

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on December 1, 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

The Council convened at 7:30 p.m. Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache and unanimously carried to immediately adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Sack arrived at 7:55 p.m. Councilman Filippi made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried, to adjourn the executive session at 8:00 p.m. The regular meeting convened at 8:07 p.m.

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.

3. General Announcements

Mayor French announced that the Rye Town Park Commission would be holding a strategic meeting on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Rye Town Offices.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the Budget Workshop held November 15, 2010, the Regular Meeting/Budget Workshop of the City Council held November 17, 2010 and the Budget Workshop held November 22, 2010

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the budget workshop of the City Council held on November 15, 2010.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on November 17, 2010.

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the budget workshop of the City Council held on November 22, 2010.

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

Maureen Gomez and Steve Cadenhead of the Shared Roadways Committee said the main objective of the Committee is to prioritize actionable, shovel ready projects that will make walking and/or biking in Rye safer and more pleasurable. They offered a brief presentation on a road marking symbol called a “sharrow”. If implemented, sharrows will assist bikers on where to ride; alert motorists that bikers are on the roadway; encourage safer passing of bicyclists by motorists; help reduce the incidents of bikers riding on the wrong way on the road; and will be an alternative to bike lanes. They said it would be inexpensive to implement and would stimulate broader awareness of biking and pedestrian safety. The County has issued a challenge to each municipality to implement one mile of sharrows, with a completion date of April, 2011. The Committee will return to the Council in January with a formal presentation and request for approval.

6. Mayor’s Management Report

- Update from the Playland Strategic Planning Committee

Councilwoman Parker reported that the Committee has held five meetings since September, including a public co-forum with the Rye Historical Society on November 18th. County Legislator Judy Myers, County Representatives Bill Mooney and Peter Tartaglia, Joy Riedenberg from the Edith Reed Sanctuary and Committee co-chair Susan Morison were present at the forum. The initial goal of the Committee was to educate themselves about issues related to Playland and they are now ready for public input. The next public forum will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Committee sees three potential options at this point: (1) the amusement park operation would be tweaked to allow it to remain open and become profitable; (2) the park would become more of a recreation based park; or (3) the County accepts a proposal that would be drastic and very different from what the City would like to see. An additional public forum will also be held in January and the Committee may report back to the Council after that.

- Legal Update

Interim Corporation Counsel Kristin Wilson reported on the following matters:

- Beaver Swamp Brook – Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff has sent a request to Harrison for additional information. They are looking for environmental issues that deal with traffic, noise and flooding from a local perspective. The DEC is taking a hard look at environmental issues before making a SEQRA determination.

- Schubert v. City of Rye - A decision is still awaited from Judge Karas on the City's motion to dismiss.
- "No Knock Registry" – the Law Department and City Clerk's Office are working on the implementation. It is hoped people will be able to sign up for the registry in a couple of weeks. The new law goes into effect on January 1, 2011.

7. Resolution to act on proposed Budget modifications

City Manager Pickup said that the Council had asked staff for a recommendation on what it would take to get to a 1% tax increase. He said this would require a change of approximately \$193,000. He outlined amounts that could be saved by reducing expenses that include: (1) reducing expense item for Rye Town Park (\$50,000); (2) a reduction for materials and supplies including sewer repairs, drainage repairs, police training, police uniforms, fire vehicle supplies and pay station controller issues (\$122,000); and (3) a reduction in payment for Corporation Counsel benefits by utilizing a retainer agreement that defines the position as an independent contractor (\$25,000). The total for proposed expense reductions is \$197,160. Additional revenue increases include: (1) increasing the rate for merchant parking permits to \$410 (\$11,000); (2) increases in other fines and penalties (\$14,000); and (3) capturing additional police overtime costs relating to various private and other uses of the public right-of-way for private events (\$9,000). The total for proposed revenue increases is \$34,000. By removing the additional expenses and adding the revenues the original tax rate increase of 2.16% would be reduced to .97%. Mr. Pickup said that every cut proposed reduces flexibility in the organization going forward and will have operational impacts. It was decided that the proposed budget modifications should be discussed in connection with the budget public hearing.

