

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the
Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of
Rye held in City Hall on November 6, 2019, 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, enter into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. At 7:29 P.M., Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to exit executive session and commence the regular meeting of the City Council. The meeting began at 7:41 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.

Mayor Cohn thanked everyone in attendance. He noted that there was an election on November 5, 2019. He announced that Councilman Mecca would be returning, and Carolina Johnson and Pamela Tarlow would be joining the Council.

3. General Announcements.

Councilwoman Goddard read a statement about the recent events that had occurred between the City of Rye and Rye Country Day School with regard to the proposed shared use agreement of the current New York State Thruway property located on Boston Post Road. She referenced a letter that had been written by the Mayor and Council to the governor dated November 4, 2019 regarding the backup legislation with regard to the future of the property. Councilwoman Goddard stated that she did not approve of the letter and was not notified of its existence. She referenced an executive session meeting of the City Council held on November 3, 2019 of which she and several other councilmembers could not attend. She stated support for the backup legislation, and said that it was the only chance to save the property from being put up

for public auction or used for Thruway purposes. She spoke about the need for field space in the community as well. She said it was her honor to serve the people of Rye and that her obligation as their representative was to ensure that their needs be presented.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a statement objecting to the Mayor and Council letter sent on November 4, 2019, to the governor asking for the veto of the backup legislation referenced above. She talked about the backup bill as legislation passed as a backup measure in case the City and Rye Country Day School could not reach a shared use agreement. She said it was now clear that the City will not agree with Rye Country Day School to execute such an agreement. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated that the legislation in question is designed to ensure that Rye Country Day School make the athletic field and track available to the public for no less than 29% of the time. It comes at no cost to taxpayer of the City of Rye. She strongly approved of the legislation.

Eric Bommer, 84 Highland Road, addressed the Council on behalf of the Rye Rangers Hockey Club. He expressed concern about the City opposing the backup bill proposed. He felt it important to the program and other sports organizations to support the backup bill. He said he felt frustrated that the City had not entered into an agreement thus far and opposed the legislation.

Mayor Cohn stated that he had the consent of the Council on the subject letter months ago. He said he withheld this letter to try and allow for an agreement to be reached. He stated that a duly noticed meeting was held on November 3, 2019 consisting of a quorum of the Council to discuss the issue. On the specifics, Mayor Cohn stated that Rye Country Day School presented an agreement in perpetuity, of which the City could not find a similar model. He stated that the Council pressed Rye Country Day School to continue a commitment to shared use in the agreement, and unfortunately the school did not consent to that. Mayor Cohn said that in the end, the City was simply asking them to curb their discretion so as to take a view towards providing continued shared use to Rye with facilities useful to the City of Rye. He said the point of disagreement was that the shared use should continue, and not give Rye Country Day the rights of an ordinary property owner. Rather, there needed to be a recognition of continued shared use. He stated that the Council was asking only for some statement that would indicate meaningful shared use going into the future. Mayor Cohn then stated that what transpired was a series of ultimatum and continuing termination threats from Rye Country Day. Mayor Cohn said that with respect to the Otis bill, it was introduced and passed with no consultation of the City of Rye. The old bill, passed in 2017, required a shared use agreement, and the new bill does not do that, it does not mention the City of Rye at all, it does not define the privilege of shared use. He said the presence of the new bill came and was passed, and brought to the attention of Rye Country Day School before the City had even responded. Mayor Cohn said that the new bill undermined the City's ability to negotiate with Rye Country Day School. He said, why should Rye Country Day School agree with the City, when the new bill gave it more rights than it would under the shared use agreement. Mayor Cohn stated that the Council sent the school a letter with what the last remaining issues are. Mayor Cohn said he hoped that Rye Country Day School will return with an agreement with the City. If there is a new bill open to them with less requirements, this shared use agreement would not seem likely.

