

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on August 17, 1998 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: STEVEN OTIS, Mayor  
CAROLYN C. CUNNINGHAM  
ROBERTA DOWNING  
ROBERT H. HUTCHINGS  
ROSAMOND LARR  
ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN  
KATHLEEN E. WALSH  
Councilmen

ABSENT: NONE

1. Roll Call

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

2. Presentation of the 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program

City Manager Culross explained that the purpose of this meeting is to review the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). His objectives were to answer questions and receive comments in order to ascertain the types of programs that should be implemented over the next six years.

Using Microsoft Powerpoint (a computer based slide presentation), City Manager Culross provided an analysis of the potential Capital Improvement Projects for the years 1999-2004, which include:

- 21 Building Maintenance Projects
- 20 Streets, Sidewalks, Traffic Signals, and Parking Projects
- 16 Sanitary Sewers, Storm Drains, and Flood Control Projects
- 13 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Projects
- 5 Golf Club Projects
- 2 Boat Basin Projects

City Manager Culross emphasized the following points:

- The 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program is a plan, not a budget.
- The Capital Improvements Program strives to present for discussion an accurate assessment of Rye's known capital improvement needs. This analysis includes a review of building maintenance projects and capital infrastructure improvements estimated to cost over \$15,000.

- The presentation does not include projects associated with the Rye Free Reading Room or Rye Town Park for which the City has a partial indirect obligation.
- This presentation does not include the City's ongoing investment in Information Technology or Motorized Equipment, both of which represent significant needs.
- Some projects may have to be deferred to future years based upon the unavailability of adequate financial resources or the City's organizational capacity to implement such improvements.
- In addition to the \$5.4 million bond issue approved for Whitby Castle and related facilities at Rye Golf Club, the Capital Improvements Program anticipates the issuance of \$13.4 million bonds over the six-year period. This would be for improvement to the two fire stations and replacement of the police station based upon preliminary analysis of the architectural firm preparing the Public Safety Facilities Master Plan. He said this would be subject to a public referendum. The implementation of some other projects could be accelerated through the issuance of additional debt.
- The amount of debt the City Council may issue on its own initiative is limited by the City Charter. At this time, the Council could issue approximately \$760,000 by a vote of at least five members. In addition, the City Council could issue an additional \$1,870,000 subject to a permissive referendum. Any other debt would be subject to a mandatory referendum.
- A 1999 Capital Improvements Budget will be submitted for Council consideration along with the proposed operating budget on November 7, 1998.

A general discussion focused on the following topics:

- Upgrading information systems, specifically utilizing the Internet more efficiently.
- The proposed building of a new salt shed which would increase storage capacity and serve the community more efficiently during winter months.
- The installation of cable equipment in the City Council chambers and proposed new meeting room.
- The importance of staging the restoration of the police and fire departments to ensure there is no interruption in services.

- A review by the Public Safety Facilities Master Plan has determined that the current police station is significantly inadequate by approximately 300%.
- Prioritization of traffic signal upgrades.
- A short presentation was given by Mr. Roger Perry, Chairman of the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Several topics discussed were the success of the public forum held on June 18, 1998 and prioritizing traffic signal upgrades to increase public safety.
- Drainage and flooding problems in areas such as Grapal Street, Intervale Street and Rye Recreation Center.
- Rye's participation in Project Impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's initiative, to create disaster resistant communities throughout the United States.
- The importance of sanitary sewers and identifying those with illegal connections to sanitary sewers.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice K. Conrad  
City Clerk