



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM
City of Rochelle Council Chambers—420 North 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Pledge to the Flag and Prayer for led by Mayor Bearrows.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. A quorum of seven were present. Also present: Interim City Manager Sam Tesreau, City Clerk Rose Huéramo, and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito.
- III. PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:**
1. Mental Health Awareness Month - May 2026
 2. Police Week - May 11-17, 2026
 3. Public Works Week - May 17-23, 2026
- IV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: Mayor announced upcoming community events, including Railroad Days at Railroad Park on May 16–17, the downtown Spring Sidewalk Sale May 16, and the Grand Opening of Echlan on May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Reminder of the Town Hall Small Business Meeting on May 19 at 5:30 p.m. and Cop on the Roof on May 15 from 5:00 a.m. to Noon. The Mayor thanked Jenny Thompson for her work on the Government 101 available on the City's Facebook page, which explains local government operations.
 2. Council Members: Councilwoman Arteaga thanked the City of Rochelle for sponsoring the Cinco de Mayo event held on May 2nd. Also expressing appreciation to all City departments, volunteers, and the Rec Center for their support and contributions to the event's success. Also inviting the community to attend the Shining Hope Luncheon in Oregon on May 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., recognizing leadership.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None.
- VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE with Recommendations:
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 4/27/26
 - b) Approve Payment Registers - 4/27/26, 5/4/26
 - c) Approve Payroll - 4/13/26-4/26/26
 - d) Approve Special Event Request - Cut the Square - May 15, 2026
 - e) Approve Special Event Request - VFW Block Party - July 2, 2026
 - f) Approve Special Event Request - Downtown Sidewalk Sale - May 16, 2026
 - g) Approve Special Event Request - Ford Fest - June 13, 2026Motion made by Councilor Hayes, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move consent agenda items (a) through (g) be approved by Omnibus vote as recommended."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
 2. **An Ordinance Accepting the Bid Proposal from Jeff Perry Chevrolet for a Pickup Truck in the Amount of \$48,531.** The current pickup truck used by the Fire Department was purchased in 2012 and has reached the end of its serviceable life. This vehicle is used daily by the Shift Supervisor as a response vehicle as well as a tow vehicle for the four trailers we utilize i.e. Haz Mat., Dive, Rescue Boat and Fire Safety House.
 - On April 1st, 2026, a Notice to Bidders was published in the Rochelle News Leader.

- On April 20th, 2026, a bid opening occurred at the Office of the City Clerk where three bids were opened and read aloud and one bid was returned.
 Bid 1 Jeff Perry Chevrolet \$48,531
 Bid 2 Prescott Brothers Ford \$56,988
 Bid 3 On Nation Distribution LLC \$61,989

The purchase of this vehicle is in the FY2026 Budget, and the proposed expenditure is for the purchase of the vehicle with additional outfitting costs to come later. Chief Sawlsville was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-25, an Ordinance Accepting the Bid Proposal from Jeff Perry Chevrolet for a Pickup Truck in the amount of \$48,531, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **An Ordinance Amending Sections 102 and 103 of Chapter 94 - Traffic and Vehicles to Establish an All-Way Stop at Main Street and Fifth Avenue.** Main Street and 5th Avenue is a busy intersection in downtown Rochelle. Rochelle's Fire Department and four municipal parking lots are located at this intersection. Currently, N. Main Street has north and south bound through traffic and 5th Avenue has controlled stops for east and west bound traffic. The annual average daily traffic count at this intersection is over 1600 vehicles. Several construction projects are taking place in downtown Rochelle currently. These projects include new electric and stormwater infrastructure, several new parking lots, and a new facility with public restrooms and an entertainment stage. Once complete, these projects will bring additional vehicles and pedestrian traffic to the Main St and 5th Avenue intersection. After review of this intersection, and based upon the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidance and warrants, best practices and engineering judgement, City staff agree that it is in the best interest of the City of Rochelle and the motoring public to designate and post the intersection of Main Street and 5th Avenue as an ALL-WAY STOP intersection. An All-Way controlled stop at this intersection will better facilitate the orderly movement of traffic, as well as improve motorist and pedestrian safety. Public Works Director Tim Isley was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move Ordinance 2026-26, an Ordinance Amending Sections 102 and 103 of Chapter 94 - Traffic and Vehicles to Establish an All-Way Stop at Main Street and Fifth Avenue, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **An Ordinance Amending Section 133 and Creating Section 134 of Division 3 of Article III of Chapter 94 - Traffic and Vehicles to Establish a Fifty Mile per Hour Speed Limit.** Creston Road from Caron Road to the I39 Overpass is a two-lane arterial road with two striped travel lanes and a dedicated left turn lane for Dement Road. This section of Creston Road has a significant amount of truck traffic with an average daily traffic count (ADT) of over 2,200 vehicles. The Current speed limit for Creston Rd is 40 MPH. The adjacent land use is primarily agricultural. May of 2024, Rochelle City Council approved an agreement presented by the City Engineer for improvements to Caron and Creston Road in an amount of \$1.3 million. This project consisted of significant hot mix asphalt base and surface removal and replacement, new hot mix asphalt road shoulders, stormwater drainage improvements, and thermoplastic pavement markings. With the completion of these improvements, an engineering and traffic survey was conducted to find the most appropriate speed limit to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic, which is reasonable and safe on Creston Road from Caron Road to the I39 Overpass. Based upon review of the engineering and traffic surveys, City staff find the most appropriate speed limit to be 50 MPH. City Staff recommend changing the speed limit from 40 MPH to 50MPH on Creston Road from Caron Road east to the I39 Overpass, and amending Chapter 94 of the Rochelle municipal code, adding Sec. 94-134. Speed limit is 50 miles per hour on designated streets. (1) Creston Road, from Caron Road east to the I39 Overpass. Public Works Director Tim Isley was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Ordinance 2026-26, an Ordinance Amending Section 133**

and Creating Section 134 of Division 3 of Article III of Chapter 94 - Traffic and Vehicles to Establish a Fifty Mile Per Hour Speed Limit, be approved." Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