8. Public Hearing to amend Local Law Chapter 167, Section 48C, Removal of snow and ice by City; cost; penalties, and Local Law Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 191-32 through 191-35, Penalties for parking offenses, to modify selected parking ticket fines

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith and unanimously approved, to open the public hearing.

Interim Corporation Counsel Wilson said that the proposed local law was based on the Council's desire to reevaluate certain fees in the code, many of which had not been increased in years. Comptroller Jean Gribbins said that the City Court Judges had also offered suggestions of what they believed the fines should be and, therefore, a range of the amounts for the fines was put into the local law. Mayor French said he wanted to keep the public hearing open to the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Wilson said that the local law must be adopted prior to the adoption of the budget for the additional revenue to be included.

The only member of the public who commented on the proposed local law was *Jim Amico*, who asked how violations of the law would be enforced if cuts were made in the police department.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Parker and unanimously carried, to continue the public hearing to the December 15, 2010 meeting.

9. Public hearing on the proposed 2011 Budget

Mayor French said the property tax levy in Rye has grown approximately 8% a year in the last ten years, which is higher than the Consumer Price Index. He said that residents have indicated they want to change the direction of the trend. Since March the Council has been looking at several strategies to sustain the community for the long-term including restructuring the operation of the organization, looking into ways to utilize technology, moving toward market rates for fees, and slowing capital spending. Councilwoman Keith said she believed Rye could be an example because of the tough changes that will be made this year. Councilwoman Gamache said that the Council had been focused and worked together to find agreement while maintaining service levels. Councilman Sack noted that although the budget discussion started earlier this year, not all topics were discussed that should have been. He added that he would have liked to have discussions about pension costs and health care increases earlier, so the City would not have been pushed against the wall.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

Discussions were held on the following topics:

Police Department

Comments were made by *Franco Campagnone, Lou Olivier, Jake Chittenden, John Wood, Mike Larkin and Michael Anderson* members of the Rye Police Department, as well as *William Steere, Craig Antico, Sukey Van Dijk, Arnold Lewis, Deirdre Burbank, David Greer, Frank Fioretti, Craig Romanek, Billie Jean Tanney, Vito LaRusso, Noreen Kelleher and Scott Florio* regarding proposed changes to the Police Department. Their comments included:

- Adequate analysis was not done before decisions were made regarding reductions to the Marine Patrol and the DARE Program and Youth Division?
- The emphasis is on cutting taxes, not on safety.
- Reducing police could affect public safety and property values.
- The DARE Program helps limit “at risk” behavior and builds a better relationship with the police.
- Less enforcement equals less safety on the street.
- Officer John Wood has a wonderful relationship with the children of Rye. They feel they can seek him out if they need him. The City should think twice before cutting the Youth Officer.
- The Youth Program is contained in both the 2010 Accomplishments and 2011 Highlights of the budget document. How can this be done without a person in the Youth Division?
- The Marine Unit is very important for safety and security to people on the water.
- Don't cut taxes by cutting police services.
- The Mamaroneck Marine Unit depends on the Rye Marine Unit for mutual aid.
- Residents of Hen Island depend on the Marine Unit for emergencies.

- New York State reimburses approximately 50% of the costs for the Marine Unit.
- Tax payers are willing to pay what it takes to keep the police force.
- How were the decisions to restructure the police department made?
- Don't cut the training budget; the Police Department needs to be professional.
- Can a workshop with the Police Department be held prior to the budget adoption?

