

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Rochester City Council was called to order on April 27, 2026, by Mayor Jones at approximately 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Jones, Mayor Pro Tem Bikson, Councilmembers Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, and Trent

ABSENT: None

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – SCHEDULED, NON-SCHEDULED, AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation – Next Step 4 Seniors Foundation

Kim Russell, 345 Lysander, addressed Council regarding the Next Step 4 Seniors Foundation. She explained that the organization connects low-income seniors with resources including housing, care grants, food assistance, veterans benefits, and supportive services.

Ms. Russell highlighted the “Mary with the E” Endowment and Emergent Fund, which assists what she described as the “forgotten middle”—individuals who do not qualify for traditional assistance programs but still face financial hardship due to life changes such as loss of a spouse, illness, or rising costs of living. She emphasized that the fund provides relief and dignity to seniors who have historically been self-sufficient but now require additional support.

Ms. Russell invited Council and the public to attend the Foundation's fundraising event, “Cowboy Chic,” scheduled for May 15 at Blake's, and encouraged donations to support the program.

She then introduced Renee Peck, Director of the Next Step 4 Seniors Foundation, who briefly spoke about the organization's efforts and ongoing need to support seniors who fall outside traditional assistance programs.

B. Presentation – Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine Body Donation Program

Representatives from Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine presented an overview of their Body Donation Program. The program provides medical, physical therapy, and other healthcare students with hands-on anatomical learning through donor-based education.

The presenters explained that the program was established following legislative changes allowing additional institutions to operate body donation programs. With assistance from community partners and the City of Rochester, including the development of a mausoleum at Mount Avon Cemetery, the program now provides a final resting place for donors.

The presenters described the educational impact of the program, noting its use not only for medical students but also for local high school and middle school students, as well as specialized training for groups such as the Michigan National Guard. They emphasized that hands-on anatomical study remains essential despite advances in technology due to its role in providing foundational and humanistic medical education.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the partnership and the program's contributions to education and the community.

C. Presentation – Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Social District Discussion

DDA Director Kristi Trevarrow presented information regarding the potential establishment of a social district in downtown Rochester. She explained that the concept, originally introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, allows patrons to purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed establishments and consume them within designated outdoor areas.

She reported that approximately 21 downtown establishments have expressed interest in participating. The DDA sought preliminary feedback from Council before proceeding with detailed planning, including ordinance development, signage, operations, and coordination responsibilities.

Councilmembers generally expressed openness to exploring the concept further, while raising considerations including signage impacts, public safety concerns such as underage drinking, maintaining the character of downtown, and potential liability. Council indicated interest in receiving a more detailed proposal at a future meeting.

D. Public Comment (Non-Scheduled)

Gavin Drill, 149 Spruce Lane, addressed Council as part of his Eagle Scout project planning. He requested ideas for a community service project that would demonstrate leadership and involve a group of volunteers.

Councilmembers discussed project considerations with Mr. Drill, including the requirement that the project be lasting in nature.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included approval of the April 13, 2026 meeting minutes and receipt of the check register report.

MOTION:

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Bikson, seconded by Councilmember Trent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion Carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS/TABLED ITEMS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

City Manager Nik Banda introduced the item and provided an overview of the budget development process, noting it is a multi-month effort involving staff review, long-range planning, and alignment with Council goals.

Finance Director Anthony Moggio presented the proposed budget, including a video overview and demonstration of a new interactive online budget tool designed to improve transparency and public understanding.

Council engaged in extensive discussion regarding:

- Budget structure and presentation format
- Use of the interactive budget tool and public accessibility
- Clarity of proposed projects and budget assumptions
- Capital planning, including roads, facilities, and equipment
- Fund balance levels and long-term financial strategy
- Distinction between proposed, discussed, and approved items within the budget

Council expressed concerns regarding:

- Potential confusion between approved and non-approved items
- Presentation of departmental objectives within the budget document
- Need for clearer labeling and organization for public understanding

Staff provided clarification that:

- Items without confirmed funding or Council approval are included for transparency but not formally adopted
- Budget items may be amended as additional information becomes available

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 8:41 p.m. for comment.