Councilwoman Souza stated that there was a tremendous earnest effort on behalf of this Council to get this deal done. She said that Assemblyman Otis secretly passed a law that

undermined the negotiations, which was troubling. The bill helped Rye Country Day School, and not the City of Rye. Councilwoman Souza stated that the bill that Assemblyman Otis had passed has absolutely nothing in it that protects Rye over the long term. She said that the earnest attempt to reach an agreement got derailed by the bill.

Councilwoman Hurd clarified that the backup bill was actually an amendment to the original 2017 bill. The amendment passed in 2019 takes away all the consideration of Rye. She said that the majority of the Council had opposed the amendment to that legislation.

Councilwoman Goddard said that the negotiations have failed between the City and Rye Country Day School. She said she was not told that a letter was sent in her name. She said that she felt that people who have different points of view are pushed to the side and shrouded in secrecy.

Councilman Stacks responded that the Otis bill that was shrouded in secrecy and that select members of the Council knew about it before others.

Mayor Cohn said that the letter in question was actually sent to the governor's aide and asked to be held.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein expressed concern about having a Council meeting on a Sunday evening, as members of the Council have young families and Sunday would be family time. She felt that there was a lack of transparency in the process.

Mayor Cohn responded that the City had entered into negotiations of a few points in September 2018. He said that the City agreed with Rye Country Day School that there were many more points to be considered. He said that after that time, the City then heard sporadically from Rye Country Day School that they were looking at other aspects of things. Mayor Cohn went through the timeline of negotiations from January to June of 2019. There were many discussions, but before the City could respond to the latest proposals from the school, the City was made aware of legislation that had been passed in July. Rye Country Day School then told the City it would be changing its terms according to the new legislation.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein submitted a letter dated November 6, 2019 to Governor Cuomo supporting the backup legislation.

Councilman Mecca announced that there had been an election on November 5, 2019. He said he was pleased with the turnout that came to the polls for the slate of candidates, which was an uncontested election. He thanked the community for its heavy involvement in that civic process. He said he looked forward to working with upcoming new councilmembers Carolina Johnson and Pam Tarlow.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein announced that the Women's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held this year November 17, 2019 at 3:00pm at Christ Church. The Human Rights Commission will be giving out this year's award at the event to deserving recipients.

Councilwoman Souza announced that Mistletoe Magic will be held December 1, 2019 from 12:00 to 3:00pm.

Mayor Cohn announced that every few years, both full and part-time City judges come up for reappointment. It has become customary to solicit interest from those in the community who are interested. Mayor Cohn read the qualifying requirements to apply for a City judge position: the successful candidate must have practiced law in New York State for the preceding five years. The candidate must also expect to serve a term of six years for part-time judge or 10 years for full-time judge. The candidate must be at least 18 years old, but not older than 70. The candidates for full-time judge at the same time cannot practice law or act as an arbitrator or do like kind things. Mayor Cohn invited those interested to send resumes. He also was pleased to announce that the City of Rye has taken delivery of at least of some of its new garbage trucks.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held October 16, 2019.

Councilman Souza made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held October 16, 2019.

5. Croton Energy Presentation on Solar Power.

Mayor Cohn said many residents have spoken to him about the installation of solar power in Rye. It is something the City is very interested in.

Councilwoman Goddard stated that she was the liaison to the Board of Architectural Review and a few months ago, the Board heard an application for a solar installation, and the person who came to present was the owner of Croton Energy, Leo Wiegman. After Mr. Wiegman presented, a few members of the board gave very positive feedback about his presentation. Councilwoman Goddard had mentioned to Mr. Wiegman's presentation to the Mayor and Council and was happy that he could present to the public this evening.