City Manager Pickup said that there was misinformation in the community about proposed changes to the DARE Program, the Youth Officer and the Marine Patrol. He said the City is faced with a difficult choice that involves consolidating operations within the detective function. The City has talked with the Board of Education about modifying the DARE Program so that even though it will be different than what currently exists it will still provide an opportunity to reach out into the schools. Officer Wood's job is not being eliminated. It is being reallocated and reassigned, similar to what has been done in other City departments. Mr. Pickup said that currently the Marine Patrol is staffed by a full-time officer assigned to it from April to November. Due to demands from the community for additional police manpower during the school year for public safety services around the schools, the decision was made to reduce the time that a full-time police officer would be assigned to the Marine Unit to the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He said that the current reimbursement from the State is not 50% but is closer to 38% and added that there is no guarantee that the State will continue to reimburse the City. He reiterated that the programs were being modified, not eliminated. Mr. Pickup added that there is a financial reality of maintaining the organization and providing services to the community.

Council comment included:

- A workshop on the Police Department would have been helpful for the Council so the issues could have been brought up earlier and the pros and cons of the proposed changes could have been evaluated.
- The Council has been able to submit questions to the staff regarding budget questions, which should enable them to reach decisions.
- The idea of reducing the budget by \$150,000 by reorganizing uniformed services was brought up in June.
- The Council does not decide where people work in a City Manager form of government. They decide on the budget to make sure the services are delivered in the best possible way.
- Since the Council forwarded their questions to the staff; a workshop on the Police Department had not been deemed necessary.

### Rye Free Reading Room

*Debra Julian, President of the Rye Free Reading Room Board of Trustees*, said that the library had submitted a budget to the City in August with a voluntary cut of \$54,000 from last year. She said that the \$100,000 cut proposed by the City was too much for the library to handle and would require them to close on Saturdays. She urged the Council to consider restoring the Library funding to the amount of their original request.

Council comments included:

- What percent of the 18,000 people per month using the Library are Rye residents? (The number comes from a door counter and, therefore, the number of residents cannot be determined, but they believe the majority to be residents.)
- Has the library looked into public/private partnerships similar to what is being done at the Bird House? (The Library Auxiliary Board now contributes to the operating budget each year.)
- The City is facing the same pension and health care costs as the Library and the reduction to the Library is a reflection of how the City is dealing with its rising costs. (The only way the Library can address a decrease in funding is through reducing hours and addressing personnel issues.)
- How many hours would the Library be open if they close on Saturday? (They will be open Monday – Friday from 9:30 to 5:00 and Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00 for a total of 45 hours. However, during the summer they are closed on Sunday.)
- If the City increased its projections for mortgage tax revenue for 2011 by \$100,000, \$50,000 could be given to the Library. (City Manager Pickup reiterated that staff does not agree with increasing the projections for mortgage tax revenue.)
- The Council appreciates that staff is cautious with the City's money, but this should not result in the Library having to close a day.
- The City should try to find a way to help the Library until they can get to a labor agreement that is sustainable.

Merchant Parking

*Lisa Summo Guarino, President of the Rye Chamber of Commerce*, said that the members of the Chamber of Commerce are against any increase in the fees for Merchant Parking permits. She said it is an additional burden placed on the merchants in difficult economic times.

Council Comment included:

- There are many merchants who are Rye residents. The increase should be less than 10%.

Recreation Fees

City Manager Pickup said that there is a combination of proposals for the Recreation Department. Some programs have been eliminated; some programs have been picked up by private fund raising; the surcharge for field use would be increased from \$5 to \$ 15; and there is a proposed staff reduction for the department. The goal was to reach a 50% basic reimbursement for recreation. The proposals would bring it to an approximately 40% plus number. The original proposal was to find cuts or revenue increases equal to \$380,000 and the current proposal is for \$230,000. Mayor French said that the Recreation Department's budget is approximately \$2 million and they return about \$800,000. He said that the \$5 surcharge for fields was implemented about ten years ago and it is time to take another look at the amount of that fee.

*Craig Antico* said he felt the Recreation program was very important to the community and if fees increase it will limit the number of programs children can participate in. He added that the \$5 surcharge was to be used for field maintenance but he has heard that the additional \$10 will go into the regular operating budget and not be used for the fields. He added that increasing recreation fees is putting an additional burden on the families who use recreation programs over the proposed amount of the tax increase. City Manager Pickup said the money would still be dedicated to the capital fund for maintenance but the City is trying to get to a cost recovery number that will make it sustainable. *Pete Tenesky* said raising fees is a slippery slope and suggested that an across the board tax increase of 3-4% might make more sense.

