

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on January 6, 2010 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor  
RICHARD FILIPPI  
PAULA J. GAMACHE  
PETER JOVANOVIH  
SUZANNA KEITH  
CATHERINE F. PARKER  
JOSEPH A. SACK  
Councilmembers

ABSENT: None

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor French called the meeting to order and invited the Council to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

Mayor French welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Rye City Council for 2010 and introduced the other members of the Council and City staff seated at the dais. He then summarized the agenda for the meeting, highlighting changes that had been made to the order.

3. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on December 16, 2009

Councilman Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on December 12, 2009, as amended.

4. The State of the City Address by the Mayor

“Members of the City Council, City Manager, City Employees, Members of our Boards and Commissions, Members of the Media and Citizens of Rye

“Good evening – It is our tradition at the first meeting of the year to have the Mayor present the “State of the City’ address. It is a pleasure to be before you tonight.

“Today, we begin a New Year and a new decade with a new council and a renewed sense of optimism. There is much to be proud of about our City:

- We share a rich heritage that ties our generations together
- We share a true sense of community where help thy neighbor is a reality
- And we share an opportunity -- an opportunity to make our City the leading community along the sound shore

“But we will be tested. Just as you, your family and those around you have been tested by today’s economic times -- in 2010 our government will be tested.

“Our government is defined by more than just the 7 volunteers on the Council, but it includes volunteer boards and commissions with over 100 volunteer commission members, and a paid professional City Management team – not to mention you, the Citizens of Rye.

“As we have all seen, local governments everywhere are facing a paradigm shift. Voters have reached their absolute limit when it comes to taxes. Affordability is the central issue. When that happens, it is time to get back to basics and rethink government. The primary role of local government is:

- the financial sustainability of our City
- the safety and well being of our citizens
- And the need to enhance our quality of life within the confines of good economics

“In Rye, we will be faced with –

- anticipated revenue shortfalls
- structural state and county deficits
- 4 new labor agreements
- a transition to a new City Manager
- flood mitigation solutions
- The restructuring of our law dept.
- a fresh look at our litigation strategy
- capital investment demands
- A \$5M balloon payment on 1037 Boston Post Road
- environmental concerns
- And the need for immediate pedestrian safety infrastructure improvements.

**How is Rye going to succeed?**

“Beginning today, we will deploy three governing philosophies that will be central in everything we do to give us the best chance for success:

1. **Establish clear lines of senior management accountability** – Under the direction of our City Manager, we have some of the best professional municipal talent in the County who are eager to lead and deliver the results we need.
2. **Empower our boards and commissions** – we also have the best and brightest private sector individuals who can provide the requisite skills and experience to think through the toughest problems we face and provide us with recommendations. Good leadership requires empowerment at this level. I am encouraging natural turnover on our boards to attract new ideas and talent. Appointments will begin to take place at the meeting of January 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Encourage active public participation** – an informed and engaged public is fundamental to positive change so we need to provide as many forums and formats for Citizen input. Fact-based communication is critical.

**Where are we going to focus?**

“More specifically, our priorities in the coming year are as follows:

**Financial Management**

“Budgets are built on assumptions, and already the assumptions in our 2010 budget are starting to change with anticipated revenue shortfalls, state cuts and potential cost increases. We are an economically diverse community with moderate to high-income to fixed income to unemployed so we need to re-dedicate ourselves toward tax relief. As a result, I am calling on the City Manager and the Senior Management Department heads to begin planning for the 2011 budget today by identifying 5% in contingency savings.

“In addition, we need an objective look at financial trends, their impact on us and measures we need to take. Therefore, tonight, we will begin with a review of our Finance Committee, its role and the role it needs to play in the future. I will ask Councilwoman Paula Gamache to continue her work on that committee.