Leo Wiegman, Croton Energy Group Inc., addressed the Council. He gave a brief presentation on solar energy in Westchester and Rye. He said that this past summer, Governor Cuomo signed the Climate Leadership and Citizen Protection Act. He explained that solar power is growing rapidly in Westchester County in particular, with over 6,000 residential solar systems. The costs associated with solar are going down. Mr. Wiegman presented a slideshow presentation on the issue. He showed a comparative cost savings between current energy and solar. He further showed an upward trend in Rye of solar systems. He said there were 69 solar systems in Rye. Mr. Wiegman showed a comparative analysis of other municipalities. He discussed the possibility of a special solar permit different than a building permit. He also talked about solar being used to charge electric vehicles. Mr. Wiegman then showed photos of the physical solar panel structures.

Councilman Mecca said that in his time as an inspector for the City of White Plains, he learned that a solar system like the ones Mr. Wiegman showed can handle 120 miles of wind. He said they were designed to stay on roof should there be a bad storm.

The Council thanked Mr. Wiegman for his presentation.

6. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the Agenda.

Linda Lefkowitz, Oakwood Avenue, addressed the Council. She was upset that the City had not fixed the sound system through Optimum cable so that she and others could hear the City Council meetings. She said that all citizens who pay taxes have the right to hear the meetings.

Mayor Cohn acknowledged Ms. Lefkowitz's concerns and agreed that everyone should be able to hear the City Council meetings.

City Manager Usry agreed with Ms. Lefkowitz. He stated that the City had some issues with the sound issues in the room. He assured her that the City had been testing and fixing the sound within the last ten days.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein commented that a capital need that has been presented has been the replacement of the Council Chambers' equipment.

City Manager Usry responded that Rye TV and the City are moving quickly on the item and will have an update at the November 20, 2019 meeting.

Councilman Stacks said that the HVAC system will also be revamped, and the efforts would be best coordinated so to not waste money on these capital endeavors. He apologized on behalf of the City and said that it was being worked on.

Kathy Grainger Hobbins, 75 Oakland Beach Avenue, addressed the Council. She said she was present to ask the City Council to review or change the zoning laws to encourage reasonable building. She said that with the level of construction happening, there are serious flooding concerns. She spoke of specific building concerns, flooding, and tree removal that she felt had caused problems in Rye. She said some towns have a moratorium on building while considering zoning issues.

Councilwoman Goddard reported that Rye Sustainability has talked about a zoning task force. She said that the City's closest neighbor who has done an exercise like this in recent years is Larchmont. She said she would certainly support looking at what the City currently has, especially with changes in the environment.

Councilwoman Hurd said that she had recently spoken to staff and others about disallowing flag lots moving forward. She also felt there was an important need with respect to the tree law.

Mayor Cohn said that the difficult issue here was that there are vested property rights on the other side. He said that he knew the Planning Commission had some ideas.

Patty Yoon, 93 Oakland Beach Avenue, addressed the Council. She reported that the building happening at 97 Oakland Beach Avenue has destroyed the trees and caused many problems. She reported that she was there on behalf of many neighbors. She spoke of the issues associated with subdivisions and over-building. She said that Rye needs to do better. She disused the issue of flag lots. Ms. Yoon said that the other issue is overcrowding. She said that Rye's infrastructure cannot support it. She also talked about the issues of deforestation and

removal of privacy with the removal of trees. She urged the Council to think about what the right zoning is for the City.

Brooke Packard, 26 Oakwood Avenue, spoke against the proposed turf project at Nursery Field.

Marc Bruffett, 14 Hillside, addressed the Council. He stated that professionally, he was a partner in a global architecture and design firm. He said he was there to speak on the proposed traffic mitigation measures on the future redevelopment at the United Hospital site. He specifically discussed the proposed gates on Evergreen and Grandview at their intersections with High Street. He said that the reality is that the proposal is well intended, but fatally flawed. He said that while those created instant cul-de-sac streets, but to the detriment of other streets. He encouraged the Council to vote to turn down the proposal as it is premature and flawed by design. He encourage the Council to wait to study the real impacts of development, and consider alternatives beneficial to all homeowners. He said that we must recognize when our emotions to traffic is fearful. He urged the Council to wait to take action until appropriate, at which time there could be a real measure and study of traffic implications, if any. He felt that there was a predetermined solution without regard to professional study or guidance. He said that many neighbors were against the gates as they will have detrimental consequences to the rest of the community, but that the group never thought the idea of gates would be seriously entertained. He said that he agreed with Maser Consulting's professional report that traffic would be negligible. He urged the Council to take a holistic approach to traffic issues and vote no on these gates.

