

APPROVED MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on August 16, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

ROBERT S. CYPHER

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Otis called the meeting to order and invited the Council 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.

3. Presentation of the 2005-2009 Capital Improvements Program

City Manager O. Paul Shew welcomed the Council to the presentation of the 2005-2009 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) saying it was an introduction to the budget process for 2005 and that no decision-making is anticipated. The presentation provides an overview of the 2005-9 plan and highlights of projects scheduled for 2005. He urged everyone to ask questions, identify additional projects, and begin to establish priorities for the future. He turned the podium over to Michael Genito, City Comptroller.

Mr. Genito said it is important to consider the City's investment in major capital improvements (projects over \$15,000) as adding value to our community, both now and in the future, enabling the City to deliver the services required or desired by our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The 2005-2009 CIP Program identifies \$30.5 million in capital improvement needs over five years (\$4.1 million from available funds [fund balance and/or new revenue]; \$25.3 million of debt; and \$1.1 million in grants and aid through the New York State Local Streets and Highway Improvement Program ["CHIPS"]). Of the debt, \$17.3 million is associated with a

new police station; \$1.5 million with the Kirby Lane North Sewer project (to be repaid through special assessments for affected properties); and \$150,000 is to come from the 2002 serial bonds issued for the Damiano Recreation Center project. Of the \$30.5 million of proposed spending, \$10.3 million is for infrastructure projects, which are long-lived capital assets normally stationary in nature; \$19.3 million is for building and facility projects; and \$950,000 is needed for Boat Basin projects to be funded by reserves of the Boat Basin Enterprise Fund.

The 5-year plan for infrastructure improvements includes \$380,000 for traffic signals; \$4.8 million for streets; \$325,000 for sidewalks; \$2 million for bridges; \$1.9 million for sewers; \$590,000 for drainage systems and \$250,000 for repairs to the Bowman Avenue dam. Funding for these projects would include \$2.2 million of current funds; \$7 million in debt; and \$1.1 million from grants and aid.

The 5-year plan for building and facility improvements calls for \$19.3 million with \$385,000 for general government (City Hall); \$18 million for public safety (Police and Court); \$290,000 for public works and \$524,500 for recreational buildings and facilities. Funding would be provided through the Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund with \$953,000 coming from current funds and \$18.3 million of debt.

The 5-year plan for the Boat Basin requires \$950,000, including dredging the marina (\$850,000); repairs to gangways and ramps (\$50,000) and dock replacements (\$50,000), all funded by the Boat Basin Fund reserves at no cost to the property taxpayer. There are no new major capital projects scheduled at the Golf Club for this 5-year period; smaller projects will be funded through the annual operation budget. Major capital improvements were made in 1998 when the Golf Club initiated major improvements to Whitby Castle and other buildings, much of which was funded by over \$5 million of new debt, being repaid by the Golf Club membership.

Capital assets, their creation, maintenance and replacement when necessary, not only provide our City with the ability to provide essential services, but as well add to the environments that we often refer to as “the Rye difference.”

The 2005 proposed CIP identifies \$5.4 million in capital projects (\$1.8 million to be funded from current income; \$3.3 million in debt and \$215,000 of State Aid). Infrastructure projects include \$100,000 for traffic signals; \$300,000 for annual street resurfacing program, \$25,000 for sidewalks and curbs; \$200,000 for the Peck/Midland Intersection; \$150,000 for redesign of Purchase Street; \$250,000 for reconstruction of Smith Street; \$425,000 to resurface the Boston Post Road from the Golf Club to the Mamaroneck line; \$650,000 for the reconstruction of the Nature Center Bridge; \$50,000 for the Morehead footbridge; \$50,000 to resurface the School Street parking lot; \$1.5 million for the proposed Kirby Lane North Sewer; \$50,000 for miscellaneous drainage improvements; and \$75,000 to improve the Clinton Avenue storm drain.