No public comments were received in person or online.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 8:42 p.m.

MOTION: King moved, Trent seconded,
To postpone adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget to allow for revisions and clarification.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.
NO: None.
ABSENT: None.
Motion Carried.

8. LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATION

8A. Traffic Control Order 26-01 – First Street (Wilcox and West Street)

Police Chief George presented Traffic Control Order 26-01, requesting approval to install stop signs on First Street at Wilcox and West Street for both eastbound and westbound traffic.

Chief George stated that First Street has generated a high volume of complaints regarding speeding. He noted the roadway has a relatively long distance between existing stop controls, has been recently repaved, and includes hilly terrain, all of which contribute to increased vehicle speeds. Enforcement efforts, including radar and speed trailers, have been utilized; however, complaints from residents persist.

Chief George indicated that the proposed stop signs would be installed at a midpoint location to reduce vehicle speeds. He further noted that, although there have been no recent accidents reported, the recommendation is based on observed traffic conditions, roadway characteristics, and resident concerns.

City Council discussed the existing parking conditions along First Street, prior resident concerns related to traffic and parking, and the criteria used by the Police Department in determining when stop control is appropriate.

MOTION: Hauser moved, Bikson seconded,
To approve Traffic Control Order 26-01 requiring all traffic on First Street to stop at Wilcox and West Street.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.
NO: None.
ABSENT: None.
Motion Carried.

9. REPORTS AND REGULAR BUSINESS

9B. 2026 Tri-Party Road Improvement Program – Runyon Road at Dequindre Road

City staff presented the 2026 Tri-Party Road Improvement Program project, consisting of the addition of a right-turn lane for eastbound Runyon Road traffic turning south onto Dequindre Road.

It was noted that the project qualifies under the Oakland County Tri-Party Program, in which costs are shared equally between the City, Oakland County, and the Road Commission for Oakland County. The total estimated project cost is \$272,795, with the City's portion being \$90,932.

City Council discussion referenced prior review of the project by the Asset Management Committee and expressed support for leveraging shared funding to complete roadway improvements that enhance traffic flow and safety.

MOTION: Salvia moved, Clauser seconded,

To approve the cost participation agreement with Oakland County and the Road Commission for Oakland County and to approve the 2026 Tri-Party Road Improvement Program project for Runyon Road at Dequindre Road in the amount of \$90,932.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion Carried.

9C. Purchase of 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe – Police Department

Police Chief George requested approval to purchase a 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe to replace a 2019 Dodge Charger patrol vehicle.

Chief George reported that the current vehicle has approximately 65,000 miles and has required significant maintenance expenditures, totaling over \$25,000, including engine replacement. He indicated that the replacement is consistent with the City's vehicle replacement schedule. The proposed purchase price for the Tahoe is \$57,434, excluding upfitting costs, with an anticipated delivery timeframe of six to seven months.

Chief George further stated that the replaced vehicle would be reassigned to the Code Enforcement Officer for continued use.

City Council discussed the transition from sedan patrol vehicles to sport utility vehicles, including considerations related to officer safety, equipment storage capacity, maintenance costs, and resale value. Chief George noted that SUVs provide improved safety, increased space for equipment, and better accommodation for officers, and that the purchase would be funded through the equipment replacement fund.

MOTION: Trent moved, Salvia seconded,

To approve the purchase of one 2027 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion Carried.

9D. Purchase of Two 3-Yard Dump Trucks – Department of Public Works

Director of Public Works Nick Schaefer presented the request to purchase two replacement 3-yard dump trucks. It was noted that the existing vehicles are approximately 12 and 14 years old and, while still operational, are beginning to show significant wear, particularly in the truck bodies due to prolonged exposure to salt and heavy seasonal use.

The Director explained that maintenance costs have remained relatively low; however, the structural condition of the trucks is declining, and replacement at this time is consistent with the City's fleet management plan. The proposed replacements include plow equipment and necessary outfitting for year-round use.

The total cost for both vehicles is \$185,080 through State bid pricing. The purchase had been anticipated and included in the approved budget. The Director further noted that the existing trucks are expected to have a resale value in the range of \$20,000 to \$25,000 each, which may help offset the total cost.

