

APPROVED MINUTES of the Regular
Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in
City Hall on May 5, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

STEVEN OTIS, Mayor
FRANKLIN J. CHU
ROBERT S. CYPHER
MATTHEW FAHEY
DUNCAN HENNES
ROSAMOND LARR
HOWARD G. SEITZ
Councilmen

ABSENT: None

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Otis called the meeting to order at the Square House and invited the Council and all attending to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Otis asked the City Clerk to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the annual traditional meeting which this year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Rye as a Village. He thanked the Rye Historical Society for hosting the evening and introduced Director, Kristina Bicher, who recalled the purchase of the Square House by William Parsons who donated the building to the Village to be used as Village Hall, which it was until 1964. She said the three quill pens on the table represent the number of original trustees at the first Village Trustees meeting in 1904 and concluded by saying this centennial year will be an exciting one and urging everyone to come back at another time to view the current centennial exhibit. Mayor Otis then made the following comments:

“In this 100th anniversary year of the Village of Rye we are finding numerous ways to celebrate our history and indebtedness to all those who have preceded us. From the Midland School Parade to the series of panel discussions sponsored by the Rye Historical Society, we are recalling our past and bringing to the surface the connection between our history, our present, and our future.

“Our Village was established a century ago because our citizens felt that the Town form of government was not appropriately attentive to the needs of a growing village. During that period the desire for more local involvement and self-government led to the creation of many villages throughout Westchester. The need for services and decision-making that addressed our concerns led to the establishment of the Village of Rye and, in 1942, the City of Rye. The first meeting of the Village government was held in October 1904.

“This annual meeting at the Square House is one way in which we celebrate our history every year. It is significant that we invite past elected officials, City Department heads, current members of our Boards and Commissions, and the City Council to join in honoring the meaning of being a community.

“You and your predecessors are the fabric of our City government. For a century the desire for public involvement and decision-making that was sensitive to Rye’s needs has been a high priority. It has been reflected in the important part active volunteers play in our community and the strong role members of our Boards and Commissions play in helping establish the policies of the City.

“In 1904 community leaders such as J.M. Wainwright, William Parsons, Theodore Fremd, Samuel Graham, B.F. Gedney, John Billington, Jacob Werner, Charles Eldredge, and John Budd created a village with the hope that the residents would devote their energy, involvement, and attention to making Rye a special place to live.

“Our annual meeting in this building honors their goals and celebrates the value of your contribution to Rye. The history of the past century tells us that their hopes were realized. Our charge is to continue that legacy together.”

Each of the Councilmen spoke saying they were honored to be serving on the Council and thanking the citizens for making it possible for them to serve the community. Councilman Hennes spoke of keeping the town where he grew up affordable; Councilman Cypher thanked the volunteers with whom he has been fortunate to work; Councilwoman Larr said every day she continues to learn; Councilman Chu said he has had fun and enjoyed meeting the many new friends and acquaintances he has made because he is on the Council; Councilman Seitz spoke of continuity and volunteerism; Councilman Fahey recalled 1904 as a time when the first New York City Subway was created; when Ida Tarbell was exposing corporate graft, when the ice cream cone was invented, the US hosted the Olympics for the first time (winning most of the gold medals), when the Panama Canal was purchased by President Theodore Roosevelt and many famous people, including Edith Read were born. He said everyone should work together to promote self reliance so we can provide for the next 100 years.

Mayor Otis then introduced City Manager, O. Paul Shew who said it was a pleasure to serve this community and an honor to be in Rye for the 100th year celebration. He said on any given day, 300 men and women work for Rye to help make the Rye difference, and introduced members of the City Staff who were able to be present.