Council comments included:

- The City must change the dynamic of people expecting the taxpayers to fund the costs of the recreation programs because it helps the broad appeal of the City. Those who use the services and get the value should share in the cost of the service.
- What is the cost of maintaining the fields and is the amount brought in from the field surcharge fee below the 40% recovery amount? (The amount is well below the 40% recovery figure.)
- The Government can't afford to subsidize all user groups. The sports user groups could possibly do more fund raising.

Additional Budget comments:

Former Mayors *John Carey and Ted Dunn* also offered comments. *Mr. Carey* suggested that the City could save on the Law Department budget by calculating the amount for a Deputy Corporation Counsel who would work approximately 20 hours per week and deleting that amount except for \$1. He offered to do the job for that amount. He also suggested that the City should look at the possibility of placing Seaside Johnnies Restaurant, the Tiki Bar and the Wainwright House properties on the tax rolls. City Manager Pickup said the City had already begun looking into *Mr. Carey's* second suggestion. *Mr. Dunn* said it was difficult for the City and the Council to consider cutting the proposed budget because all programs being considered have benefits. He suggested that the Council should choose a targeted tax increase figure and then work to achieve it.

The Council decided to suspend their discussion of the budget until later in the meeting in order to continue with the agenda, but made a decision to keep the hearing open for public comment until the next meeting by adopting the following motion:

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jovanovich and unanimously carried, to keep the public hearing open until the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

10. Public Hearing to repeal Chapter 76 "Dogs" and replace it with a new Chapter 76 "Dogs", now that the State has relinquished enforcement to the City

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to open the public hearing.

Public Comment:

*Sukey Van Dijk, Bill McGinty, Linda Wells and Deirdre Curren* commented on the proposed local law. Their comments included:

- The ban on placing dog feces in public trash receptacles should be eliminated. (Mayor French noted that he had received an email from someone who said dog feces should only be thrown away in a lined garbage can.)
- People are concerned about the language about seizing dogs. Dogs should not be seized because they are not wearing their license tags.
- Fines for people who do not license their dogs or let them off their leash should be substantial. This would be a good revenue opportunity for the City.
- The City should reach out to dog owners who do not know about the changes in the law.

Although not the subject of the proposed local law, there was a discussion about dogs in Rye Town Park. It was suggested that an area should be provided where dogs can be allowed to be off their leashes. Both positive and negative comments were made regarding dogs in the park and the behavior of dog owners. Mayor French said the subject of dogs in Rye Town Park is an issue for the Rye Town Park Commission and a clear policy should be put together that will make enforcement easier for the City.

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to keep the public hearing open until the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

11. Resolution authorizing the six-month extension of the PILOT Agreement between Avon Capital Corporation and the Westchester County IDA

City Manager Pickup said the resolution was an interim step. Negotiations are ongoing regarding some improvements to the property, which will come back to the City Council. The agreement is a long-standing one that has been beneficial to the City. As part of the agreement, the local property taxes are paid. Most of the PILOT (Payment in lieu of taxes) deals with physical issues and sales tax. The extension provides enough time to prepare the successor agreement.

Seth Mandelbaum, Esq., of the firm of McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt representing Avon, said that the agreement was entered into in 1995 with the IDA, whereby the IDA took title to the property and leased it back to Avon. The major benefit is a sale tax exemption, which helps to attract companies to Westchester County. Normally a PIOLT is a negotiated agreement that sets the taxes on the property for a certain number of years, but Avon pays the full taxes. The only reason for the PILOT is because the IDA is a governmental entity that would normally be tax exempt. The Assessor will reassess the property after improvements to the property are made and a new PILOT will be entered into with the IDA.

