

APPROVED MINUTES of the City Council Meeting/Budget Workshop of the City Council of the City of Rye held on November 16, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

STEVEN OTIS, Mayor
FRANKLIN CHU
ROBERT CYPHER (arrived at 7:30)
MATTHEW FAHEY
DUNCAN HENNES
ROSAMOND LARR
HOWARD G. SEITZ
Councilmen

ABSENT:

None

1. Pledge of Allegiance

1. 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. Resolution scheduling a public hearing on the tentative 2005 budget

City Manager Paul Shew asked the Council to set the public hearing on the tentative 2006 Budget during this evening as the next council meeting, scheduled for November 30, 2005, will not provide sufficient time for the public notice.

Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Seitz to adopt the 2006 Tentative Budget as the 2006 Preliminary Budget and to adopt the following resolution setting the public hearing on December 7, 2005.

WHEREAS, it is now desired to call a public hearing on the proposed 2006 budget, 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 December 7, 2005 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 budget.

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

**CITY OF RYE
PUBLIC NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Council of the City of Rye on Monday, the 7th day of December, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1051 Boston Post Road, in said City, on the Proposed Budgets of the General Fund, Cable TV Special Revenue Fund, K.T. Woods Permanent Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Boat Basin Enterprise Fund, Golf Club Enterprise Fund, Risk Retention Internal Service Fund, and Building and Vehicle Maintenance Internal Service Fund of the City of Rye for the ensuing fiscal year, January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, and at such time and place any person interested in said Proposed Budgets will be given an opportunity to provide written and oral comments on any and all of the aforementioned budgets.

CITY OF RYE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGETS

<u>Fund/Program</u>	<u>Proposed Budgets</u>
General Fund	\$27,622,408
Rye Cable TV Special Revenue Fund	223,077
K.T. Woods Permanent Fund	4,000
Debt Service Fund	141,614
Capital Projects Fund	2,610,000
Boat Basin Enterprise Fund:	
Operating	505,986
Capital	<u>100,000</u>
Total - Boat Basin Fund	605,986

Rye Golf Club Enterprise Fund:		
Operating	4,812,571	
Capital	<u>215,000</u>	
Total - Golf Club Fund		5,027,571
Risk Retention Internal Service Fund		632,630
Building and Vehicle Maintenance Internal Service Fund:		
Operating	3,266,028	
Capital	<u>1,693,500</u>	
Total - Building and Vehicle Maintenance Fund		<u>4,959,528</u>
TOTAL - All Funds		<u>\$41,826,814</u>

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

4. Discussion of 2006 Budget

The Mayor opened the meeting by reviewing the budget schedule (a workshop on November 28, discussion on November 30, a public hearing on December 7, 2005). He complimented the City Manager and City Comptroller for all their work on the budget, noting that there is a good new Multi-Year Forecasting section.

City Manager Paul Shew turned the meeting over to City Comptroller Michael Genito who reviewed some of the questions previously submitted:

Q. Can we combine all figures related to Parking so we can get a true picture of the revenues and expenses?

A. Parking is spread out over four departments: Violations (Finance), Administration (Clerk), Enforcement (Police) and Off-Street (DPW). There are two parking enforcement officers (plus police officers when on duty) who give out parking violations (last year the number was 8500; this year to date there have been 7791 issued). Revenues for the meters are estimated to be \$208,000, based on \$4,000 per week. A lengthy discussion about the future (or not) of meters followed. Councilman Hennes would like to know the net loss if they were removed. When, in essence, will the City break even? Should there be a survey? It would be good to hear from the public. The Mayor asked if it would be more prudent to budget less in case we do take them out? Do we have exit strategies? Councilman Seitz urged the Council to keep the meters through the end of the one-year cycle and reminded everyone there were really no changes in the law; there is just easier enforcement and the prior abuse of the system is made clear. If the meters do go how will the parking fund be repaid?

