

**APPROVED MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on December 05, 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 Hurd, 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 Hurd, to adjourn the executive session and commence the regular meeting of the City Council. The 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.

There was a moment of silence to honor the memory of President George H. W. Bush.

Councilwoman Hurd told a story about the late President Bush.

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.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein read a quote from George H. W. Bush. She acknowledged his efforts as President when he signed national disability legislation. She announced that there was a RAISE survey distributed for parents of children with disabilities. She encouraged all to participate.

Councilman Stacks announced that the winter golf program at Rye Golf Club has started. There are some restrictions for winter golf, such as a prohibition on golf carts for the season. There are also improvements happening at the club, which has rerouted the course.

Councilwoman Hurd announced that Rye Town Park will host a Christmas tree lighting to be held December 15, 2018 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Goddard announced that Colleen Margiloff of Rye Sustainability would be stepping down at the end of 2018. Councilwoman Goddard thanked Ms. Margiloff for her many years of service to the committee and community.

Mayor Cohn stated that the City had started a conversation with Crown Castle regarding telecommunications installations in Rye, but it is uncertain where that will lead. At the same time, the City is trying to put together an amendment of the City code, for wireless communications. The FCC will limit future municipal rights, with an effort underway to have the FCC reconsider its position.

Councilwoman Hurd added that there was a recent article in LoHud that raised some concern about a potential wedding venue at Rye Town Park. It is by no means being moved forward, but rather, something in the very early stages of consideration. The City has heard much objection from residents regarding that proposal. She also added that Con Ed would repave the roadways where work has been completed recently.

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

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

5. Public Hearing on the proposed 2019 Budget.

Councilman Stacks made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca, to open the public hearing for the proposed 2019 Budget.

Bertrand de Frondeville, Rye resident, thanked the Council. He referred a letter, previously sent to the Council, outlining his comments regarding the budget. He asked for clarification about Police and Fire and the Library.

Mayor Cohn explained that with regard to unassigned fund balance, the City intends on remaining around 10%, which would hopefully keep the City safely in the AAA ballpark. He said the City had created a capital projects fund to which funds have been transferred. The City has deteriorating infrastructure that needs to be fixed. Mr. de Frondeville thanked the Council for staying below the tax cap.

Councilwoman Hurd commented on the budget allocations with regard to the library, who will receive a \$10,000 increase in funding for 2019. She stated that she thought the library was taking an aggressive approach to proactively address the changing times, keeping the library as an ongoing information depository.

Ryan Prime of Milton Road, and President of the Disbrow Park Conservancy, addressed the Council. He acknowledged the planning process at Disbrow Park and thanked the Council for exploring options to plan for the park's future. He felt that the planning Disbrow would not be possible without a partnership between the City and the Conservancy. Mr. Prime said it was great to see kids in the park using it as a park. He commented that there was a list of capital improvements in the proposed budget, but that he was concerned that these improvements are being made without any vision for the future of the park. He asked that the City Council set up a task force and schedule periodic workshops to have public engagement.

Councilwoman Goddard recalled that the City had held several workshops on the proposed projects. Mayor Cohn added that the City had already committed to these projects. He welcomed Mr. Prime to discuss the issues in detail at the Council's available office hours and to review the workshops, which are available online.

Mr. Prime reiterated his concern that the park is missing an overall vision.

Councilwoman Hurd added that these projects are urgent in that Building 5 is literally falling down. This was similar to the immediate need for new garbage trucks.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated that the Council learned over the last several years that the cost of anything major in Disbrow is major. The City likely could not afford that grand vision without DPW there. She explained that the DPW footprints are not changing and everything that can be done with the park will happen around that operation.

Mr. Prime said that he understood the urgent need of these repairs, but that the community and conservancy could not get an idea of what they could do since the master plan stopped regarding Disbrow.

Councilwoman Goddard encouraged Mr. Prime to watch the workshops, available on the City's website.

Mayor Cohn said that the Council was very appreciative of the Conservancy's efforts.

Mr. Prime stated that it was the Conservancy's want to partner going forward, smart and collectively.

Councilwoman Hurd echoed that it was everyone's benefit to have a beautiful Disbrow.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stacks and unanimously carried, to close the public hearing.

