

APPROVED MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on November 28, 2018, at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSH COHN, Mayor
SARA GODDARD
EMILY HURD
RICHARD MECCA
JULIE SOUZA
BENJAMIN STACKS
DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN
Councilmembers

ABSENT:

NONE

The Council convened at 6:30 P.M. Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza, to adjourn immediately into executive session at 6:30 P.M. to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

At 7:29 P.M., Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza, to adjourn the executive session and commence the regular meeting of the City Council. The public meeting began at 7:38 P.M.

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 Clerk to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

3. General Announcements.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held November 7, 2018 and of the Budget Work Session on November 14, 2018.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza and unanimously carried, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held November 7, 2018 and of the Budget Work Session on November 14, 2018.

5. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the agenda.

Kent Iarocci, 5 Charlotte Street, addressed and thanked the Council. He provided his thoughts on how flooding in Rye could be alleviated and how the dam could better function.

Mack Cunningham, 502 Forest Ave, addressed the Council on the issue of the budget. Mr. Cunningham wanted to bring attention to capital improvement needs, for items that are currently not in the Recreation Capital Project plan. He reported that the Damiano Center has a critical need for a new HVAC system and roof. Additionally, he felt that the field repair should be considered within the 2019 budget, rather than by private fundraising.

Bob Zahm, Ridgewood Drive, wanted to thank the City Manager and Council for repairing the flag pole and for addressing a broken light issue under the I-95 bridge in an expeditious manner. He asked the Council for an update on the data collected from the test study of the Rye Park neighborhood. Councilwoman Hurd explained the recent test was not yielding a report, but explained where the initial report from the United Hospital Traffic Study was available on the website. Mr. Zahm concluded that sight line still needs to be addressed for the Rye Park study.

6. Consideration of a holiday pay station waiver.

Mayor Cohn explained that the Council would like to recommend waiving the parking fee to encourage Holiday shopping.

Councilwoman Souza made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to support the Central Business District local businesses during the 2018 Holiday Season, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council encourages residents to shop and dine downtown during the holiday season as buying locally helps all of us while strengthening our local economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the City Council will provide 4 hour free parking for the periods between November 27, 2018 – December 1, 2018 and December 19, 2018 – December 24, 2018 by waiving parking restrictions and parking fees in all downtown lots (Car Parks 1-5) and Purchase Street at the City's expense.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Councilmembers Goddard, Hurd, Mecca, Souza, Stacks, Tagger-Epstein,
Mayor Cohn
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

7. Consideration of Rye Country Day School request to continue temporary barrier and signage test in Rye Park neighborhood through December 8 to facilitate traffic study needed as part of investigation of potential acquisition of Thruway Authority site.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to continue the temporary barrier and signage test in Rye Park neighborhood through December 8, 2018 to facilitate traffic study needed as part of an investigation of potential acquisition of the Thruway Authority site.

8. Approval of the election of Christopher Alba to the Rye Fire Department.

Councilman Mecca stated that Mr. Alba was elected into the membership of the Rye Fire Police Patrol, through the fire department, and was approved by the Fire Wardens at their November 13, 2018 meeting.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried, to approve the election of Christopher Alba to the Rye Fire Department.

Consideration of a resolution to have a six-month, 150-subscriber test of a pickup service for food scrap recycling, with an accompanying drop-off location at DPW, to be supported by a grant and subscription fees of \$26 per household for the 26 weeks.

On September 26, 2018, the Rye Sustainability Committee (RSC) presented to the City Council and the public a Food Scrap Recycling Program that is currently occurring in the Village of Scarsdale.

Councilwoman Souza expressed she is in support of composting but felt that the natural progression should be a drop-off to start and the move towards pick up. Additionally, she stated that sending a diesel truck to pick up food scraps appears to be more hazardous and causes incremental harm. Councilwoman Souza suggested to separate the issue by approving composting.

Councilwoman Goddard explained that this program would be limited to a group that would be paying a subscription fee to have this pick up service. She feels the carbon footprint would not be hindered because the truck pick up would be equivalent to individuals driving to a drop off location. Additionally, the project is grant based and is a test program. She suggested it be tested out and talk through the details after the program has been in motion for the six month process.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein said she would look into the analysis of the carbon footprint of this program. Mayor Cohn added that the County is interested in looking into adding a closer composting location, which would lower the cost and pollution content.

Councilwoman Goddard made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Rye Sustainability Committee are looking for ways to reduce the total volume of waste being incinerated or landfilled annually; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rye can support through waste reduction strategies and increased recycling; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the City Council will to have a six-month, 150-subscriber test of a pickup service for food scrap recycling, with an accompanying drop-off location at DPW, to be supported by a grant and subscription fees of \$26 per household for the 26 weeks.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Councilmembers Goddard, Hurd, Mecca, Souza, Stacks, Tagger-Epstein,
Mayor Cohn
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

14. **Discussion of Paving Program.**

Mayor Cohn invited Gordon Daring, an engineering consultant from VHB, to discuss paving options for the City of Rye.