**Litigation Management**

“Starting today, we will incorporate additional controls on our case management. All legal and litigation activity will require cost estimates to be reviewed by Council prior and post legal activity. I have asked former Mayor John Carey and Councilman Joe Sack to make a recommendation to the Council on establishing a volunteer Litigation/Case Management Committee to act as an advisory panel on our legal process. I have also asked them to make a recommendation on the structure of our Law Department and our retainer agreements. We have just instituted Kristen Wilson as our Interim Corporation Counsel and we are very happy to have her – but at the same time we do not want to miss this opportunity to review our overall legal operation.

### **City Management**

“Frank Culross has expressed an interest to retire at some point in 2010 and he and I both agree that we cannot go into 2011 without our future City Manager. I have asked Frank to put together a recommended transition plan for the Council to review that will allow us ample time to identify and responsibly transition to our new City Manager. That process should begin at the end of Q1 and could take 3 to 6 months. I cannot properly express my enormous gratitude for his continued service and leadership to Rye. I also want to commend City Comptroller Jean Gribbins and Asst. City Manager Scott Pickup for their work during a difficult 2009.

### **Pedestrian Safety**

“This has been a common theme of mine, but one cannot go from Point A to Point B in Rye without taking on some level of safety risk whether by walking, jogging or biking. This has become a citizen-driven issue and government needs to respond in terms of enforcement and investment.

“Cell phone, texting and speeding are just a few examples where as a community we need to say – enough. School Board President Josh Nathan and I have agreed to lead a joint organizational meeting with the City and School officials to frame out the issues and the implementation plans. Any work – which will include downtown -- will be conducted through sub-committees of the Traffic and Transportation Committee where I would like to add an active Police officer. I have asked Suzanna Keith to be a working member of that commission.

### **Flood Mitigation**

“Flooding in Rye is no longer a “Buyer Beware in Indian Village” problem. The emotional and financial price Rye continues to pay is too great. It impacts our downtown, our institutions and our infrastructure. Yet the experts and the community at-large continue to disagree not just on what – but if we should do anything. We need to move forward with one voice. I have asked Richard Filippi in concert with our City Planner, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission and Flood Action Committee to deliver a recommended plan summary by April 16<sup>th</sup> for the Council and Public to react to – 3 years to the day of the last flood.

### **Governmental Management**

“Albany, White Plains and now even Washington are impacting our lives more directly than they ever have before. Westchester County is projected to have a \$60M deficit next year. Multiply that by 300 and you start to get a look at the structural deficit of the state.

“As a City, and not just the Council and City Management team, we need to be a lot more engaged with the surrounding municipalities to advocate change at the County and the state. We also need to better understand both the impacts of

pending legislation and labor relations management as well as grant opportunities. Tonight I am calling for the creation of a new permanent Committee on government relations to work with the City Manager and Council. I will ask Councilman Peter Jovanovich to work on that Committee.

### **Downtown**

“One of the best assets we have and is the envy of surrounding communities is our Downtown. Yet those communities have made more progress than we have. We need to shift to a merchant-friendly downtown and accelerate and expand ideas like outdoor dining, 15-minute parking and programs that support our businesses as well as begin planning for a two-tiered parking structure. The demand for commuter, retail and restaurant parking is real. I have asked Councilwoman Parker to continue her work on the Rye Chamber of Commerce and explore putting together a business roundtable with the downtown landlords.

### **Other Key Initiatives**

“Will include:

- The Recreation commission to identify field space and field management solutions, cost containment and new revenue sources
- CCAC for environmental solutions to include the development of a sustainability plan
- And Rye Town Park where we are responsible for 50% of the operating budget, 40% of the capital expense, but only 33% of the voting authority. I have called on Rye Town Supervisor Joe Carvin to work with me on aligning that relationship.

### **Communication Management**

“But all of these initiatives and work are for naught if you, the public, are not kept up-to-date or do not have the opportunity to provide input and feedback. Tonight, I am calling on to expand our Cable committee to be a full media committee to include Internet, social media, e-mail, and other media. Our School District has been very good at keeping families informed through their list serv and the City should be equal to the task. Threats like burglaries and Coyotes require immediate heightened awareness, information and collaboration.