5. **A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order for the Well 8 Project in the Amount of \$41,234.16.** At the completion of the Well 8 construction, the team worked to start the existing pump (which was around 6 years old) and discovered it had experienced a motor failure. A new Pleuger 240 HP motor was purchased, and pump modifications were made for the pump to receive the new motor. In addition, pricing includes mobilizations to remove and then reinstall equipment, shop time and incidental materials from Cahoy to support replacement as directed by City of Rochelle. This unexpected equipment failure will be covered by cash reserves since the approved IEPA loan contingency for this project has been exhausted. Staff will still submit this change order to IEPA in the event they possibly approve it as part of the project loan, which if approved would qualify for 100% loan forgiveness. Superintendent of Water/Water Rec Adam Lanning was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Arteaga, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Resolution R2026-20 a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order for the Well 8 Project in the amount of \$41,234.16, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
6. **An Ordinance Amending Articles VII (Municipal Gas Tax) and VIII (Municipal Electricity Tax) of Chapter 90 (Taxation) to Extend Utility Taxes through December of 2032.** In November 2021 City Council approved an ordinance #21-5308 amending articles VII and VIII of chapter 90 of the RMC to extend utility taxes through December of 2028. The rate structure contained within the current ordinance has not been increased for over 5 years while the cost of construction is increasing year over year at a rate of no less than 3% and as high as 15%. The available utility tax funds are allocated for various projects including sidewalk repair, replacement, new construction within the City ROW and/or easements and other street improvements in areas lacking curb and gutter and sidewalks, accessibility ramps and other professional and engineering services related to those projects. Most of the funds have been used throughout the community over the past 20 years to repair or replace existing sidewalks and other pedestrian paths, upgrade accessibility ramps, construct new or missing sections or gaps within the City's sidewalk system, and construction of new curb and gutter streets within areas lacking said infrastructure improvements. Since 1997 over 1,300,000 sq ft of sidewalks, accessibility ramps and pedestrian paths have been constructed or replaced throughout the City. However, with the potential for cost sharing in state funded grant opportunities, upcoming state/local projects, and ever-increasing material and labor costs the budgeted amount will need be increased over the next few years to sustain the quality and quantity of infrastructure replaced or constructed through 2032. The current ordinance will terminate in 2028, and it is recommended that an increase in the current Municipal Electricity Tax tiered rate schedule (shown in the attached ordinance) be approved beginning in January 2027 to allow budgeting of critical infrastructure that utilizes this source of local funds. Until such time the current rate schedule will remain until December of 2026. The initial increase in the Municipal Electricity Tax, beginning in 2027, is estimated to produce another \$84,000 over the 2025 UTF revenues of \$420,000. This represents \$1.34 increase, on average, for residential customers per month. For comparison, if the maximum Municipal Electricity tiered rate schedule, allowed by State statute, were adopted by the City it would net approximately \$1.4M in utility tax revenue. It is also recommended that an increase of 0.5% in the current Municipal Gas Tax (shown in the attached ordinance) be approved beginning in January 2027. The increase in the Municipal Gas Tax, beginning in 2027, is estimated to produce another \$16,000 over the 2025 UTF revenues of \$260,000. Lastly, consideration should be given to future Municipal Utility tax increase, over the next one to two years, to align with increasing cost of construction expenses. City Engineer Sam Tesreau was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move Ordinance 2026-27, an Ordinance Amending Articles VII (Municipal Gas Tax) and VIII (Municipal Electricity Tax)"**

of Chapter 90 (Taxation) to Amend and Extend Utility Taxes through December of 2032, be approved. Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, and Valdivieso. Voting Nay: Mayor Bearrows. Motion passed 6-1.

7. **A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order to the North 14th Street Storm Sewer Project.** The N 14th Street Storm Sewer Improvements contract, with Martin and Company, was approved by City Council in October 2025. The original project is anticipated to be completed by the end of May 2026. Engineering and Public Works staff identified essential critical pavement resurfacing needs, earlier this year, along streets within the same and/or adjacent subdivisions as the 14th Street project and within the City cemetery along 8th Avenue. As part of the original contract City Council authorized the City Engineer to negotiate additional unit prices or quantities for construction work within the contract parameters. After discussion with the City's contractor Martin and Company an acceptable for additional hot mix asphalt surface improvements in accordance with the same HMA mix designs utilized in the contract. The additional work is estimated at \$178,000 and will be paid for on as measured final quantities to be determined by the City Engineer. This requested amount will also cover the bituminous materials prep applications by Martin and Company as well as the surface removal operations, other materials and equipment rentals that will be completed by the City Public Works crews in advance of the paving operations. The additional work will add about 4 weeks onto the original completion date and will be completed by June 30th. City Engineer Sam Tesreau was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move Resolution R2026-24, a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order to the North 14th Street Storm Sewer Project, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:20 PM. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Voice vote all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Rose Huéramo, City Clerk