

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 2013**

The Rochelle City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2013 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 McDermott, Berg, Rice, Eckhart, Hayes, and Mayor Olson. Absent: Councilwoman Hollenbeck. Quorum was present. Also present were City Manager Plyman and City Clerk McKinney.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.:

- **National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month - December 2013:** Read by City Clerk McKinney. This is done in partnership with IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation).

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Mayor: Thanked City Staff for work during last week's storm event.
- Council Members: Commented on rumors about the City Dispatching moving to Ogle County.
- Financials - October 2013: Included in Council Packets

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: John Kaminski spoke on City's Financial matters.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:

- a) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting - November 12, 2013
- b) Approve Bills - 11/01/13-11/07/13=**\$190,684**; 11/08/13-11/14/13=**\$1,044,352**
- c) Approve Payroll - 10/28/13-11/10/13=**\$212,226**
- d) Accept and Place on File Municipal Compliance Report - Police Pension Fund
- e) Accept and Place on File Municipal Compliance Report - Fire Pension Fund

Moved by Councilman Berg and seconded by Councilman McDermott, "**I move Consent Agenda Items (a) through (e) be approved by Omnibus Vote as recommended.**"

Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers McDermott, Rice, Eckhardt, Berg, Hayes, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

- 2) **Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant – Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower and Centrifuges:** According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, approximately one-third of a municipality's electrical budget is for the treatment plant, with the aeration system blowers accounting for one-third to one-half of that power. The Rochelle Treatment Plant has an average electrical bill of \$15,500 per month and staff is constantly looking at ways to reduce that amount. A new technology, the turbo blower, was introduced to the industry about six years ago and staff began to investigate the possibility of installing one to help reduce the plant's electrical bill. Their evaluation showed, that unless grant funds were available, the pay back for the new blower did not justify pursuing the project. For many years, the only communities that were eligible for grants were those served by Commonwealth Edison and Ameren. This year, the Clean Energy Foundation offered a pilot program for energy efficiency at Wastewater Treatment Plants to all of the communities in the state. RMU applied for a grant to help fund a blower replacement and to help pay for the energy efficiency achieved by the installation of new centrifuges. On November 7th, Water/Water Reclamation Superintendent Kathy Cooper received notice that Rochelle was awarded \$54,054 for installation of the new blower and centrifuge. With notice of the grant, RMU may move forward with the engineering for the blower and continue with the centrifuge project. The total cost of the blower project is expected to be \$100,000 to \$150,000, and payback should be less than eight years. RMU staff recommends that council approve acceptance of the grant. Kathy Cooper was present to answer questions. Councilman Eckhardt moved and seconded by Councilman McDermott, **"I move Resolution R13-18, A Resolution Accepting a Grant from the Clean Energy Foundation for the Installation of Equipment at the Water Treatment Plant, be adopted."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers McDermott, Rice, Eckhardt, Berg, Hayes, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.
- 3) **Local Debt Recovery Program:** The Illinois Public Act 097-0632 was signed into law on December 2011 and established the Local Debt Recovery Program. The Program allows the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, through an intergovernmental agreement, to collect unpaid debt for local governments such as parking tickets, traffic fines, utility bills and ordinance violation fines at no cost. The Comptroller's office matches unpaid debt records for up to the past seven years from the municipality's system against the Comptroller's system. Prior to the Comptroller issuing a state check for items such as a tax refund, lottery payment, commercial payment or payroll check, the amount owed (which must be greater than \$10.00) plus an administrative fee will be deducted. The debtor has 60 days to protest the offset with the Comptroller's office. The funds will be deposited into the municipality's account after the 60 days. The debt records will remain in the Comptroller's system until the municipality requests them to be removed or for up to seven years from the debt certification date. The Local Debt Recovery Program is scheduled to work within privacy protection and fair debt collection laws. Restrictions and limitations governing involuntary withholdings also apply. The funds collected from the Local Debt Recovery Program will not be subject to state payment delays. RMU Customer Service Supervisor Barbara Bell recommended the use of the Local Debt Recovery Program to collect unpaid debt owed to the City. This Program will be in addition to the current collection process. Councilman Berg moved and seconded by Councilman Rice, **"I move Agreement 13-4343, An Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Illinois Office of the Comptroller and the City of Rochelle Regarding Access to the Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program, be approved."** Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Councilmembers McDermott, Rice, Eckhardt, Berg, Hayes, and Mayor Olson. Nays: None. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:


- 1) **Midyear Financial Report:** The City of Rochelle's 2013-2014 budget was adopted by the Mayor and City Council on April 22, 2013. The second quarter of the current fiscal year ended on October 31, 2013. Finance Manager Chris Frye provided information on actual revenue and expenditures in relation to the budget, specifically in areas where there are variances.
- 2) **Financial Reporting for Pension Plans:** In June of this year the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. As a result, State and local governments with defined benefit plans will have to disclose a "net pension liability" on their balance sheets if they prepare financial statement in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in order to receive a clean opinion from auditors on their financial statements. Statement No. 68 is applicable for the City's fiscal year ending April 30, 2016. Finance Manager Chris Frye provided additional information on these upcoming changes.
- 3) **Tax Levy 2013-14:** Annually the Mayor and City Council are required to adopt a Tax Levy Ordinance and file it with the County Clerk on or before the last Tuesday in December. The Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Rochelle 2013-14 will be included as a business item on the December 9, 2013 City Council Meeting. A Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for the City of Rochelle was published in the Rochelle News Leader on November 21, 2013 which included a proposed increase of no more than 7.98%. Finance Manager Chris Frye provided information on the various components and discussed options related to the levy. In addition, the Rochelle Police and Fire Pension Fund Presidents discussed their respective recommendations and responded to questions from the Mayor and Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:49 p.m., moved by Councilman McDermott and seconded by Councilman Berg, "**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