William Connors	Police Commissioner
Peter Cotter	Fire Chief
Chantal Detlefs	City Naturalist
James Dianni	Fire Inspector
Peter Donahue	2 nd Assistant Fire Chief
Michael Genito	Comptroller
James Kenny	RCTV Coordinator
Susan A. Morison	City Clerk
George Mottarella	City Engineer
Kevin J. Plunkett	Corporation Counsel
William Rodriquez	Superintendent of Recreation
Vincenzo Tamburro	Building Inspector
Noreen Whitty	City Assessor
John Wickham	1 st Assistant Fire Chief
Scott Yandrasevich	Rye Golf Club Manager

The Mayor welcomed former Mayors Ted Dunn and John Carey, who said he was pleased to be serving the City again as a member of the Cable Committee and reminded everyone to save the plaque on the Locust Avenue Fire House. Acting Judge and former Councilman John Alfano noted the Rye Fire Police Patrol was founded in 1904. In addition to Judge Alfano, the Mayor recognized former Council Members Ed Collins, Carolyn Cunningham, Bob Hutchings, Arthur Stampleman and Bob Werner, who spoke of the honor it had been to serve on the Council. The Mayor also recognized County Legislator George Latimer who said, despite differences, everyone is a resident working for our community and he is proud to be part of the process.

The Mayor greeted the following members of Rye City Boards, Commissions and Committees:

- Doris Blank, Chair of the Rye Cable Committee, who recognized other committee members John Carey, Marvin Goldstein and Marge Bancel and said the whole committee, and staff members Jim Kenny and Nicole Livitsky, are sensational and working hard to negotiate the best possible new cable franchise contract.
- Eugene McGuire, Chair of the Board of Architectural Review, said the Board is doing its best to reconcile the interests of all to keep Rye the community it is. As President of the Rye Historical Society he added his welcome to those assembled.
- Sid Burke, Chair of the Landmarks Advisory Committee, who recognized fellow members Nancy Stampleman and Richard Hourahan and thanked the Council for its support in getting the Friends Meeting House on the National Register of Historic Sites.
- Martha Monseratte, representing the Planning Commission, encouraged everyone to get involved in City activities, as fresh ideas and new talent are always needed.
- Joe Murphy, Chair of the Conservation Commission/Advisory Council thanked Chantal Detlefs for everything and urged everyone to attend the Strawberry Festival on May 23rd.
- Brian Dempsey, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, recognized fellow member Edith Burpee and reminded everyone to attend the 5th Annual Bike Derby on May 8th from 11 P.M. – 2 A.M.

- Marion Shea, Chair of the Rye Senior Advocacy Committee, recognized committee members Sis D'Angelo, Julia Schwartz-Leeper, Jack Morgan, Arthur Stampleman and Joe Murphy, staff support. She thanked everyone for support of the Committee during its infancy and reported they are getting better each day and urged everyone to check out the directory for seniors at the library.
- Paul Denton, Board of Assessment Review, said it was a pleasure to serve.
- Ed Collins, Chair of the Boat Basin Commission, reported "a chicken in every pot and a boat in every basin."
- Susan Cicelsky, representing the Human Rights Commission, said Rye has residents with a growing variety of shades and backgrounds and the Commission is working on ways to make sure everyone is comfortable.
- Doug French, Chair of the Recreation Commission, reported his first four months have been very exciting. He thanked fellow member Doug Carey, Recreation Superintendent Bill Rodriquez, and Steve Meyers for all his years of service as Chair of the Commission.
- Robin Jovanovich, Beautification Committee, said the Committee was working on many fronts, and urged everyone to attend Clean-up Day on May 22nd.
- Joan Cresap, Playland Committee, said they were hard at work on items affecting Rye.

3. Presentation by Lions Club regarding City of Rye Centennial Time Capsule Plan
(At Square House)

The Mayor introduced Janet Malang, President of the Rye Lions Club who recognized other members of the club (The Mayor, Marion Shea, George Latimer, John Wickham, Tom Maloney, and Bob Hutchings) and described a project to create a time capsule in honor of Rye's Centennial that the group would like to do as its participation in the Centennial year. She said it will be quite an undertaking and will involve the help of many people in Rye. The Lions will purchase a 4' aluminum capsule to be filled with items from 2004; buried (probably behind the Square House) during Festival Round the Green in September; identified with a marker; and opened in 2104. There will be two meetings of representative groups to decide what will go into the capsule (some will need to be specially prepared) with an official list of contents on file with the City. There will be a display of the items (filmed by Cable TV) and a packing party. They will be inviting citizens of Rye to contribute about \$10 by supplying family histories for the capsule as a gift to Rye. The contact person will be Bob Hutchings. The Mayor said it was a great project and suggested a digital copy of tonight's ceremony at the Square House might be included.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the special meeting and said the open meeting would continue across the Village Green in City Hall.