Richard Smith, 127 Evergreen Avenue, addressed the Council. He said what he was trying to do was have the City Council address all the problems in the neighborhood. He said he had been working on this proposal for quite some time. He recounted that the City tried barriers temporarily as a test. Mr. Smith said that the goal was safety. He said there would likely be a construction period of three years, which he was worried about. He supported the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety's proposal. He said they would like to see the City commit to the proposed gates.

Anne McCarthy, 125 Central Avenue, said she supported the backup legislation for the Rye Country Day School/ Thruway property. She said she was surprised to hear that the Boat Basin would be in the hauling services business. She asked that more commissions/committees post agendas and minutes on the City website.

City Manager Usry and the Council said that they would work to ensure that more Commissions and Committees would work with City staff to post agendas and minutes.

Paula Fung, 84 Elmwood, addressed the Council. She spoke in favor of keeping grass at Nursery Field and not converting it to turf. She felt that it was important to recognize the wetlands.

Tony and Randy Polito, 15 Winthrop Street, spoke about the dangerous and deadly effects of turf. They referenced an article entitled, "New Studies Show PFAs in Artificial Grass Blades and Backing," by Ketura Persellin and urged the Council to vote against artificial turf at Nursey Field.

Lorne Smith, 287 Rye Beach Avenue, address the Council He spoke against the proposed turf renovation of Nursery Field. He said that he lived closest to Nursery Field. He spoke against allowing a small group of donor residents to control how the public is spending its funds.

Shannon Dean-Smith, 287 Rye Beach Avenue, invited the Council to her home to observe the proximity to the field.

Irwin Lefkowitz, 38 Oakwood Avenue, spoke against the proposed turf renovation of Nursery Field. He said the most important thing about the installation is that it be properly and carefully drained. He said there is no way to drain it in a flood zone.

Suzanne Clary, 14 Dogwood Lane, said she was grateful to all the members of the City Council. She said she does not live near the Nursery Field, nor does she live near Rye Country Day, but said that the two issues are related. She asked at the Council do its due diligence on the issue and urged public disclosure and dialogue. She also urged the Council to decide how to spend any donor money, instead of having the donors decide. She asked the Council to slow the process down.

Councilman Mecca asked for clarification, as the residents seem to be supporting turf at the Rye Country Day School site despite all of their statements about the harm of turf, but not the Nursery Field site.

There was general discussion over process and respect of these sensitive matters in the community.

Francesca Mountain, 83 Elmwood Avenue, asked the Council to keep the grass at Nursery Field. She expressed concern about traffic implications and possible change to the neighborhood.

Lindsay Martin, 8 Elmwood, said that she was a lifelong Rye resident. She said she opposed turf at Nursery Field. She made a statement about the financial implications of the maintenance of the field in the long term.

Dan Adler, 62 Elmwood Avenue, addressed the Council. He said that he has respect for Rye Youth Athletic Foundation. He said that he felt the location was poor for a turf field. He asked to meet to discuss a potential compromise plan. There was discussion about the timeline that will be discussed at the next meeting of the City Council.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated that the group will not raise money for a natural field. She said that if the Council is truly honest about the analysis that it plans to do, it should determine that the money should be raised before the actual results are determined.

Councilwoman Hurd said that we are all Rye residents. She said this is a very emotional and upsetting issue for her as a Milton mom as there are many people in this situation, specifically on the Rye Youth Athletic Foundation, that are in that community. There will be a process here that will be followed. She said that the Council cannot speak on behalf of RYAF.

She clarified that this group was not an advocate for turf fields, but rather an advocate of increased recreational ability.

