



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 08, 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 was led by Mayor Bearrows.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilors T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor John Bearrows. Also present: Interim City Manager Sam Tesreau, City Manager Zeke Jackson, Deputy City Clerk Jennifer Thompson, and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito.
- III. **PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC:** None.
- IV. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Mayor's Report: Mayor welcomed City Manager Zeke Jackson to his first official City Council meeting and thanked Sam Tesreau for his leadership and hard work while serving as Interim City Manager. Mayor also thanked Blake Toliver and his teams hard work for keeping our power outages down to a minimum with this last storm.
 2. Council Members: Councilwoman Arteaga reminded Concert in the Park at Atwood Park on Wednesday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. featuring local Hispanic band. Also, announced that anyone interested in participating in the Fourth of July Parade should contact Tricia at the Chamber for additional information and registration details.
Interim City Manager Sam Tesreau thanked the Council for its trust and confidence in him during the past several months. He expressed his appreciation to the Council and City staff for their support and assistance throughout his tenure and stated that he looks forward to working with the new City Manager.
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.
- VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS: Emergency Purchase of Transformers.** Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver informed the Council that, at the June 22, 2026, Council meeting, they will present an emergency ratification request for the purchase of multiple transformers due to low inventory levels resulting from several failures throughout the service territory. The estimated expenditure is approximately \$300,000 with an anticipated lead time of 10 to 14 weeks.
- VII. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**
1. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE** with Recommendations:
 - a) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes - 5/26/26
 - b) Accept & Place on File - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes - 3/2/26
 - c) Approve Payment Register - 6/1/26
 - d) Approve Payroll - 5/11/26-5/24/26
 - e) Approve Special Event Request - Cut the Square Cruise Night - June 19, 2026
 - f) Approve Special Event Request - DRA Family Fun Day - 6/27/2026
 - g) Approve an Updated Bank Signer List to remove Sam Tesreau, Interim City Manager and add Matthew "Zeke" Jackson, City ManagerMotion made by Councilor Hayes, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"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 Approving a Construction Material Variance for Wheatland Tube, LLC at 1600 Ritchie Court.** Wheatland Tube LLC is requesting a variance related to Section 104.11 of the 2021 International Building Code, as amended and adopted by the City of Rochelle. The request would allow the City Council, rather than the Building Official, to consider approval of the proposed alternative construction method for a fabric-covered hoop structure. The proposed structure would be approximately 33,000 square feet, 48 feet tall, 110 feet wide, and 291.5 feet long. It would be located at 1600 Ritchie Court on property zoned I-2, General Industry, and used as a drive-through loading area for finished goods. The facility operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with approximately 50 employees working in the area across three shifts. The petitioner states that strict application of the referenced code provisions would limit the facility's ability to adapt to changing operational needs and would increase construction duration, material lead times, and facility downtime. The petitioner submitted structural design information indicating the structure meets the required 30pound snow load, anchoring, and other applicable code requirements. The Planning and Zoning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on June 1, 2026, and considered the required variance standards under Section 110-29 of the Rochelle Municipal Code. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the variance with conditions. Building Inspector Geoff Starr and Mack Llanas with Fehr Graham were available for questions. Motion made by Councilor Valdivieso, Seconded by Councilor Arteaga, **"I move Ordinance 2026-30, an Ordinance Approving a Construction Material Variance for Wheatland Tube, LLC at 1600 Ritchie Court, be approved."** At 6:30 PM Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move we postpone action on this item until next Council meeting June 22nd."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
3. **A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Pursuant to a Vehicle Sales Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.** In 2019, Rochelle City Council approved a vehicle leasing and replacement program with Enterprise Fleet Management (EFM). This program is designed to reduce capital expenditures, vehicle repair costs, and improve vehicle reliability, safety, and resale. January of 2020 the City began receiving new vehicles through EFM. Since then, monthly vehicle maintenance expenses and downtime have been reduced, while vehicle reliability and safety have significantly increased. As this program advances, the vehicles being replaced will be newer in age and have an increased resale value. Vehicle leasing costs will continue to decrease as we continue to sell these vehicles and build equity into the City's EFM program. At this time, Public Works has two (2) vehicles and Engineering has one (1) vehicle, listed in exhibit A, that have been replaced and are ready to sell. EFM has multiple resale channels to create a competitive environment maximizing vehicle returns. No later than two (2) business days after the collection of funds for the sale of a vehicle, EFM will remit an amount equal to the vehicle's sale price minus a \$400 service fee. Proceeds from the sale of these 3 vehicles will be re-invested into the Public Works and Engineering Department's leasing program to reduce the costs of current lease vehicles. Director of Public Works Tim Isley was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Hayes, **"I move Resolution R2026-28, a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Pursuant to a Vehicle Sales Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, INC., 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 224 of Chapter 94 of the Rochelle Municipal Code to Prohibit Parking along the East Side of North 15th Street between 10th Avenue and Squires Landing.** The 1000 block of North 15th Street, located between 10th Avenue and Squires Landing, functions as a local roadway providing access to the Squires Landing neighborhood, Little Hubs Daycare, and Saint Paul Lutheran Church. This segment measures approximately 31' from back of curb to back of curb, which limits the space available for on-street parking and efficient traffic movement. Concerns have been raised by residents and motorists regarding safety along this segment, particularly when vehicles are parked on both sides of the street. Under these conditions, the effective width of the