Councilmember Hauser asked for clarification regarding resale value and whether the purchase had already been budgeted. The Director confirmed both points.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION:

Hauser moved, Bikson seconded,

To approve the purchase of two 3-yard dump trucks in the amount of \$185,080.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion Carried.

9E. Planning Commission Appointment – Jenna Campbell

The Mayor presented the nomination of Jenna Campbell to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Councilmembers discussed the overall strength of the applicant pool and acknowledged that several highly qualified individuals had applied for the position. Emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining a diverse range of professional expertise on the Planning Commission, particularly in areas related to architecture, planning, and development review.

Ms. Campbell's background as an architect was highlighted as a significant asset, particularly as the Commission continues its work on zoning updates, design standards, and site plan review processes.

Councilmembers also noted the formation of subcommittees focused on bylaws, education, and long-term planning strategy.

MOTION:

Hauser moved, Salvia seconded,

To confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jenna Campbell to the Planning Commission.

VOTE: YES: Jones, Bikson, Clauser, Hauser, King, Salvia, Trent.

NO: None.

ABSENT: None.

Motion Carried.

10. REPORTS AND REGULAR BUSINESS

10A. Sister City Commission

Councilmember Clauser provided a report regarding upcoming Memorial Day activities. Events will begin at Mt. Avon Cemetery, followed by a parade and additional ceremonies at Veterans Point in Rochester Hills. The day's programming will include participation tied to the America 250 initiative, along with hot dogs and refreshments hosted by the Fire Department.

10B. Cemetery Advisory Board

Councilmember Salvia provided an update on a proposed crowdfunding effort to support improvements to the Mt. Avon Cemetery entrance. The initiative is expected to be promoted in conjunction with Memorial Day events and upcoming programming hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

10C. Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA)

Councilmember King reported that the annual audit is expected in early May. The Authority continues to maintain a strong financial position and is working toward a goal of maintaining a 20% operating fund balance while allocating excess funds toward capital improvements.

Additional updates included strong enrollment for summer programming, an upcoming "Mac & Brews" fundraiser scheduled for May 16, and administrative updates to employee policies, including PTO accrual and healthcare documentation.

10D. Budget and Finance Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Bikson provided an update on recent departmental presentations from the Police and Public Works Departments. Discussion focused on budget development, operational needs, and ongoing challenges related to recruitment and retention, particularly for police officers and paramedics.

10E. Asset Management Committee

Councilmember Salvia provided updates on several infrastructure and capital planning items. It was noted that maintenance of the City's water tower is projected to cost between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. Discussion also included long-term capacity considerations and the potential need for expansion to meet future demand.

Additional project updates included park and playground improvements, Paint Creek Trail repairs, skate park construction, Farmers Market planning, and redevelopment efforts at the Solaronics site.

Council also discussed a potential increase in Oakland County water rates associated with a proposed administrative building project. Residents were encouraged to communicate feedback to County officials.

10F. Historical Commission

Mayor Jones informed Council that the Founders Day event was successful and well attended. The Commission is currently seeking additional members and is exploring participation opportunities for Heritage Days.

10G. Sustainability Committee

Councilmember Trent provided an update on the Sustainability Committee's first meeting, held on April 20. Initial focus areas include recycling education, reducing contamination in waste streams, development of a composting pilot program, creation of a community resource guide, and improvements to sustainability-related information on the City's website.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

12. GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS / COUNCIL COMMENTS

The City Manager reported that a candidate has been selected for the part-time Code Enforcement Officer position, pending completion of background checks.

Councilmembers provided various updates and comments, including recognition of City staff, participation in recent community events such as Arbor Day and Earth Day, and announcements of upcoming events including the Farmers Market and Community Health & Wellness Fair.

Legislative updates from the Michigan Municipal League were also discussed, including topics related to revenue sharing, housing legislation, property tax reform, data center regulation, and license plate reader policy.

Council also noted current openings on boards and commissions and encouraged community participation.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting at approximately **9:53 p.m.**

Megan Frazho, Interim City Clerk

Debbie Jones, Mayor