“I am also instituting the Mayor’s management report which will be an update from City Management to the Council at our Council meetings on the status of key projects to also be posted and updated regularly on the City site or pushed out to the public in the form of an information release.

“Finally, your comments, issues and grievances. Residents can continue to be heard during that portion of the council meeting, but we will limit it to 5 minutes each. We will add more time later in the agenda or add an alternative time at City Hall as well as a City-wide survey, town Halls, and a feedback link on our site.

**So why is Rye going to succeed?**

“Because these are not my ideas, they are yours. This is what you told us *you* wanted. You have clearly spoken. We have many new families and their voices have been heard.

“In Rye, we have the people, the know-how and the willingness to make things happen. Now more than ever, we are in this together -- once the debate is over, we need to pull together. We look forward to 2010, ready to work with you and ready to serve you. Thank you.”

5. Appointment of City Court Judge (full-time), by the Mayor with Council approval, for a ten-year term expiring January 1, 2020

Mayor French explained that the term of Judge Peter Lane, who has served as City Court Judge for 17 years, is expiring and in addition he must step down by law due to age requirements. He said that six people had inquired about the job and four actually applied. He said he was looking for four things in making the appointment: (1) municipal experience; (2) judicial temperament; (3) ability to manage the Court and Court staff; and (4) being part of the community and understanding its people and institutions. He announced he was appointing Joseph Latwin and indicated that those he spoke to about Mr. Latwin spoke glowingly about his integrity and honesty. Councilman Sack said that Mayor French could not have made a better choice, adding that Mr. Latwin has the skill set required of a local court judge. Councilwoman Gamache said that Mr. Latwin was a terrific choice but said she believed the appointment process should have been discussed with the other members of the Council first.

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilman Sack, to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that Joseph Latwin be appointed Rye City Court Judge (Full Time) for a ten-year term commencing January 1, 2010 and expiring January 1, 2020.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Mayor French, Councilmembers Filippi, Gamache, Jovanovich, Keith, Parker and Sack  
**NAYS:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

The motion carried by a vote of 7-1.

Mayor French offered congratulations to Mr. Latwin, who was then sworn in by outgoing Judge Peter Lane. Mayor French also thanked Judge Lane for his service on the bench.

Prior to the next agenda item, Mayor French acknowledged the presence of Congresswoman Nita Lowey. Congresswoman Lowey offered congratulations and said she looked forward to working with the entire City Council as a team in order to succeed. She said that bringing money home from the Federal Government helps reduce local property taxes. She said she and the members of the Council are all privileged to serve the people of the community.

6. Appointment of the 2010 Deputy Mayor by the Mayor

Mayor French made a motion, unanimously approved by the Council, to appoint Councilwoman Suzanna Keith as Deputy Mayor for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2010, to serve as Acting Mayor in the Mayor's absence.

7. Mayor's Management Report

Mayor French said that the purpose of this agenda item was to put issues before the City Manager and receive reports back from City staff on topical issues. Police Commissioner William Connors reported on burglaries and coyotes.

Commissioner Connors provided an update on the pattern of burglaries that began in October. The last incident occurred on December 13<sup>th</sup> on Hayward Place. There was an attempted burglary on Elizabeth Street that does not fit the pattern of the other burglaries. There have been two incidents in Harrison and Scarsdale and the County Crime Analysis is working to determine how they fit in the pattern. He commended his staff for their effort during the holiday period. Two community meetings were held, additional staff was deployed, reverse 911 calls were sent and the vender of the license plate reader loaned additional equipment. They are currently working on promising investigative information and are pushing patrols deep into the neighborhoods. He said Rye is never completely out of the woods in terms of burglaries because it is an attractive community for thieves. He warned residents not to leave valuables in their cars and lock them, lock their doors, set their alarms, keep lights on, communicate with their neighbors and call the police if they see anything suspicious. He also noted that if iphones are not password protected, thieves can get into their information.

