

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on November 10, 1997 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

EDWARD B. DUNN, Mayor  
EDWARD J. COLLINS  
CAROLYN C. CUNNINGHAM  
ROBERT H. HUTCHINGS  
JOSEPH L. LATWIN  
Councilmen

ABSENT: JAMES K. BURKE  
KATHLEEN E. WALSH

1. Roll Call

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

2. Presentation by the City Manager and City Comptroller of the proposed 1998 budget

City Manager Culross explained that the purpose of the meeting was to present recommendations for the 1998 budget and answer questions from the Council. He explained that the proposed budget is consistent with the financial goals and policies established by the City Council. Two goals of the 1998 budget are maintaining a zero percent (0%) property tax increase and continuing present programs and services.

Using Microsoft Powerpoint (a computer based slide presentation), City Manager Culross presented a summary of the City's nine individual funds and the financial highlights of all funds combined:

General Fund

The proposed 1998 General Fund budget of \$15,968,507 is up 0.6% (\$98,921) over the current budget as originally adopted.

The property tax rate of \$73.72 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation is unchanged since 1994. The property tax levy of \$9,601,213 equals 60.1% of General Fund appropriations. Modest adjustments to some user fees and charges are incorporated into this budget recommendation. Programs and services to be provided are unchanged from the current year.

Rye Community Television (RCTV) Special Revenue Fund

The 1998 budget proposes expenditures of \$130,101, down \$68,335 from the current budget. The reduction in expenditures reflects the re-equipping of the studio which was funded by an advance from the General Fund during 1997. The 1998 budget provides for two full-time positions, an increase from the current 1.5 positions to enhance government programming and public access support.

Rye Nature Center Special Revenue Fund

The 1998 expenditures are estimated to be \$301,516, down \$63,311 as \$74,500 for building expansion and vehicle purchases were included in 1997. A net deficit of \$12,104 is forecast for 1998. General Fund support remains at \$130,225 for the sixth consecutive year.

Debt Service Fund

Expenditures of \$54,164 are required in 1998.

Capital Projects Fund

New Capital Project expenditures of \$1,543,000 are proposed for 1998, compared to \$1,625,000 for 1997. A transfer of \$221,000 (a decrease of \$79,000) is proposed from the General Fund. No debt is proposed.

Boat Basin Enterprise Fund

Revenues are forecast to be \$391,275 while expenses are budgeted at \$369,965. This includes a 2.5% increase in user fees recommended by the Boat Basin Commission. This represents the first fee increase in three years.

Rye Golf Club Enterprise Fund

Revenues are forecast to be \$2,810,005, while expenses are budgeted at \$2,598,053. This reflects adjustments in user fees recommended by the Rye Golf Club Commission. Membership fees are increased, on the average, by 3%. A total of \$335,900 in capital improvements would be financed by 1998 revenues.

Risk Retention Internal Service Fund

Total expenses are forecast at \$470,000, an increase of \$7,700.

Building and Vehicle Maintenance Internal Service Fund

Expenses are budgeted at \$1,610,892, down \$19,928 (1.2%), with revenues forecast at \$1,603,392, an increase of \$101,238 (6.7%). The budget includes a transfer from the General Fund of \$442,000, a decrease of \$9,000 for the acquisition of equipment and building maintenance.

City Manager Culross and City Comptroller Michael Genito then explained several issues:

- No cash balance is shown in the budget because there is no application.
- Fund balances are not equivalent to cash.
- Increased road opening permit fees are not proposed in the budget as the City's fees are currently in line with those of other municipalities.
- Increased fees have been proposed for wetlands review and tree preservation review.
- Employee benefits and raises are prudent and reasonable.
- There have been no substantive requests from any City agencies for higher budget amounts.
- Rye has been awarded a \$380,000 grant by New York State for improvement of the Boston Post Road corridor.

A question and answer period focused on the following:

- Clarification of fund balance appropriated for the 1998 budget
- Clarification of cash balances
- Sidewalk repair
- User fees
- Employee salaries, raises and benefits
- Significant employee turnover
- Other financing uses
- Rye Arts Center
- Rye Youth Council
- Clarification of estimated property tax revenues

In conclusion, City Manager Culross explained the procedure for adopting the budget and recommended the following proposed calendar:

Budget review sessions will be held:

Tuesday December 2, 1997 (City Council)

Monday, December 8, 1997 (City Council)

All meetings are open to the public.

Scheduling a public hearing on the proposed 1998 budget will be placed on the November 19, 1997 Council meeting agenda.

The Council can adopt the budget at the December 17, 1997 meeting or at a special meeting before December 31, 1997.

Mayor Dunn and the City Council complimented City Manager Culross and City Comptroller Genito for their clear and graphic presentation of the 1998 budget.

3. Adjournment

Councilman Hutchings made a motion, seconded by Councilman Collins and unanimously carried, to adjourn into executive session to discuss labor contracts at 9:10 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 10:00 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice K. Conrad  
City Clerk