Libby Alexander, 290 Stuyvesant, stated she was a lifelong Rye resident. She read a letter from Tracy Brown of Save the Sound to the Council, against the installation of artificial turf in the Nursery Field location. She then stated that Rye has a history of looking at site specific projects instead of in a holistic manner. She asked that the Council look into funding a Master Plan to look at the issues in a relational way.

Gerry Seitz addressed the Council and asked about Robert's Rules of Procedure. He spoke about the City's proposed shared use agreement with Rye Country Day School. He asked if the Council was all in favor of reducing real estate taxes to the greatest extent possible. He asked if the Council was all in favor of finding alternative sources of money. He said that he had been before the Council on these items six or seven times. He urged the Council to make a commitment that all were in favor of lower taxes. He suggested that the Council appoint one person to be in charge of trying to proceed on this basis. He referenced hotel occupancy tax and parking meters, initiated when Mr. Seitz was on the City Council years prior.

Jill Somerville, 1 Hill Street, addressed the Council. She said she was very invested in the Rye youth sports community and felt fortunate to live in Rye. She said that she was in favor of grass fields over artificial turf.

7. Presentation of the proposed FY 2020 Budget by the City Manager.

City Manager Usry presented the proposed FY 2020 Budget. He read the following statement:

“Mayor Cohn and Council:

I am submitting tonight for your consideration the City Manager's recommended 2020 budget. My comments this evening will loosely follow those of my budget letter. Following this discussion, Joe Fazzino will be reviewing the specifics in greater detail.

The proposed 2020 operating budget is \$42.54mm and will require an increase in the real property tax rate of 1.70%.

The theme of this year's budget message is threefold:

- Financial Transition
- Capital Facilities Reinvestment
- Investing for the Future

1. Financial Transition

Following the 2008 recession, the City was forced to take drastic measures with its annual budget and capital plan resulting in higher taxes, reduced services and staffing, and the deferral of capital spending. In recent years we have benefitted from the robust economic

recovery and now have a much improved financial picture.

However, the underlying financial picture leading into 2020 causes me some concern. In recent years, we have benefited from significant, one-time revenues and a dependence on continued growth in the real estate market. Throughout 2019 we have seen a number of signs that point to a general slow-down. The recent increase in the County sales tax by 1 %, and resulting City share will offset some of the revenue decline, but it will be another year until the offsetting impact of both are known.

Our challenge will continue to be meeting the community's high expectations for services in the face of increasing costs, new and expanded services and the desire to keep taxes and fees low.

The budget implications of this financial transition includes:

- **Sales and Uses Taxes**

Until we have a full year of actual data, revenues are difficult to forecast with great precision. The 2019 forecast and 2020 budget amounts are conservatively estimated. *Our 2020 budget assumes a \$700,000 increase over the 2019 budget.*

- **Building Permits**

For 2019 building activity declined for the first time since 2009, and we see this trend continuing into 2020. *Our 2020 budget reflects a \$400,000 decrease in building permit revenue.*

- **Interest Earnings**

Since the middle of 2019, interest rates have fallen by over .60%. Furthermore, during 2020 we expect to begin drawing on the Capital Projects Fund to pay for costs related to our capital projects, resulting in less monies being invested. *For 2020 we are budgeting a decline of \$50,000 in interest earning.*

2. Capital Facilities Reinvestment

It is a surprise to no one that the City's infrastructure is in need of reinvestment. The most visible sign of this is our roads, but behind the scenes there are numerous examples of facilities that are ineffective at best and dangerous at worst. The costs of needed repair or replacement have skyrocketed over time and we are now well beyond the point of deferring these projects any longer. In the past two years, the increased spending for roads is now paying dividends. However, the roads will require outsized spending for some time to bring them in line with the expectations of our fellow citizens.

In addition, a number of the authorized projects totaling \$14.1mm are in the design and planning phase and we expect to begin hard cost expenditures in 2020. In early 2020, I will be coming to the Council with a definitive plan to undertake these projects, both financially and operationally.

