivide the property located at the Northwest corner of Ritchie Road and Ritchie Court, Parcel # 25-32-201-002. The purpose of subdividing is to divide one 16.32-acre parcel into three lots. The City of Rochelle plans to use two lots for electrical distribution and transmission substations and sell one lot to an adjacent landowner. Acreage price and all fees facilitated at no cost to the City. Survey Tech developed a preliminary and final plat of subdivision on behalf of the City, for a three-lot subdivision with easements and onsite detention for the three lots. City staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission have reviewed the preliminary and final plat for conformance with the comprehensive plan, the provisions hereof, and all other applicable city ordinances. Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-12-8, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall recommend or not recommend the approval of the preliminary and final plat within 90 days of the application. A public hearing was held on Monday, August 3, 2020. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat of Subdivision by a vote of 5-0. Michelle Pease was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **“I move Ordinance 20-5151, an Ordinance Approving the Preliminary and Final Plat of Subdivision at the Northwest Corner of Ritchie Road and Ritchie Court, 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) **Ordinance Authorizing the Shop Local RMU Credit Program.** The proposed Shop Local RMU Credit Program is designed to be an economic tool by the City of Rochelle to encourage our residents to patronize local businesses who were forced to close during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating in Program provides a \$60 reimbursement in the form of a credit on a future Rochelle Municipal Utility (RMU) bill for qualifying purchases at retail/service shop and restaurant establishments located within the RMU Service Territory.
- \$60 credit on your RMU bill
 - Residential household within RMU Service Territory (1 per household)
 - Purchases made at qualifying businesses, August 15 through December 31, 2020
 - A minimum \$300 spent at a qualifying retail/service shop and/or local restaurants deemed non-essential by gubernatorial executive order.
- Michelle Pease and Jeff Fiegenschuh were available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor Gruben and seconded by Councilor Burke, **“I move Ordinance 20-5152, an Ordinance Authorizing the Shop Local RMU Credit 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.
- 4) **Ordinance Continuing the Small Business Permit Fee Waiver Program for 2021.** The City of Rochelle previously approved the creation of the Small Business Permit Fee Waiver Program pursuant to Ordinance 19-5086, which was passed on December 9, 2019, in order to assist small businesses within the City open and/or expand by reducing the fees associated with small business growth. Staff believes that a continuation of the program through December 31, 2021 will continue to assist with economic growth within these difficult times for small businesses. The continued program will have the same requirements:
- 30 or less full-time employees on site
 - not a licensed franchise
 - completed Permit Fee Waiver Application
- Michelle Pease was present to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Gruben, **“I move Ordinance 20-5153, an Ordinance Continuing the Small Business Permit Fee Waiver Program for 2021, 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) **Ordinance Approving the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property Owned by the City of Rochelle.** Earlier this year the City purchased the Hickory Grove Banquet and Conference Center with the intent of demolishing and redeveloping the property. On July 24th the City Council approved a Resolution Authorizing Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co to Inventory and Auction Surplus Personal Property contained within the banquet center. A list of the items being auctioned, divided into 434 lots, is included with the ordinance. The online auction will close at 9:00 pm on August 20, 2020 and winning bidders will pick up their items on August 22nd from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sue Messer was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Burke, **“I move Ordinance 20-5154, an Ordinance Approving the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property Owned by the City of Rochelle, be approved.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott and Shaw-Dickey. Mayor Bearrows abstained. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-1.

- 6) **Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle Pertaining to Chapter 98 Article 1 Section 8 Entitled “Deferred Payment Agreements”.** Deferred Payment Agreements - Section 98-8 of our code currently states ‘an applicant shall pay a minimum of one-seventh of the amount past due and owing at the time of entering into the deferred payment agreement, with the remainder to be paid according to the terms defined in the agreement’. During the covid-19 pandemic, we suspended disconnections for unpaid utility bills. Starting in September 2020, disconnections will resume unless a deferred payment agreement has been created. Temporarily setting the initial down payment to 5% will allow more customers the ability to enter into the payment agreement and avoid disconnection. The same section also states ‘RMU shall allow an additional six months for payment to be made under a deferred payment agreement’. Temporarily allowing an additional twelve months for payment to be made under a deferred payment agreement will again allow more customers the ability to enter the agreement and avoid disconnection. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, **“I move Ordinance 20-5155, an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle Pertaining to Chapter 98 Article 1 Section 8 Entitled “Deferred Payment Agreements”, 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.
- 7) **Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Modify the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Assistance Program.** Resolution R20-16 from the April 27, 2020 City Council Meeting authorized the utility assistance to be increased from \$300 to \$500 and the poverty level to change from 150% to 200% for 6 months during the covid-19 pandemic. We would like to update the 6 months, which would expire in October, to the December 31, 2020 with allowing the City Manager authority to extend those same increases for one calendar year (2021) if warranted. To date in 2020, 89 customers have received the \$500 utility assistance resulting in \$44,500 of help to RMU customers. Jeff Fiegenschuh was available to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and Councilor D. McDermott, **“I move Resolution R20-28, 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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Non-Highway Vehicle Ordinance. Several residents have recently approached the City of Rochelle about the ability to operate golf carts (non-highway vehicles) on City streets. Staff contacted many Illinois communities currently allowing golf carts for input on successes and challenges. Communities note minimal challenges and that residents have enjoyed the use of golf carts on City streets. Jenny Thompson presented details of a proposed ordinance to Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:25PM, moved by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor Hayes, **“I move the Council adjourn.”** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, Hayes, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Susan L. Messer
City Clerk, City of Rochelle