

**APPROVED MINUTES** of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on November 18, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSH COHN, Mayor  
SARA GODDARD  
EMILY HURD  
RICHARD MECCA  
JULIE SOUZA  
BENJAMIN STACKS (arrived at 7:40pm)  
DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN  
Councilmembers

ABSENT:

None

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 2019 Budget:

● *Rye Recreation Budget Review*

Joe Fazzino, Deputy Comptroller, gave an overview of the finances of the Recreation Department. Sally Rogol, Recreation Superintendent, highlighted that camp fees increased and they offered 42 youth programs this year. There was general discussion on the future of summer camp relocation due to the renovations at the Rye City School District. Ms. Rogel provided details on the possible renovation of the Damiano Center which would allow the community to better use the facility and a permanent location for the lower camp.

● *Police Department Budget Review*

Mr. Fazzino gave an overview of the finances of the Police Department. Robert Falk, Public Safety Commissioner, added that side arm weapons and their holsters are 8 years old and need replacement. He also talked about adding body cameras and one full time officer in 2020.

There was discussion of the need of one fire truck which is not in the current budget. Lt. Falk spoke about recent car theft and warned the public to lock their cars.

- *Golf Club Budget Review*

Mr. Fazzino gave an overview of the finances of the Golf Club. Jim Buonaiuto, Golf Club Manager, stated building repair and maintenance increased predominantly due to the continued need to maintain the 150 year old building, Whitby Castle. He noted there is a planned nominal increase to membership fees to offset future increased expenditures, which is the second nominal increase after 8 years of flat fees.

There was general discussion about future dining options, as Lessings continues to increase their catering events, which can interfere with regular dining hours.

- *Rye Free Reading Room Budget Review*

Mr. Fazzino gave an overview of the finances of the Rye Free Reading Room. Chris Shoemaker, Director of the Rye Free Reading Room, reported that construction is complete and membership enrollment and visitors are at an all-time high. Mr. Shoemaker spoke about increased hours for the public.

4. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Souza, to adjourn the public budget workshop at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D'Andrea  
City Clerk