Distinct from the CIP list is the remediation and ongoing monitoring of the City's sewer

infrastructure resulting from the Save the Sound and DEC litigation. In 2020, we expect to finalize this expense and fold it into our CIP. Similar to the authorized projects this will not be a discretionary spend. This will be a multi-year undertaking, and will significantly increase our financial obligation. In 2020, we will be examining the benefit of moving the sewer expense, including annual maintenance, to a separate enterprise fund. The data is now being collected to enable us to present the Council and community with the implications of such a change.

Finally, one of the unintended consequences of the recently passed *School District Bond Referendum* is the temporary, but nearly immediate displacement of two City programs. Beginning this summer, the school facilities used by Rye Rec for summer camp will not be available, at least for the next two summers. Superintendent Rogol, her staff and Commission have worked tirelessly to find suitable alternatives. We believe we have secured alternatives for two of the three camps. We believe we have minimized the financial impact of renting space, but these arrangements will not be signed until later this year. Although all realistic options were investigated for the temporary relocation of the Lower Camp, there are not temporary alternatives. The proposed plan is to undertake a renovation/upgrade of some of the facilities at Rye Rec Park. The benefit of this approach would be to provide a permanent home for the camp and to offer significantly improved year round facilities for the entire community. Later tonight Superintendent Rogol will be discussing this in greater detail.

The second area negatively impacted by the school closure is Rye TV. Rye TV's control and editing facilities, as well as studio are housed at the High School. The relocation of these facilities needs to be addressed in short order.

2020 Budget Implications for capital facilities includes:

- **City Street Resurfacing**

The proposed budget calls for \$1.9 million of spending for street resurfacing.

- **Capital Projects Fund**

The 2020 proposed budget reflects a transfer of \$1.75 million of General Fund unassigned monies and the transfer of Rye TV's unassigned fund balance to the City's Capital Fund. The transfers result in a Capital Reserve balance in excess of \$6.2 million.

Investing for the Future

Over the past 10 years, one aspect of the City's operation that has been de-prioritized is long term planning and strategic investment. Although much of this was behind the scenes and not apparent to many, it can be easily seen and felt if you tour the City archives, make a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, search building plans, etc. Furthermore, in recent years we have all read first hand news accounts of how municipalities have been hacked and held for ransom. In order to keep our information safe, but conveniently accessible, we should be investing in information and systems technology. We should also be moving to offer more online services where appropriate. There is no excuse that in the current age of technology, citizens are required to come to City Hall for all manner of permits and registrations. All of these will improve the community experience and make City operations more efficient. As part of this proposed budget, I am including specific monies to engage

consultants to help us review our systems, including document retention, in order to plan for the future.

Since 2008, administrative staffing has declined in some key areas. Although it was a financial necessity at the time, the loss of these professionals has caused challenges in meeting community needs. Clearly, we have to balance the financial costs of additional hires, but in the long run, they are critical to both meeting immediate operational demands, providing management for the significant capital projects to come, and planning for the future. As part of this budget, I am recommending that we add two key positions.

The Department of Public Works and the workings of the City Engineer are under tremendous pressure. We continue to ask more with limited support and staffing. The proposed 2020 Budget includes additional personnel support to meet the current demands, as well as the anticipated future demands as we begin undertaking our significant capital improvements. This position was authorized in 2019 and will be filled in 2020.

For the 2020 budget, I am including the cost of an Assistant City Manager. In prior years, the City Manager's office included up to two Assistant City Managers. As we embark on a variety of new projects, the demands on the City Manager's office have increased significantly. It is important that we have an Assistant City Manager in place in 2020.

Finally, given the numerous ongoing legal matters, I am also increasing the budget of Corporation Counsel to provide for greater resources. In addition to Corporation Counsel, the City uses outside counsel for labor related issues. With the one remaining labor agreement outstanding, I am leaving this budget unchanged for 2020. However, I expect that the agreement with the fir union will be successfully resolved in the coming year and we should see that expense reduced going forward.