6. Consideration of a request by the Rye Free Reading Room for use of the Village Green and City Hall Parking lot to host the Annual Vehicle Fair on Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chris Shoemaker, Rye Free Reading Room, approached the Council about the annual Vehicle Fair, to be held on May 19, 2019.

Corporation Counsel Wilson explained that for this event, the Council must waive the City Code requirements on the food truck law to permit food trucks at the event.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to Motion to approve a request by the Rye Free Reading Room for use of the Village Green and City Hall Parking lot to host the Annual Vehicle Fair on Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein, to waive City Code Chapter 144 (8)(d) and (g) regarding food trucks, to permit them on site at the Annual Vehicle Fair, to be held May 19, 2019 on the Village Green and City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

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

7. Authorization for City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Westchester to provide access to Westchester Records Online: the County Clerk's land records and legal files.

City Manager Serrano explained through a Memorandum of Understanding with Westchester County, the City is provided access to Westchester Records Online, the County Clerk's land records and legal files. Municipalities are given exclusive access to essential abstracts of real estate transactions to assist tax assessors. There is no charge to the City for access to the records.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Westchester to provide access to Westchester Records Online: the County Clerk's land records and legal files.

8. Resolution to select the Standard or Green Supply as the default for the Community Choice Aggregation Program.

Mayor Cohn explained that the choice made this evening would become the default source of energy and if a resident did not choose otherwise. Dan Welsh, Westchester Power Program Director, addressed the Council. He explained that the difference between the sustainable, green energy and the traditional energy source was a quarter of a cent per kilowatt hour.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein confirmed that the green supply is now sourced from within New York State.

Councilman Stacks asked about the difference between the energy sources, and whether that has remained steady. Mr. Welsh responded that it has, and that it will remain the same throughout the contract.

Councilman Mecca stated that Rye had approximately 5800 households. He asked if Westchester Power had a percentage as to how many have not opted into an ESCO at this point. Mr. Welsh responded that more than 4,000 households were eligible for the program, having not opted into an ESCO.

Mr. Welsh discussed the timeline with the Council of the program. He explained that the program should be up and running by March 1, 2019.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated that she has had numerous residents reach out who currently have ESCOs. She asked if those residents should call and opt out of their ESCO plans; there was discussion about the program being available only to those who are opted out of an ESCO.

Councilman Mecca asked Mr. Welsh to keep the Council apprised of the number of people who have chosen to opt out of the Community Choice Aggregation program.

Councilwoman Goddard reminded the Council that Rye residents are already defaulted into a supplier, Con Edison.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated support for the green energy source.

Councilwoman Goddard inquired as to how many municipalities had chosen the standard energy option. Mr. Welsh said that only two of the 20 municipalities in the program have opted for the standard energy option.

Councilwoman Goddard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca and unanimously carried, to elect to have the green energy option as the default option for the City of Rye in the Community Choice Aggregation program.

9. Authorization for City Manager to enter into a Westchester County E-911 Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) to provide critical E-911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) support and maintenance services in all Westchester municipalities

City Manager Serrano explained the previous IMA has expired and Westchester County was authorized by the Board of Legislators (Act No. 183 – 2017) to enter into this agreement and into similar agreements with 44 other local municipalities for a five (5) year term commencing on October 1, 2017 and continuing through September 30, 2022. This is at no cost to the City.

The primary purpose of this IMA is to define the role of Westchester County and local municipalities regarding the provision of E911 service and the operation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) located throughout the county. It also provides a necessary legal framework for the County to continue to provide critical hardware and software maintenance for the E911 system/PSAP infrastructure.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Westchester County E-911 Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) to provide critical E-911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) support and maintenance services in all Westchester municipalities.

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

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the City Council.

11. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

Councilman Mecca shared that the Planning Commission meeting would meet before the next Council meeting.

12. Old Business

City Clerk D'Andrea presented the new City website to the Council, to be launched the following weekend. The website was the product of two years of work, in which the City had originally received 19 RFP responses for the professional service of design and content management. City staff worked for hundreds of hours to organize content and design with the City's vendor, Vision Internet.

13. New Business

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

14. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D'Andrea  
City Clerk