Council questions and comments included:

- How often do reverse 911 calls go out? (They are done as they are deemed needed.)
- Should people photograph their jewelry in order for it to be easily identified? (It can be very helpful.)
- Was there anything learned from neighborhood meetings that can be spread to other neighborhoods? (Let neighbors know when you will be away, leave the blinds up, program the 967-1234 number into cell phones, because cell phone calls do not always go directly to the Police Desk in Rye.)
- The Police Department has been responsive to the call from the community for greater police presence.
- What do people do who are not on the reverse 911 list? (People on 'do not call' lists may not be in the system. Contact Sgt. Nick Groglio at 967-1234 x304 and ask to be put into the system.)

Commissioner Connors said he has conferred with colleagues and experts in the field on the subject of coyotes. He said it is a complex situation with no easy answer. The coyote problem is being experienced by many suburban communities because they find a greater source of food in these communities. Coyotes have been seen in Rye primarily in the areas of

Greenhaven, the Preserve and the Rye Neck Schools. They are part of the canine family; are active at night but are not nocturnal and are more active in daylight during the mating season in February and March. The young are born in April and May and are put out on their own in June and July. They eat anything. They will eat cats and will attack small dogs as a territorial issue but do not eat them. They are curious but generally timid animals; are generally afraid of human contact and can be easily frightened away by aggressive behavior. They lose fear if people act afraid of them. Attacks on humans are rare. The current situation is natural animal behavior. The options are not great. There is an open hunting and trapping season on coyotes from November through April, with few restrictions. Hunting in a developed area is an obstacle. Discharge of a firearm is generally prohibited in Rye and hunting is not permitted within 500 feet of a building. Trapping is expensive, many people feel it is inhumane, and there is a danger of trapping children and pets. There is a fact sheet on the City website that lists standard recommendations on dealing with coyotes. The current situation is unsettling but there are no indications of unusual aggressive behavior on the part of the animals. Sick or injured animals can be destroyed and the Commissioner is working with the Department of Environmental Conservation to get training for staff on what to watch for.

Christine Siller, Executive Director of the Friends of Rye Nature Center, said she had spoken to Daniel Bogen, who is doing county-wide research on the problem of coyotes. He sees a direct correlation between the presence of coyotes and the explosion of the deer problem but says that removing the deer population will not fix the coyote problem. She urged the Council to educate the public and encourage them to properly dispose of garbage, keep small pets within eyesight and watch children. She said it is also important to act aggressively toward the animals to establish that this is our territory. She said the coyote population is at its peek; that we should not see more of them and discouraged spending money on trapping.

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

*Henry King, 76 Coolidge Avenue*, said he wanted to introduce himself to the new members of the Council. He urged the Council to continue working on the issue of Beaver Swamp.

*Stuart Schoeman, 567 Milton Road*, said he represented five or six households that park in and around Park Lane, which is located near the Milton Firehouse. Until recently, they have parked on Park Lane all year, but recently have been receiving tickets for illegal parking. They want to work with the City Manager to reach a resolution that will provide them with permanent overnight parking possibly in and around Park Lane or at the Firehouse. City Manager Culross said staff would work with them and come back to the Council with any proposals. *Margaret Devlin, 2 Park Lane*, said that those who are complaining about people parking on Park Lane take their cars out of their driveways and park them on Park Lane to prevent others from parking in front of their houses. She said she felt it was unfair that some people can park in the Firehouse lot and others can't because the lot is mostly empty.

*Tom O'Connor, 26 Johnson Place*, asked about the status of the public hearings on the notification issue and added that he had invited the Council to come to his property to see the house that is being built near his property. Mayor French said the public hearing has been left

open until the next meeting and added that the Council wants to hear from the Building Department and Planning Commission on the law.