Deputy Comptroller Fazzino addressed the Council. He gave a slideshow presentation on the Tentative 2020 Budget. He discussed an overview of the proposed General Fund budget in detail. The increase in property tax levy for 2020 is \$25,374,448, which translates to a tax rate of \$179.76 per thousand dollars of assessed value, a 1.70% rate increase. The increase in property taxes for an average home in the City (\$1.59 million market value) is \$73. The proposed overall tax levy for 2020 is \$570,570 under the allowable NYS Tax Levy Cap.

For Mr. Fazzino's detailed presentation please see the City website:
<https://www.ryeny.gov/home/showdocument?id=11196>

Consideration to set a Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget for December 4, 2020.

Councilman Stacks made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca, to set a Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget for December 4, 2020.

8. Update of summer camp facilities by Rye Recreation.

City Manager Usry reported that due to the passage of the Rye City School District bond in 2019, the school improvements will remove the facilities used for summer camp over the next several years, as construction will be held over the summer.

Sally Rogol, Superintendent of Recreation, addressed the council. She thanked Erin Mantz, Deputy Recreation Superintendent, and Bart DiNardo, Recreation Commission, for their hard work as well. She stated that due to the school bond passed this year, the City was notified in that the City would have no use of the school district building for 2-4 years. To keep the camps local to Rye, City staff has worked tirelessly to reach out to organizations who could potentially host the various camps. Staff looked at many alternatives. Superintendent Rogol reported that as of yesterday, November 5, 2019, the City had a great meeting with Christ Church who is welcoming the City with open arms. The recommendation was to move forward with a memorandum of agreement. There have also been positive discussions with Resurrection School to help with the problem.

There was discussion over long term improvements to the facility at the Damiano Center/ Rye Recreation to provide ongoing benefits for camp and other recreational needs. There was then discussion over the needs and cost of short term rentals and capital cost for the long term, estimated to be approximately \$1 million.

Councilwoman Souza commented that she would rather see the City invest into its own facilities for long term needs for recreation and community purposes.

There was discussion about Talk about moving forward with the MOU with Christ Church and resurrection and process with moving forward on the capital improvements.

Mayor Cohn asked staff to try and determine what the return might be on the increased usage and to report back to the Council.

9. Update of the Street Resurfacing Program.

Ryan Coyne, Superintendent of Public Works, addressed the Council. He gave an update of the annual street resurfacing program for 2019. He reported that the streets were paved before Labor Day, finishing on time and under budget. The City then paved Bradford and a portion of Florence, Grace Church and Grapal. He said that the City was partially reimbursed by Con Ed for the paving that occurred within areas that Con Ed worked in 2019. Mr. Coyne said that the City's consultant was working on proposing a new PCI map for each street.

There was general talk about paving in the future.

Retroactive consideration of a request from Dr. Eric Byrne to waive parking restrictions at the snow field lot to accommodate general voting on November 5, 2019.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, and unanimously carried, to retroactively approve waiving parking restrictions at the snow field lot to accommodate general voting on November 5, 2019.

10. Resolution to transfer \$105,000 from General Fund Contingency account to Personnel Legal Services account to cover expenses through the remainder of 2019.

Roll Call

City Manager Usry said that there had been a number of labor-related issues that required legal services. This funding would be transferred from contingency to the Personnel legal services account to cover expenses.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein asked if the amount was for 2020 as well. City Manager Usry responded that it was for 2019, but that the proposed 2020 budget would be mindful for the future.

Councilman Stacks made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the transfer of \$105,000 from General Fund Contingency account to Personnel Legal Services account to cover expenses through the remainder of 2019.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Mayor Cohn appointed Judith Linton with Council approval to the Sustainability Committee.

12. Old Business/New Business.

There was nothing to report under this agenda item.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D'Andrea
City Clerk