travel lanes is reduced to a level that does not safely accommodate continuous two-way traffic. Following a review of existing conditions, City staff have determined that restricting on-street parking along the east side of this block is necessary to improve safety, visibility, and traffic flow. This measure will help maintain consistent travel lane widths, reduce the likelihood of vehicle conflicts, and enhance overall safety for motorists, pedestrians, and adjacent residents. Director of Public Works Tim Isley was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor D. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, **"I move Ordinance 2026-31, an Ordinance Amending Section 224 of Chapter 94 of the Rochelle Municipal Code to Prohibit Parking Along the East Side of North 15th Street Between 10th Avenue and Squires Landing, be approved."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion 7-0.

5. **An Ordinance Amending Section 6 of Chapter 6 to Allow 18 Year Olds to Serve Alcohol as Waiters, Waitresses or Sales Clerks.** The City's current liquor code regulates what duties individuals under the age of 21 may perform on licensed premises. Under the current ordinance, individuals under 21 are prohibited from working behind the bar, tending bar, or pouring and mixing alcoholic beverages. However, individuals who are 19 or 20 years old may serve alcoholic beverages as waiters or waitresses on licensed premises. Several local restaurants have inquired about lowering the minimum age for these wait-staff positions from 19 to 18 years old. The goal is to provide additional staffing flexibility while maintaining the existing restrictions on bartending and alcohol preparation. Illinois law allows individuals who are at least 18 years old to serve alcoholic beverages as waitstaff. They may deliver drinks to customers, but they may not perform bartending duties, work behind the bar, or mix and pour alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages must continue to be prepared by an employee who is at least 21 years old. To better align the City's ordinance with state law, consideration could be given to lowering the minimum age for waitstaff serving alcoholic beverages from 19 to 18 years old while keeping all current restrictions related to bartending and alcohol preparation. Under the proposed change, employees who are at least 18 years old would be permitted to:

- Serve alcoholic beverages to customers as waitstaff.
- Deliver alcoholic beverages to customer tables.
- Perform the same duties currently allowed for 19- and 20-year-old waiters and waitresses.

Employees under 21 years of age would continue to be prohibited from:

- Working behind the bar.
- Tending bar or performing bartending duties.
- Pouring alcoholic beverages.
- Mixing alcoholic beverages.
- Preparing alcoholic beverages for service.

Director of Community Engagement/ Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Thompson was available for questions. Motion made by Councilor T. McDermott, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move Ordinance 2026-32, an Ordinance Amending Section 6 of Chapter 6 to Allow 18 year Olds to Serve Alcohol as Waiters, Waitresses or Sales Clerks, 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:** At 7:48 PM Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor Valdivieso, **"I move the Council recess into executive session to discuss the (appointment, Employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal) of specific employee(s). Section (c) (1). and collective negotiating matters. Section (c) (2)."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.
- At 7:58 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move the Council return to open session."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:58 PM. Motion made by Councilor Shaw-Dickey, Seconded by Councilor D. McDermott, **"I move the Council adjourn."** Voting Yea: T. McDermott, Hayes, D. McDermott, Shaw-Dickey, Arteaga, Valdivieso, and Mayor Bearrows. Nays: None. Motion passed 7-0.

John Bearrows, Mayor

Jennifer Thompson, Deputy City Clerk