Mayor French noted the presence of County Legislator Judy Myers at this time and congratulated her on her reelection. Legislator Myers said she wanted to congratulate the new Members of the Council and offer best wishes on their term. She said there are tough times ahead but said everyone was ready to weather any economic storms. She said she is ready to continue working with the City. Mayor French noted that Ms. Myers would be making a presentation at the next City Council meeting.

*Bob Zahm, 7 Ridgewood Drive*, spoke about pedestrian safety and said he was trying to get a meeting of representatives from City government, Westchester County and interested members of the public in order to clarify the existing sidewalk on the bridge over the Playland Parkway and the pedestrian crosswalks across the Access Drives on either side of the bridge. He said since the County had included work on this bridge as part of their capital spending plan, it was important to meet with them. Mayor French said that he and Legislator Myers would be sitting down in the next few days. Mr. Zahm also inquired as to when traffic enforcement statistics would be available on the City website. He also requested that year-to-date statistics be updated monthly. Councilman Jovanovich said that public awareness of these statistics was important but thought that quarterly was less onerous. *Elizabeth Zahm, 7 Ridgewood Drive*, also spoke about the issue of the bridge over the Playland Parkway. She asked if there was any research done to determine if the crosswalks that were removed from the Access Drives had improved the situation by slowing traffic. She asked if signage could be put up to indicate a shared road situation with pedestrians and cars. City Manager Culross said it was the judgment of the professional staff that this location is not a safe location to cross. He said City staff were prepared to meet with the County to look at options. Councilwoman Keith suggested doing a walk through to determine what could be done.

*Jim Amico, 350 Midland Avenue*, asked when the work at the intersection of Theodore Fremd Avenue and North Street would be finished and relined. He asked that Legislator Myers look into the situation. City Manager Culross said that it was a County contract, with a County contractor.

*Bob Schubert, 980 Forest Avenue*, said he was here to welcome the new Council Members and wish them success.

9. Discussion on the role of the Finance Committee

Mayor French said he had asked David Mullane, the Chair of the Finance Committee to give the Council an update on what is working and not working in the role of the Finance Committee. Mr. Mullane introduced other members of the Committee in attendance including Norm McMaster, Fred Dunn, Arthur Stampleman and Jono Peters. He said the Committee is a great mixture of corporate finance and municipal finance knowledge that operates in a very collegial, non-partisan manner. Their power emanates from a City Council Resolution from 1997 and their role is to advise the Council on revenue and expenditure policies; review quarterly and annual financial statement; review annual budgets and undertake such other studies assigned to them or deemed appropriate by them to ensure the financial condition and policies of

the City are sound. He said there is a desire on the part of the Committee to get direction from the Council.

Arthur Stampleman summarized prior accomplishments of the Committee:

- The Expense Reduction Task Force;
- Commenting on the budget and suggesting changes;
- Promoted clear reporting for the public by suggesting the Citizens' Budget Report;
- Serve as a window on the financial markets;
- Provided an opinion on the adequacy of the tax certiorari reserves;
- Analyzing City departments;
- Offered ideas on recruiting the new Comptroller;
- Offered help in evaluating the accounting and finances of Rye Town Park
- Done periodic reviews of the financial and accounting policies of the City.

Mr. Mullane said he felt that the Finance Committee is an underutilized resource. He offered suggestions of areas where the Committee might be of further assistance to the Council:

- Examining current municipal service levels by providing a comparative analysis of other municipalities;
- Examining the expenses associated with Rye Town Park;
- Offering general advice regarding any anticipated borrowing or refinancing;
- Examining the growth of future potential pension liabilities and health care related liabilities;
- Financial assistance regarding any strategic planning.