Before continuing with the agenda the Mayor thanked the Police, Fire Department and the Department of Public Works for all the extra time and effort they put in during the spring when many outdoor events, such as parades, runs and walkathons take place.

4. Residents may be heard who have matters to discuss that do not appear on the agenda

Peter Donahue, on behalf of the Board of Fire Wardens, thanked the Council for its support of the Special Election for the Locust Avenue Fire House. He said in 2003 the Fire Department answered 839 calls and he thanked citizens for answering their call. He said the vote will re-energize the volunteers and promised increased training for both professional and volunteer firefighters so they will be the best they can be. The firefighters will look forward to bringing the project in at, or below, budget.

Sis D'Angelo, Wappanocca Avenue, asked if there was new news about the gas station at the corner of Wappanocca and Purchase Streets, saying lots of debris is accumulating, just inviting trouble. Corporation Counsel, Kevin Plunkett reported the City has petitioned the Court to agree to let the City move forward, despite the fact that there is not, as yet, an appointed administrator and the problem has not been forgotten.

Bob Hutchings, Topsail Lane, reiterated the time capsule report for the television audience, asking for the participation of Rye's citizens.

5. Presentation by Recreation Commission Chair to update the Council on the plans of the Commission's Building Committee

Doug French, Recreation Commission Chair, presented a progress report on the plans of the Commission's Building Sub-Committee, established March 10th to explore new options, and associated costs, for the Damiano Center. He said the options needed to address a number of recreational facility needs including a multi-purpose room, senior lounge space and additional activity space. George Cady, President of the Rye Youth Council also expressed a need for teen lounge space and offered his group's financial assistance if that was included in the project.

Members of the sub-committee include: Senior Group President Esther Martensen; Sr. Advocate Joe Murphy; Steve Joyce (Rye Youth Council); Alex Piscionere and Erika DiNardo from the Rye Youth Advisory Committee and their staff coordinator, Chantal Detlefs; Architect Rex Gedney; Bill Rodriguez and Sally Rogol from the Recreation Dept; Roz Larr, Franklin Chu and Commission Liaison Bob Cypher from the City Council; and Doug French, Frank Adimari and Bart DiNardo from the Recreation Commission.

The project scope has addressed needs; municipal construction (could some of the needs be met through better functional use of existing space or was alternative available space in the community available? is it better to expand existing space or build new rooms?); and financial investment (defining the cost to meet these needs and ensure good value for investment). He said there are no simple solutions; that the committee has worked hard, making significant progress in the last six weeks; and looks forward to discussing various concepts and options with the Council at a Recreation Commission/City Council Workshop on May 12.

Several members from the audience commented on the presentation. Katherine Bayha, Natoma St. noted that the new ball fields are perfect, complete with sod, macadam and new plantings while the Damiano Center handicapped parking place is still on an incline. She said seniors feel they are unwanted; she wants to know if they are going to have a building or not; and if the ball fields were over budget, taking away from Damiano. Mayor Otis said they would know more after next week's meeting; that the ball fields were a separate project; and were on budget. Arthur Stampleman asked if the City had determined what to do with the money not used for the Damiano Center. City Comptroller, Mike Genito said it must be used for recreational buildings or the bonds can be called in 2011, but until then they can be held in escrow or transferred to debt. If they are invested in US Treasuries at 4% the income can be used to offset debt service costs. Joe Murphy, Senior Advocate, said the value of people is important and the project should be more about the people who have already served Rye than on the finances.

6. Consideration of setting a Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 128, Local Improvement Assessments, of the Code of the City of Rye by renumbering § 128-2. Resolution to initiate local improvements as § 128-2(A) and creating a new § 128-2 (B)

City Manager Paul Shew explained that the law dealing with local improvement assessments needed to be amended to provide for resident initiatives, provided 75% (a super majority) of the owners of the total number of lots are in favor of a project. He pointed out there are projects involving public health or safety issues, which the City will have to do regardless of resident preference, but this law provides an opportunity for citizens to vote in certain instances.

