

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
October 13, 2020**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 in the Council Chambers of City Hall; 420 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Rochelle, IL 61068.

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

**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. On August 21st Governor Pritzker extended the order through September 19, 2020. On September 18th Governor Pritzker extended the order through October 17, 2020. As a result, Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey notified the City Clerk of her desire to participate remotely. Unless there is a motion objecting to her attendance, the request of the council member will be deemed approved. Present on Roll Call were Councilmembers Burke, Gruben, T. McDermott, D. McDermott, and Mayor Bearrows and Councilmember Shaw-Dickey attended remotely. Absent: Councilmember Hayes. A quorum of six were present. Also present was City Clerk Sue Messer.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Remarkable Resident Holly Crisp was recognized but not in attendance.
- Mayor's Report – Mayor extended City's sympathy to City Manager Fiegenschuh on the passing of his grandmother. Thank you to staff for all of the street work. VCCT will not hold the cemetery walk as originally planned. Kishwaukee College has called off the Community Foundation event but encouraged public to patronize alternate plans. Happy Birthday to Rose Hueramo.
- Council Members-Councilman T. McDermott thanked Jenny Thompson for cleaning up the City of Rochelle's Wikipedia page.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – 09/28/20
- b) Accept and Place on File Minutes of Planning and Zoning Commission – 09/08/20
- c) Approve Exceptions – 09/23/20 – 10/06/20
- d) Approve Payroll – 09/21/20-10/04/20
- e) Approve Resolution Regarding the Release of Executive Session Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor Gruben, "**I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (e) be approved by Omnibus Vote as recommended.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- 2) **Ordinance Approving Amended Agreement with MECEN, LLC.** MECEN, LLC (Artist Garden), is requesting an amendment to the easement agreement to install a deck and stairway located in Page Park (City Owned Property) to the South of their building located at 407 Lincoln Highway. The deck and stairway will allow access to the Acres Café that will be opening in 2020. The amendment will increase the square footage by 15.5 sq. ft. The deck will not impede the pedestrian traffic through Page Park and will add an ADA ramp. This easement agreement is for a period of thirty (30) years with an option for two ten (10) year extensions. MECEN, LLC will construct and maintain the deck and stairway in accordance with all applicable City Building and Fire Codes. Community Development Director Michelle Pease and Building Official Geoff Starr were present to answer questions. Teresa Petry, Owner of Artists Garden, was also present to answer questions about the project. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Burke, "**I move Ordinance 20-5165, an Ordinance Approving Amended Agreement with MECEN, LLC, be approved.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: D. McDermott. Motion passed 5-1.
- 3) **Ordinance Amending Chapter 2-110 Of the Municipal Code of The City of Rochelle Regarding Vacancy in the Office of City Manager.** The Municipal Code: Vacancy in the Office of City Manager is updated to reflect the current standard of 365 for temporary appointment, which replaces the original 180 days and the timeframe of one

(1) year to fill the vacancy, which replaces the original six months. Human Resources Director Nancy Bingham was present to answer questions. Motion made by Councilor Gruben and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**I move Ordinance 20-5166, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2-110 Of the Municipal Code of The City of Rochelle Regarding Vacancy in the Office of City Manager, be approved.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- 4) **Ordinance Amending the Shop Local RMU Credit Program.** The proposed extension for the 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 (3 per household); Purchases made at qualifying businesses August 15 through December 31, 2021; A minimum \$300 spent at a qualifying retail/service shop and/or local restaurants deemed non-essential by gubernatorial executive order. Community Development Director Michelle Pease was present to answers questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Burke, "**I move Ordinance 20-5167, an Ordinance Amending the Shop Local RMU Credit Program, be approved.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 6:52 PM, moved by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor T. McDermott, "**I move the Council adjourn.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Burke, Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

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John Bearrows, Mayor

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Susan L. Messer  
City Clerk, City of Rochelle