

APPROVED MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on November 26, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSH COHN, Mayor
SARA GODDARD
EMILY HURD
RICHARD MECCA
JULIE SOUZA
BENJAMIN STACKS
Councilmembers

ABSENT:

DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN, Councilmember

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cohn called the meeting to order and invited the Council to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call.

Mayor Cohn asked the City Manager to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

3. Discussion of the FY 2018 Budget:

● *Rye Free Reading Room Budget Review*

Chris Shoemaker, Director of the Rye Free Reading Room, gave an overview of library activities and accomplishments in the last year. He said that for every dollar that is provided, there was a return of over \$4 in value from the library services. Mr. Shoemaker said that the Rye Free Reading Room was sixth in the County for programs, and attendance of library programs. Mr. Shoemaker gave an overview of current and future plans for the library, and reviewed the capital improvements being completed at the library to improve community programs. He explained that the funding for additional programming would be helpful. Mr. Shoemaker touched on cost savings with regard to employee benefits.

Mayor Cohn said that he was grateful that the library would be holding Sunday hours. There was general discussion over changes in the way that libraries function with the introduction of technology, and the various programming.

The Council thanked Mr. Shoemaker for a job well done on the library programs.

- *Police Department Budget Review*

Robert Falk, Public Safety Commissioner, thanked the Council and introduced Tom Scappaticci, Police Department Accountant. He ran through some highlights of the department, including having trained two drug recognition officers. He said that the radio system had been repaired this year. He mentioned that there were several retirees. Commissioner Falk talked about police services, drug take-back programs, and the contribution to the community. He also talked about objectives for 2019, such as tightening up enforcement for local laws and focusing on quality of life issues. He stated there were four new officers hired, and they will be fully operational in seven months after the academy and training. There was general discussion over the staffing levels, with the 33 current active members. With one retiree and four new hires, 36 officers are anticipated.

There was discussion over identifying annual overtime expenses.

- *Fire Department Budget Review*

Robert Falk, Public Safety Commissioner, stated that there were 19 career firefighters, made up of 1 lieutenant, and 18 firefighters in four squads. He identified some highlights of the 2018 year, including in-house training. Commissioner Falk stated that they were exploring the idea of working alongside Rye Brook or possibly other municipalities to increase response time, efficiency, etc. There was discussion of increasing the staffing in a minimal way while the City awaits a report from the professional consultant as to recommendations for the department's future.

There was discussion over replacing equipment. There was also discussion over revenues, primarily from violations issued. The Council asked that a memo be prepared on revenues.

- *Rye Recreation Budget Review*

Sally Rogol, Recreation Superintendent introduced Erin Mantz, Assistant Superintendent, and Lisa Dempsey, Rye Recreation Commission, and thanked the Council for their support and the opportunity to present. Superintendent Rogol thanked her entire Recreation staff and Recreation Commission for their hard work each day to make sure that the City has outstanding recreation programs. She highlighted the vast facilities that Rye Recreation has to offer throughout the City. She gave an overview of the successes of the year, such as the Turkey Run, Halloween Window Painting, Pancakes with Santa, Holiday Bonfire, Food Truck Festival, summer camp, winter vacation activities, senior programs, and other activities.

Superintendent Rogol stated that she would continue to strive to increase revenues, while keeping expenses flat.

The Mayor and Council thanked the Recreation Department for their hard work and successful programs for the residents.

4. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stacks, to adjourn the public budget workshop at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D'Andrea
City Clerk