Councilman Seitz made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hennes, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to amend Chapter 128, Local Improvement Assessments, of the Code of the City of Rye by renumbering §128-2 as §128-2(A) and creating a new §128-2 (B) *Petition to Initiate Local Improvements*; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to call a public hearing on such proposed amendment to the law, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Rye as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law and the Charter of the City of Rye, New York, a public hearing will be held by the Council of said City on May 19, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, for the purpose of affording interested persons an opportunity to be heard concerning such proposed local law.

Section 2. Such notice of public hearing shall be in substantially the following form:

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF RYE**

**Notice of Public Hearing on a proposed local law amending
Chapter 128, Improvement Assessment, by renumbering
Section 128-2 as Section 128-2(A) and
creating a new Section 128-2 (B)**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Rye on the 19th day of May, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, at which interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed local law amending Chapter 128, Improvement Assessment, by renumbering Section 128-2 as Section 128-2(A) and creating a new Section 128-2 (B), *Petition to Initiate Local Improvements*.

Copies of said local law may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk.

Dated: May 10, 2004

Susan A. Morison
City Clerk

7. Consideration of setting a Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law Amending Article 22, Tax Administration, of the Charter of the City of Rye by amending Section C22-8B as to lien date

City Manager Shew said that as a result of the segment rate changes a new lien date for taxes had been changed to September, but that because of the need to file only one delinquency list with the County it was necessary to change the lien date in Section C22-8B to July. Having the same lien date for everyone will save filing fees and time.

Councilman Seitz made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to amend Article 22, Tax Administration, of the Charter of the City of Rye by amending Section C22-8B as to lien date for the Rye Neck Union Free School District; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to call a public hearing on such proposed amendment to the law, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Rye as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law and the Charter of the City of Rye, New York, a public hearing will be held by the Council of said City on May 19, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, for the purpose of affording interested persons an opportunity to be heard concerning such proposed local law.

Section 2. Such notice of public hearing shall be in substantially the following form:

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF RYE**

Notice of Public Hearing on a proposed local law amending Article 22, Tax Administration, of the Charter of the Code of the City of Rye, by amending Section C22-8 B as to tax lien date for the Rye Neck Union Free School District

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Rye on the 19th day of May, 2004 at 8:00 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, at which interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed local law amending Article 22, Tax Administration, of the Charter of the code of the City of Rye, by amending Section C22-8 B as to tax lien date for the Rye Neck Union Free School District.

Copies of said local law may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk.

Dated: May 10, 2004

Susan A. Morison
City Clerk

8. Resolution to change present order of the City Council Agenda to move Residents who have matters to discuss to after Miscellaneous communications and reports and before Old and New Business

Councilman Seitz said he would like to propose a resolution to change the present order of the City Council Agenda to move Residents who have matters to discuss to after Miscellaneous communications and reports and before Old and New Business. He said it was not an effort to reduce the opportunity for people to come forth and speak, but an effort to be fairer to people who have come to talk about things on the agenda who at times have to wait a long time while residents speak on items not on the agenda. Other members of the Council disagreed, saying the proposal was not user friendly; that people were happy with this item being early in the evening; that it was not fair to keep people wishing to speak on matters which they are concerned about waiting until midnight; and that it is one of the four freedoms to let grievances be addressed. Mayor Otis said public participation is good; the Council learns from hearing citizen comments; and it is best to leave the agenda order the way it is, indicating "we want to hear from you at a time it will be convenient to you." He said it is established etiquette

and the normal order of the agenda is to do public hearings and presentations first, items of broad interest next, with ministerial items later. He said old and new business agenda items are not usually for action items, and in his opinion the established is orderly and civil and should stay the way it is. Councilman Chu agreed, but suggested a way be found for people not to speak at great length or to be redundant.