Q. How much do the Enterprise funds contribute?

A. The Boat Basin contributes \$88,000; the Golf Club contributes \$328,000.

Q. General questions about the Recreation Dept. budget.

A. There are scholarships, but the funds are privately donated.

A. The contributions in total net out to a little over 45% of the expenses. Each program recovers a varying amount, so there is no standard percentage that can be applied. Non- Residents pay more for programs.

A. All fees and charges (not only for Recreation, but across all Departments) are reviewed each year by each Department and adjusted where appropriate. Perhaps we should review the relevant pages of the 2003 Maximus Study.

Q. Talk about all outside agencies, including the RFRR.

A. The Southeast Consortium provides special recreation for those with disabilities. The City supports the Rye Youth Council about 10% and the Rye Library at 88% - although they want 100% of operating. There is a legal obligation to support Rye Town Park. We self-fund the City's Risk Retention fund which is under constant review.

The Rye Free Reading Room. Councilman Chu: the Library has tried hard to set forth how it wishes to do business with the City and at minimum they want to maintain the status quo of where they are – i.e. 88% of their operating budget covered by the City. In order to keep the level at 88% they need \$7525 more from the City this year. The Mayor: The Council would like to fund more, but have to find ways to cut so the Library can get more. *Mark Moore, RFRR Treasurer:* The RFRR is happy to look for new ways to save, but if they don't get what they want they will have to make up \$43,000, probably by closing on a Sunday or one night. They requested 91% - an 8% increase (rather than 100% because they don't want to strain the City by asking for everything all at once); they have been given 88% - a 4.3% increase. They have tried to tighten up their budget, but *Mrs. Florence Kraut, Board Chair,* said they have to raise money for capital improvements to the older part of the building. Councilman Hennes: Maybe we could pay for the capital improvements and free up operating? Manager Shew: the City doesn't own the building. How about having the City clean the building? Wouldn't that be cheaper than paying an outside agency?

Kristina Bicher, Director of the Rye Historical Society, thanked the City for their support, saying they try to be self-supporting, but the City support is crucial to helping them maintain their City-owned building. She said the Council should be proud of their support of historic preservation and the role it plays in maintaining the appearance of our City. Councilman Cypher: Thanked the Society for always being judicious and appreciative. They should get what they want.

Q. How many vehicles does the City have?

A. The City has had a net gain of only one vehicle over the past years. As we have appropriated new ones, old ones have been declared surplus. Police cruisers cost

about \$28,000; SUV's for the Fire Department slightly more. We bond only for large vehicles, like fire trucks.

Q. What is the story on Animal Control?

A. Mrs. Morison: No one is happy with our existing arrangement with the Westchester Shore Humane Society. A consortium of clerks is anxious to move. She anticipates a more detailed proposal will be forthcoming in January. In the meantime, we are covered as required by law and the amount in the budget should stay.

Q. What is the \$95,000 for surveys?

A. There are funds in this line to survey citizens on varying topics and then to be able to hire consultants to take the next step, in areas like the study of the Central Business District. The Council would not have to expend any funds until reviewing specific proposals.

Q. General discussion about debt (P. 14-7 Charter limits).

A. There will be no new debt for vehicles in 2006 – not until 2007. The debt listed under land acquisition relates to the Nursery Fields. Re: Locust Avenue Firehouse: may have to borrow less. Discussion about Damiano and how to show the \$1 million not needed because of reduced project (footnote was suggested). The Mayor: If we can find more revenue we can spend more on capital projects without having a referendum. Additional revenue is often not known until the very end of the year. For example, the Mortgage Recording Tax figures don't arrive until mid-December. The good news we already know is that there is an additional \$300,000 in revenue sharing and \$300,000 less owed to the Retirement Fund.

There were other questions submitted to the Comptroller, but it was agreed that they would be discussed at the November 28th workshop. Issues pertaining to Whitby Castle would also be on that agenda.

As there was no further discussion on the budget, Councilman Cypher made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hennes and unanimously carried, to adjourn the budget workshop at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morison
City Clerk