Council comments and questions included:

- The presentation by the Committee was exactly what the Council was looking for.
- The Council will be asking more of the Finance Committee going forward.
- The Council would be interested in hearing more about the trend in terms of future obligations and alternatives relative to pension and health care liabilities.
- Is the size of the Committee sufficient or should it be expanded to allow for subcommittees? (The Committee is open to expanding the size of the Committee. The correct balance must be found so the Committee does not become too large. Subcommittees of other residents could be helpful to add new perspectives.)
- The Committee should make rules regarding members who sit on other boards in order to clarify the objectivity of discussions. (Someone with a vested interest in the outcome of a discussion should recuse themselves from the discussion.)
- The City needs to take a look at long-term financial planning.
- The Council should encourage the Finance Committee to bring ideas to the Council.

Fred Dunn said it was a great time to finance by bonding and suggested the City should take a hard look at the rates available to it due to its Aaa rating.

10. Update on the 2010 Capital Improvement Budget

City Manager Culross said that the Council had asked for an opportunity to review the 2010 Capital Improvement Budget, which consists of projects that are budgeted and authorized to proceed during 2010.

Mayor French asked about the status of the Central Avenue Bridge. Assistant City Manager Pickup said the City submitted the final design early in the summer, responded to comments received and resubmitted it to the Department of Transportation (DOT) consultant. A letter was recently received requesting minor language changes and it is believed that the DOT is at the point of issuing the City a Notice to Proceed. The City could then put the project out to bid and, hopefully, come back to the City Council in late Spring or early Summer. The length of the project is weather dependent because some work must be done in the stream.

Councilman Jovanovich said he would like staff to review the entire budget in order to move up in priority projects, either currently on the list or not, that are related to pedestrian safety with the idea of reprioritizing projects within the same budgeted amounts. He suggested leaving the projects up to the judgment of the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. As a result of this suggestion, there was a discussion among the Council regarding the purpose of the agenda item and ability to reprioritize the adopted capital projects list. The points raised included:

- The purpose of this agenda item was to consider whether or not all the projects on the list could be done and discuss which ones might not be done for economic reasons.
- Is there was an opportunity to reexamine allocations made from the Recreation bond? (The Council can reexamine the allocations but the uses are restricted to recreation building projects and cannot be used for pedestrian safety projects.)
- What is the thinking about the crosswalk near the Boston Post Road retaining wall since design studies are included in the capital budget? (The sidewalk has been closed because it is unsafe. Studies for the wall have been put into the budget in order to have a designed project in case there was another Federal Stimulus Program, because the estimated cost of the retaining wall project could be \$.5 million.)
- The retaining wall is a public safety issue and that is why the prior Council authorized \$35,000 for design work.
- The list was the last Council's priority list; they are all projects that must be done, but this Council might have to decide which ones must be cut in these economic times.
- Maybe the Council should be bonding for capital projects.
- A great deal of thought went into determining the list of capital projects for 2010.
- Cutting capital projects does not affect the operating budget.

Mr. Culross noted that many of the studies in the capital budget plan relate to pedestrian safety issues. Mr. Pickup said that in reprioritizing projects, overlapping projects and construction time windows must be taken into consideration. Mr. Culross said he was asked to help prioritize the projects on the list but believed that he was also being asked to create a list of projects that could

be deferred in order to reallocate funds to pedestrian safety projects. He said that the appropriate time to reprioritize was in January due to the timing of projects.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith to ask the City Manager to look at the Capital Spending Plan for 2010 in order to offer the Council alternatives that will implement improvements in pedestrian safety faster or more extensively than the projects currently in the plan based on the best judgment of City staff.

Council comments on Councilman Jovanovich's motion included:

- It is the Council's responsibility to provide direction to the staff, not the staff's to give the Council direction.
- Can the Council ask the staff to look for funding from other projects to reallocate to pedestrian safety projects? (Staff did this during the budget process.)
- Should the Council vote on the motion or just ask the City Manager to look into the request and report back to the Council?
- Is the idea of the motion to take items off the approved capital projects list and replace them with other projects? (Possibly, based on the alternatives provided by the City Manager's Office.)
- The point is to create a dialogue and see what the Council's options are.
- There are 10 items in the adopted list that are pedestrian safety related.