Former Councilman Stampleman said he understood why the Council might want the change as it might get them home earlier, but they did not get elected to go home early and it would be irresponsible to move this agenda item to the end. He said he had learned that being on a Council is not like being on a board of directors; that the job of a councilman is to listen to the people. He said the Council could try limiting a speaker's time and deferring matters to another meeting when it could be on an agenda. Others in the audience (former councilwoman Carolyn Cunningham, Sis D'Angelo, Steve Meyers and Joe Murphy) concurred, saying the change would be a slap in the face to interested citizens with problems; that it was good for the Council to hear problems and to hear what is bothering people. Former Mayor John Carey said in the 1970's people were asked to wait until the end and by the time it was their turn they were even more angry, so they were moved up to the beginning of the meeting when the then Mayor would ask for everyone who wished to speak for one minute, then two minutes, and so on.

Councilman Seitz withdrew his resolution, suggesting the Council come back with a solution to finding a better way to manage time.

9. Resolution that future Council Meetings be run under Robert's Rules of Order

Councilman Seitz proposed a resolution that future Council Meetings be run under Robert's Rules of Order, specifically mentioning that items should be introduced by a motion to focus the discussion. Councilman Fahey said this would make the Council more professional. The Mayor said he felt such a resolution was unnecessary as the Council does operate under Roberts Rules as amended by the Council to accommodate the needs of local government; that this is not CSPAN or Court TV; and all discussions should not be pre-ordained, but discussed. He said Rye's meetings are run in a logical way, similar to most other communities, and Robert's Rules can be used to cut off debate or block an issue from being placed on the agenda and discussed. After lengthy additional conversation on the matter by the Council, Nancy Stampleman, 720 Milton Road, said it appears the Council wants to establish the strict interpretation of Roberts Rules in order to muzzle the mayor (Councilman Seitz said he would second anything the Mayor brought up) and Susan Cicelsky, Westbank Road, said people were tired of hearing about procedures and asked the Council why they were wasting their time, as well as everyone else's, and suggested they get to the business at hand. Councilmen Hennes and Cypher agreed the Council tended to talk too much. Yvonne Innussarry, 240 Brevoort Lane, suggested the Council continued the modified approach while they read all the rules and decide which ones they want. Arthur Stampleman, 720 Milton Road, concurred.

After still more discussion it was agreed that Council Members Fahey, Larr and Seitz should form a committee to review Roberts Rules of Order and decide which ones to use. Corporation Counsel Plunkett said he would not be able to serve on such a committee. The

Mayor reiterated he was still against such a change as it is unnecessary and its goal is to make it difficult for the public to speak.

Councilwoman Larr made a motion, seconded by Councilman Seitz, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that all future meetings of the City Council be run under Robert's Rules of Order with such modification as shall be adopted by the Council, after the presentation of a report by a committee to be appointed for this purpose.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Councilmen Chu, Fahey, Hennes, Larr and Seitz

NAYS: Mayor Otis, Councilman Cypher

ABSENT: None

10. Reconsideration of the issue of installing parking meters in the Central Business District.

Councilman Seitz urged that the Council adopt a resolution to develop a generic Request for Proposal (RFP) for the installation of parking meters. He reviewed that he had proposed the installation of single-space parking meters as a way of adding revenue for the City and urged that the process keep moving forward so revenues can be recognized in the 2005 budget. He acknowledged he has a conflict of interest as he, at the request of a client, is the management agent for a space-meter firm he would like to see considered for Rye. He said he had met with the Ethics Committee and, while a section of the Ethic Code requires only that he disclose his interest, he will not vote should his company be considered. He said the Ethics Committee has not issued an opinion. The Mayor said he thought that the consensus of the Council at the Parking Meter Workshop was to look at a multi-space meter approach rather than at the single-space meter. Councilman Hennes recalled the decision similarly. He said his priority is to get the project up and running by next year and was under the assumption the central meter system appears to be the only way to go, but asked for resident input. Councilman Seitz said, in his view, at the April 7, 2004 parking workshop, the Council had not made a unanimous decision about the kind of meters (at least one other board member now agrees with him about single-space meters), but was unanimous in their feeling about looking for a financially favorable test period. City Manager Paul Shew said he had taken direction from the Council to look into developing a multi-space system for a year trial and it would be best to tailor any RFP to a specific kind of system, so the City doesn't receive many proposals for inappropriate systems. Councilman Fahey suggested there might be some places where single-space meters would work. Councilman Cypher, who was not present at the workshop, said his impression from the tape was that there was consensus to go with multi-space approach and he gathered most people didn't want individual meters. The City Manager reminded the Council of the serious reservations over single-space meters held by City Engineer, George Mottarella and felt he would have to revisit the topic with Mr. Mottarella before going forward with any plan other than multi-space systems. He also said it was important to clear up any outstanding issue with the Ethics Committee by giving them a chance to issue a report. The Mayor said the thrust

would be to see what the public thinks and said all aspects need more discussion and a fuller examination of the financial numbers.

Councilman Seitz made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr and unanimously carried, to table the discussion.

11. Resolution to amend 2004 General Fund budget for recreation field surcharges

Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fahey, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2003 the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the collection of a recreation field surcharge, the proceeds of which would be dedicated to the repair and maintenance of recreation fields; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal 2003 \$22,158 was collected and \$13,183 was expended relating to recreation field surcharges resulting in a reserved balance of \$8,925; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal 2004 General Fund budget provided for estimated revenues of \$23,000 for recreation field surcharges with no corresponding appropriation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to mend the fiscal 2004 General Fund, appropriating fund balance to provide \$23,000 for Parks and Playgrounds Recreation Field Maintenance.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Chu, Cypher, Fahey, Hennes,
Larr and Seitz

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

12. Resolution to accept donations for community beautification and to amend the annual budget as donations are received

City Manager Paul Shew said donations are received from time to time to be used for community beautification and suggested a resolution to accept such donations without specific approval each time from the Council be adopted. In response to a concern from Councilman Seitz, he said such donations would only be for non-controversial improvements.

Councilman Chu made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Rye received gifts and donations dedicated to various community beautification projects; and

WHEREAS, the authority to accept such gifts and donations and to spend the funds requires that the City Council authorize the acceptance of the gifts and donations and the necessary amendments to the annual budget to increase revenues and appropriations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that henceforth the City Comptroller is authorized to accept gifts and donations for community beautification purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to amend the annual budget as donations are received, increasing estimated revenues and increasing appropriations in the amount of the gifts and donations.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Chu, Cypher, Fahey, Hennes,
Larr and Seitz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

13. Authorization for the City Manager to fill the Assistant to City Manager position

City Manager Paul Shew informed the Council that the Assistant to the City Manager, Julie Schmitter will not be returning after her maternity leave and he would like permission to fill her position. He said he had not filled the position of the other assistant, Casey Liebst, and having at least one assistant in the City Manager's office is essential. The second position is still under review.

Councilwoman Larr made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cypher, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Manager be, and hereby is, authorized to fill the Assistant to the City Manager position.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Chu, Cypher, Fahey, Hennes,
Larr and Seitz
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

14. Miscellaneous communications and reports

Mayor Otis congratulated City Assessor Noreen Whitty for her persuasive arguments at the third segment rate hearing, saying the State Board of Real Property Services in Albany had agreed to amend the rules to lower the deviation percentage from 10% to 5%, setting the stage for a readjustment of school taxes for Greenhaven residents located within the Rye Neck School System.

Councilman Fahey congratulated Councilman Chu on his letter to the Sound Shore Review.

Councilman Fahey said the Quarterly Financial Report was impressive and requested that a discussion of the report be on the next agenda.

Councilman Seitz said Webster Bank is coming to Purchase Street and it appears that School Street will be the focal point of several new businesses and that the street should, perhaps, be beautified. Mayor Otis remarked that the merchants are concerned about the number of banks coming to town and also about the subsequent lighting issues. He asked if the Planning Commission had addressed these issues.

15. Old Business

Councilman Cypher said the Youth Advisory Committee had met and developed their list of action items in 1 ½ hours and had an exciting list of projects. He said there would be some turnover due to graduation, but he was pleased with how successful the committee has been.

16. New Business

There was no new business to come before the Council.

17. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meetings of the City Council held April 21, 2004, and the joint meeting with the Board of Education held on April 17, 2004

Councilwoman Larr made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fahey and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held April 21, 2004 as amended.

Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fahey and unanimously carried, to approve the informal minutes of the joint meeting with the Board of Education held on April 17, 2004.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Fahey made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hennes and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Morison
City Clerk