\$589,800 is proposed for 2005 in Building and Facility Projects (\$50,000 for painting City Hall; \$113,300 for a Police Impound facility; \$40,000 for a Public Works garage; \$75,000 for the Friends Meeting House foundation, \$150,000 for Damiano Center repairs; \$21,500 to resurface tennis court parking lot at Recreation Park, \$75,000 to renovate turf at Sterling Field; and \$65,000 to resurface the tennis courts at Disbrow Park.

The Boat Basin projects of \$950,000 (\$850,000 for marina dredging; \$50,000 for gangway repairs, and \$50,000 for dock replacements) are all recommended for 2005.

Mr. Genito concluded by saying that the staff had used an integrated process to achieve strategic goals and objectives. He said taking care of present needs now can pay dividends in the future. To quote Benjamin Franklin: “Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.” He said our Capital Improvements Plan allows the City to consider what we might accomplish and be remembered for in the future.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Genito for the informative presentation listing the City’s needs and mandates. He said the project list was a list of choices, that not all projects will be selected, so that it is important to provide public input to help the Council determine priorities for current and future years. He questioned the lower dollar amount for sidewalk repair in 2005 (*only \$25,000 this year instead of \$50,000 because there are sufficient funds in reserve from prior years that could be used for needed repairs*); asked which traffic signals would be redone; and wanted to know the estimated cost of the signals on Purchase Street. In response to the Mayor’s question as to whether the street resurfacing schedule was on target, Mr. Genito responded that the City’s Engineering Department has a new computerized pavement management system that will keep track of all the streets in the City (their composition, condition and use) and from that information develop recommended resurfacing and reconstructions schedules. The Mayor then opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Chu asked about the level of the fund balance (*we will have more accurate information at the end of the year*) and if sidewalks and curbs were included in the Post Road repaving costs (*City staff will be asked to find out*). Councilman Hennes asked if the quoted expense figures were accurate. (*They are estimates that will be revised for better accuracy by the time the budget is discussed.*) He said it was helpful to go through the list and identify which items are mandated, which are matched by grants; what would be the consequences of postponement; what are safety issues. The Mayor mentioned the possibility of partnerships (such as with the Friends of the Friends Meeting House), which can help fund some of the items. Councilman Fahey said prioritization is good and he is looking forward to more information (such as the cost of replacing the bridges) and better estimates.

Councilwoman Larr mentioned that there are 325 City-owned sidewalks; the rest are private and paid for by the property owner. Residents of the Cedar/Goldwin/Sylvan neighborhood were at the meeting asking that their area not be forgotten. They said they have been trying for three years to get sidewalks, have curbs completed and repaving done and asked for a definitive timetable rather than more promises. The Mayor asked when it was last repaved. City Manager Shew said he would ask staff to review the matter.

Mayor Otis mentioned there were other streets in need, such as New Street and Theall Road. Councilman Hennes said he would like to know more about how repaving needs are evaluated. The Mayor also suggested grant money might be available for repairing Bowman Dam. He mentioned that investigation since last year has shown it is not feasible to remove the smaller Morehead foot bridge (as it abuts a cemetery) and asked if it should be placed back on the list? He mentioned that before paving the School Street parking lot the possibility of

building an additional deck should be looked at again, using part, or all, of the parking fund (*about \$250,000 to provide parking improvements in the Central Business District*). The Mayor asked if the amount scheduled for Damiano repairs was redundant, based on current renovation plans? (*No*) He asked if there was any possibility of federal money to help with the sewers? (*The City has been cited in the past for sewer violations so there is little chance to postpone the projects.*) Will the proposed repairs to the Clinton Avenue storm drain help the Bennett Street problems? Are there any alternatives to building a police impound facility? (*These questions will be forwarded to the City Engineer.*)

Mayor Otis asked the Council to reconsider any chance of buying the building behind the police station as renovating this building has to be less expensive than buying new land and building a new facility. The Council would like more information on space needs for the Police and the reasons why the existing building can't be renovated.

4. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the meeting.

5. Adjournment

There is no further business to discuss, Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fahey and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Morison
City Clerk