Arthur Stampleman said he was not aware of a Council changing a previous Council's budget in the last 20 years and said he believed it would be poor practice. He added that capital projects do not have impact on the tax rate.

The motion was tabled and the City Manager will provide a report identifying projects that have a relationship to pedestrian safety.

11. Appointment of a Council Member as Trustee of the Police Pension Fund, by the Mayor with Council approval, for a one-year term

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith and unanimously approved by the Council, to appoint Councilman Richard Filippi as Trustee of the Police Pension Fund for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2010.

12. One appointment to the Rye Town Park Commission for a two-year term, by the Mayor with Council approval.

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith and unanimously approved by the Council, to appoint Councilman Joseph Sack to the Rye Town Park Commission for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2010.

13. One appointment to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, by the Mayor with Council approval.

Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith and unanimously approved by the Council, to appoint Councilman Peter Jovanovich to the Planning Commission for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2010.

14. Designation of the City Council's Audit Committee by the Mayor

Mayor French designated Councilwoman Paula Gamache and Councilman Peter Jovanovich to the City Council's Audit Committee for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2010.

15. Designation of the following City Council Liaisons by the Mayor

Mayor French designated City Council liaisons as follows:

Board of Appeals – Councilman Sack  
Conservation Commission/Advisory Council – Councilman Filippi  
Finance Committee – Councilwoman Gamache  
Rye City School Board – Mayor French  
Rye Chamber of Commerce – Councilwoman Parker  
Traffic and Transportation Committee – Councilwoman Keith  
Rye Free Reading Room – Councilwoman Gamache

16. Designation of the days and time of regular meetings of the City Council

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache and unanimously approved, designating the following dates for regular meetings of the City Council in 2010:

January 6  
January 20  
February 10  
February 24  
March 10  
March 24  
April 17  
April 21  
May 5  
May 19  
June 9  
July 14  
August 9 – Capital Projects Presentation  
August 11  
September 15  
October 6  
October 20  
November 3  
November 17

December 1  
December 15

17. Designation of official City newspaper

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried to designate *The Journal News* as the official City newspaper.

18. Designation of the amounts of faithful performance bonds:

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, to recommend the following amounts of faithful performance bonds, as recommended by the auditors:

A.	City Comptroller	\$ 1,000,000
B.	City Clerk	\$ 500,000
C.	City Marshal	\$ 100,000

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor French, Councilmembers Filippi, Gamache, Jovanovich,  
Keith, Parker and Sack

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

19. Miscellaneous communications and reports

Councilman Filippi asked if the Council could receive an update on the Rye Town Park project in February or March.

20. Old Business

Councilman Sack asked the City Manager to release the report done about a year ago on the Police/Court facility if he deemed it fit to be released. City Manager Culross said he was planning on having the consultant JCJ Architecture make a presentation to the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Sack also inquired about a meeting between the City Council and School Board. Mayor French said that he and School Board President Josh Nathan would be meeting to determine the logistics of the Joint Committee of the Council and School Board that the last Council had discussed.

Councilwoman Parker asked if the revised plans that the Town of Harrison has submitted to the DEC would be sent to Laura Tessier for review. City Manager Culross said he was not sure if there was a current agreement in effect with Ms. Tessier but would look into it.

Mayor French asked about the public hearing to prohibit parking on a section of Midland Avenue. He was advised that it has been scheduled for the second meeting of January and had the recommendation of the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

21. New Business

Councilman Filippi said he would like a better understanding of the plans for the Friends Meeting House and Bird House, such as the public purpose, the funding and the maintenance of the properties. City Manager Culross said that the City can provide information on the Friends Meeting House because it is City-owned, but would have to ask the Friends of the Bird Homestead for information on that property; therefore, he would probably not be able to report back to the Council until February.

22. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor French made a motion, seconded by Councilman Sack and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk