

**APPROVED MINUTES** of the Special  
Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in  
City Hall on August 21, 2006 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

STEVEN OTIS, Mayor  
ANDREW C. BALL  
MACK CUNNINGHAM  
MATTHEW FAHEY  
DUNCAN HENNES  
GEORGE S. PRATT  
HOWARD G. SEITZ  
Councilmen

ABSENT: None

The Council convened at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Pratt and unanimously carried, to adjourn to executive session at 7:01 P.M. to discuss real estate and pending litigation. Councilman Ball made a motion, seconded by Councilman Seitz and unanimously carried, to close the executive session at 8:18 P.M. No pending litigation was discussed. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:20 P.M.

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 2007-2011 Capital Improvements Program

Mayor Otis welcomed everyone to the 2007-2011 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) presentation and complimented City Manager Paul Shew, Comptroller Michael Genito and senior staff for all the work involved. He said there were many projects needing to be done and it is the job of the Council to set priorities based on public input and figure out how to fund them. He noted there are pressing needs and the Council needs to find a way to package the major needs together.

City Manager Paul Shew welcomed the Council, saying a capital improvement list involves not only bricks and mortar, but also the human factor, such as staff time and resources.

He said there are challenges and it is an exciting time. The projects can be done, but in balance. He turned the podium over to City Comptroller, Michael Genito.

Mr. Genito said the CIP document represents a lot of work incorporating comments from all departments. He thanked Carolyn Ottly and Joe Fazzino for their help. The document is not a budget, but a proposed plan to prioritize current and future needs. To begin, he focused on issues not in the CIP document, saying the Council will need to resolve some funding issues to pay for projects adopted last year, but not funded. More specifically:

- The Council approved work on streets including Theall Road, the repaving of the Boston Post Road, the Peck Avenue and Midland intersection and the reconstruction of Smith Street. Funding for these projects requires an adopted resolution by the City Council to authorize bonding, and the Theall Road Project, currently estimated to cost \$1.5 million, would require a bond referendum, preferably on the November ballot.
- A decision should be made as to when to have a referendum authorizing a \$5 million bond for the purchase of 1037 Boston Post Road. The authorization to bond does not obligate the City to issue the bonds; it merely provides the authority for the City to make the final payment of the purchase in April, 2009. The City retains the flexibility of selling the property or converting it to municipal use at the end of the four year period. Mr. Genito suggested going to referendum in November 2006 while the details of the purchase and the apparent public support is still fresh in the mind of the public. He noted that a referendum in November 2008 would not provide sufficient time to properly sell the property should the referendum fail.
- Earlier this year the Fire Department made a presentation to the City Council for the authorization to purchase a fire ladder truck and noted that there was no anticipated purchase of any other major apparatus for the next 10 years. However, the Fire Department has submitted a request for the purchase of a \$600,000 pumper truck in 2009. City staff is recommending that 1) the Fire Department consider the purchase of a demonstration vehicle at less cost (a suggestion by Fire Chief John Wickham), and 2) the Fire Department consider a fund raiser to help defray part or all of the cost for such a purchase.

Mr. Genito reminded the Council of needs not in this year's CIP, but still in need of doing:

- Improvements to the Central Business District
- A new Police and Court facility
- The demolition of the incinerator building at Disbrow Park (not in use, but full of asbestos and ash)
- The removal of several underground fuel tanks
- The Boat Basin dredging need (estimated to cost \$3.5 million which would render the operations of the marina unsustainable in its present model).

The 2007-2011 CIP identifies \$6,046,500 in capital improvement needs over five years (\$3,191,400 from available funds [fund balance and/or new revenue]; \$400,000 of debt; and \$2,455,100 in grants and aid through the New York State Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Improvement Programs ["CHIPS"], bridge improvement grants and grants for a recreation walkpath). Of the \$6 million+ of proposed spending, \$4,490,000 is for infrastructure, \$1,456,500 is for buildings and facilities, and \$100,000 is needed for Boat Basin improvements.

Projects recommended for 2007 total \$1,813,500, including Capital projects, Building and Vehicle Fund Projects and the Boat Basin.

- \$1,157,000 in capital projects (\$672,000 to be funded from current income; \$250,000 in debt and \$235,000 of State Aid). Infrastructure projects include \$200,000 for traffic signals, \$500,000 for annual street resurfacing program, \$25,000 for sidewalks and curbs; \$40,000 for Central Avenue Bridge Reconstruction, \$8,500 for Orchard Avenue Bridge Reconstruction, \$13,500 for Nature Center Bridge Reconstruction, \$100,000 for Hewlett Avenue Pump Replacement, \$20,000 for Overdale Road/Boston Post Road Drain, and \$150,000 for Bowman Avenue Dam Repair. Mr. Genito noted that the \$62,000 for bridges will be used to develop plans for the reconstruction of the bridges with 80% of the total costs hopefully in the form of grants.
- \$556,500 is proposed for 2007 in Building and Vehicle Fund Projects (all from current funds). Projects include \$140,000 for City Hall steps; \$150,000 for a Financial Management System; \$20,000 for Milton Firehouse Trim Painting, \$150,000 for Fuel Pumps Replacement (even more important in light of rising fuel costs), \$75,000 for Tennis court Fence and Backstop repairs; and \$21,500 for Gagliardo Parking Lot resurfacing.
- The 2007 plan for the Boat Basin requires \$100,000, including 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.

Mr. Genito said the 2007 challenge will be to prioritize and to determine how much of the undesignated fund balance should be used to fund Building and Vehicle projects. He also said a 2007 challenge would be to establish a new, more inclusive CIP process. Long-term challenges would be to establish management systems (similar to the pavement management system) for all major assets including infrastructure, buildings, facilities and major equipment; to establish a ten year replacement plan for fire apparatus; and to enhance grants and aid sources.

There was discussion about how much of the Undesignated Fund Balance might be available, about how much we have in reserve for litigation expenses. (*We have an amount designated for tax certiories and some reserves as set by our insurance company, but nothing specific for other litigation*). Councilman Pratt urged the Council to get a firmer number on the amount in the fund balance before “spending it.” Councilman Fahey asked if we really needed the bridge to the Nature Center? (*Yes, it is the access to the parking lot, necessary if one is to attract school groups*); do we have a policy for replacing vehicles? (*Public Works maintains an inventory for all major vehicles and equipment other than the Fire Department, but we definitely need to work with the Fire Department to obtain an inventory and 10-year replacement plan*). Do we have a police officer who can drive a motor cycle? (*There are many issues related to assigning a police officer to a motorcycle that would need to be discussed before considering the purchase of a motorcycle.*) Councilman Seitz had specific questions about traffic signals which were referred to the City Engineer and the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Councilman Pratt wants more details about each department and how manpower is used.

Mayor Otis thanked everyone for the presentation. Mr. Shew and Mr. Genito said input was invited and encouraged, noting that the 2007-2011 CIP is available at City Hall, the Rye Free Reading Room and on the City's web site.

4. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Hennes made a motion, seconded by Councilman Seitz and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Morison  
City Clerk