

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
October 26, 2020**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 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. On October 16th Governor Pritzker extended the order through November 14th. As a result, Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey, Councilman Tom McDermott 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, D. McDermott, and Mayor Bearrows and Councilmembers Hayes, T. McDermott and Shaw-Dickey attended remotely. Absent: None. A quorum of seven were present. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh attended remotely, also present was City Clerk Sue Messer.

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:** None.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Mayor's Report – COVID numbers continue to rise. Election Day is 11/03 get out and vote. On 11/11a virtual ceremony will be held at 11:00am for Veterans Day.
- Council Members-Councilman Hayes thanked the first responders & healthcare workers, thanked all local businesses that are following the Governor's mandate.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

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

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting – 10/13/20
- b) Accept and Place on File Minutes of Golf Course Advisory Committee – 11/25/19
- c) Approve Exceptions – 10/7/20-10/21/20
- d) Approve Payroll – 10/5/20- 10/18/20
- e) Accept and Place on File Municipal Compliance Report – Fire Pension Fund
- f) Accept and Place on File Municipal Compliance Report – Police Pension Fund
- g) Accept and Place on File Financial Statement – September 2020

Motion made by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (g) 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 Amending Section 6-46 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Create One B Liquor License for Expresslane Located at 452 Lake Lida Lane.** Expresslane, Inc. has submitted an application for a Class B liquor license at 452 Lake Lida Lane. The Class B license allows for the retail sale on the premises specified of alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises as well as other packaged retail sale of such liquor. The Liquor Commissioner, Mayor Bearrows, has reviewed the application and has no objection to the creation of a Class B liquor license for ExpressLane. This action will result in a total of eleven Class B liquor licenses in the City of Rochelle. Sue Messer was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott and seconded by Councilor Burke, "**I move Ordinance 20-5168, an Ordinance Amending Section 6-46 of the Municipal Code of the City of Rochelle to Create One B Liquor License for Expresslane Located at 452 Lake Lida Lane, be approved.**" Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gruben, D. McDermott, T. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: Councilman Burke and Hayes. Motion passed 5-2.

- 3) **Ordinance Naming a Street, Avenue, Alley or Other Public Place (Treatment Plant Drive).** RMU Water/Water Reclamation staff would like to name the driveway that is off the intersection of South 9th Street and Elliott's Way to Treatment Plant Drive. Currently, there is a lot of confusion with Elliott's Drive in Hillcrest, which has a Rochelle address, and Treatment Plant Road which ends at the Kyte River. This can make it difficult for people and deliveries to find where treatment plant is located. Motion made by Councilor Hayes and seconded by Councilor Gruben, "**I move Ordinance 20-5169, an Ordinance Naming a Street, Avenue, Alley or Other Public Place (Treatment Plant Drive), 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: Property Tax Levy 2020.** The State of Illinois requires the City annually to adopt and file a Property Tax Levy Ordinance on or before the last Tuesday in December. Last year the City's Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) was \$254,870,696 and its property tax rate was 1.024840 per \$100 of EAV. The City collected \$2,612,016.84 in property taxes. For 2020, Ogle County has estimated the City's EAV at 271,126,394 which is an increase of over \$16 million. The proposed levy calculation options would result in the City collecting \$2,687,794 in property taxes, an increase of 3% (excluding the bond) or \$2,737,794 in property taxes, an increase of 4.95% (excluding the bond). Based on the estimated EAV, the tax rate would decrease .033496 per \$100 of EAV for the 3% option or .015055 per \$100 EAV for the 4.95% option. The proposed 2020 levy includes funding the Police and Fire Pension Funds as recommended by the City's actuarial studies. The Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Rochelle for 2020 will be included as a business item on the November 9, 2020 City Council Meeting. Finance Director Chris Cardott and Todd Schroeder from Lauterbach & Amen were available for questions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:06 PM, moved by Councilor Burke and seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, "**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.

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John Bearrows, Mayor

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Susan L. Messer  
City Clerk, City of Rochelle