Mr. Daring spoke about the process of the pavement management and road analysis. He explained that it is essentially a planning process aimed to determine the optimal road treatment for the cost and life of the treatment. Their company begins with a paving inventory and analyzes the street from a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 0-100, 100 being an ideal road. The company has analyzed data from 4 years ago and used a computerized system to determine the current condition of the roads in Rye.

He explained the total backlog of pavement needs in the City of Rye is estimated to total 16 million dollars, according to the computerized software technology. \$845,000, \$1,000,000, and \$1,250,000 are three cost scenarios that would benefit the City. Heavily traffic roads would take priority but a mix of paving options on various streets would reach optimal paving goals in each scenario.

Councilwoman Souza asked if we have access to previous data from neighboring municipalities who used the various methods of paving. Ryan Coyne, City Engineer, clarified that the software would explain which streets should be repaired and the City would then extract streets depending on future projects (ie. Con-Ed gas main replacements).

Councilman Stacks asked on the status of Fireman’s Circle. Mayor Cohn explained the contractor did not stick to their August completion forecast, but rather stated December 10, 2018 as a start date of paving.

10. Ratify the retention of the consulting firm, Menkes Associates, LLC to assist the City in reviewing telecom infrastructure.

Mayor Cohn explained the consultant is assisting in the matters related to telecommunications rights and continuing negotiations with Crown Castle.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza and unanimously carried, to ratify the retention of the consulting firm, Menkes Associates, LLC to assist the City in reviewing telecom infrastructure.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Councilmembers Goddard, Hurd, Mecca, Souza, Stacks, Tagger-Epstein,
Mayor Cohn
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

11. Consider setting a Public Hearing on December 19, 2018 to amend Chapter 133 “Noise” of the City Code with respect to installations in the public right of way.

Mayor Cohn explained the proposed amendments address how the intensity of noise is measured for installations in the right of way within Chapters 133 in the City Code.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to set a Public Hearing on December 19, 2018 to amend Chapter 133 “Noise” of the City Code with respect to installations in the public right of way.

12. Consider setting a Public Hearing on December 19, 2018 to amend Chapter 196 “Wireless Telecommunications Facilities”, the City’s wireless code.

Mayor Cohn explained Amendments to Chapter 196 concern the aesthetics and use of the best available technology of certain types of telecommunication infrastructure in the City’s right of way.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to set a Public Hearing on December 19, 2018 to amend Chapter 196 “Wireless Telecommunications Facilities”, the City’s wireless code.

13. Resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign the Electric Service Agreement on receipt of PSC approval and confirmation from Constellation.

Corporation Counsel Wilson explained that the Electric Service Agreement is a necessary step to allow Rye to launch the Community Choice Aggregation program in the City.

Councilwoman Souza made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to authorize the City Manager to sign the Electric Service Agreement on receipt of PSC approval and confirmation from Constellation.

15. Appointments to Boards and Commissions by the Mayor with Council approval.

There is nothing under this agenda item.

16. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

Councilman Mecca reiterated that the City made the right choice when looking into curbside pickup and the decisions made. He shared that another community made their recycling decision on the basis of co-mingling glass, paper and metal. They have now been directed by Westchester County to separate paper which has resulted in the unanticipated cost of purchasing another garbage can for each resident.

Councilwoman Hurd reported that Mistletoe Magic was a great event. She wanted to congratulate the Chamber of Commerce and mentioned the upcoming Chamber Holiday party. On behalf of the Boat Basin, boats are now overdue to be removed from the water. Rye Town Park will be lighting several trees for the first time as a result of private donations. Please join them for a Caroling event around the tree on December 15th at 5pm.

Councilwoman Souza clarified that Dec 6th is the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party.

Jerry Seitz, Rye resident, asked why the Finance Committee presented the City's budget. Councilman Stacks clarified that the City Manager presented his budget but the citizen's budget is a derivative budget from the manager's report. Mr. Seitz asked why funds were taken from a fund balance transfer to cover needed infrastructure to which Mayor Cohn explained funds of approximately \$3 million still exists as they were transferred to the Capital Projects fund. Mr. Seitz then questioned what the City plans to do to generate additional sources of income. Mayor Cohn explained that the Finance Committee reviewed the fees and charges this year and will be moving forward at looking at additional sources of revenue in 2019.

17. Old Business

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

18. New Business

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

19. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stacks and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Euka Pietrosanti
Deputy City Clerk