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, ACC/Avon Products, Inc. (hereinafter “Avon”) has operated a facility in Rye at 601 Midland Avenue since the late 1950’s; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1995, pursuant to Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency (I.D.A.) approved financial assistance for Avon to develop a financial service center at its facility in Rye; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial assistance to Avon resulted in sales tax savings in regard to the planned development costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial assistance also included a PILOT agreement entered into by Avon to ensure that no real estate property tax revenues are lost by the City as a result of the I.D.A. involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 20, 1995, the Rye City Council unanimously adopted a resolution stating no objection to the Avon/I.D.A. financial assistance plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the term of the financial assistance plan and PILOT agreement expires on December 31, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Avon has requested a six (6) month extension to the existing financial assistance plan and PILOT agreement to allow Avon time to obtain required approvals from the City of Rye to renovate and upgrade its Midland Avenue facility; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 859-a of the General Municipal Law, the I.D.A. held a public hearing on November 30, 2010 in the City of Rye on the six (6) month extension request;

**RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Rye has no objection to the six (6) month extension of the I.D.A. financial assistance plan and PILOT agreement, which continues to ensure that no real estate property tax revenues are lost by the City as a result of the I.D.A. involvement.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was adopted by a 7-0 vote.

12. Consideration to set a public hearing for a License Agreement Application submitted by NextG Networks, Inc. for telecommunications access in the Public Rights-of-Way

Councilwoman Gamache made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, and unanimously carried to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, a license agreement/special use permit application (TC012) for permission to locate a Distributed Antenna Telecommunication System in the public right-of way has heretofore been introduced at this meeting and placed before the Mayor and each Councilman; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to call a public hearing on such proposed application, 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 January 19, 2011 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 application.

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

**CITY OF RYE**

**Notice of Public Hearing on a license agreement/special use permit application by NextG Networks, Inc. for permission to locate a Distributed Antenna Telecommunication System in the public right-of-way.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to Chapter 196 of the Code of the City of Rye (Wireless Telecommunications), the Rye City Council has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday evening 8:00 P.M., January 19, 2011 in the Council Room of the Rye City Hall on the following matter:

NextG Networks, Inc has applied for a license agreement/special use permit for the purpose of locating a Distributed Antenna Telecommunication System in the public right-of-way. All information pertaining to this matter is available at the City Clerk's Office in Rye City Hall. Any person interested or affected will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk  
January 7, 2011

13. Presentation by David E. Bronston, Esq., Long Island Fiber Exchange (LIFE), regarding their application for a permit for telecommunications access in the Public Rights-of-Way

David Bronston, Esq., representing Long Island Fiber Exchange (LIFE), said the company was seeking a permit to run fiber optic cables along the poles of Verizon and Con Edison in the City rights-of-way. The work will be done with minimal impact on traffic flow and all work will be performed by the company itself. It will benefit the City by bringing new competitive services and technology and will bring additional annual revenue to the City as part of the Franchise Agreement. The City will receive \$10,000 per year with a 5% increase every two years. The company is a telecommunications company recognized by the Public Service Commission and has a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The company is different from NextG in that it deals strictly with fiber optic cable. Interim Corporation Counsel Wilson said that the proposed compensation is similar to what other communities have received.

Councilman Jovanovich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi, to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLVED**, the City Manager and Corporation Counsel are hereby authorized to finalize an Agreement with Long Island Fiber Exchange (LIFE) for a permit for telecommunications access in the City of Rye public rights-of-way.

ROLL CALL:

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

The Resolution was adopted by a 7-0 vote.

14. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the County of Westchester for Snow and Ice Removal on County Roads for the period October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2015

City Manager Pickup said this is an example of a continuing relationship with the County whereby the City provides snow removal services and is reimbursed according to a schedule based on the CPI. There was a discussion among the members of the Council regarding the amount of reimbursement offered by the County as opposed to the actual cost to the City for providing the service and the length of the proposed agreement. The City Manager was asked to go back to the County to try to negotiate a shorter agreement.

15. Resolution to declare certain City of Rye equipment as surplus  
Roll Call

City Manager Pickup said that the Fire Department has indicated that the 1982 Hahn Fire Pumper is no longer usable to the Department. The County has indicated that it could be used at

the Fire Training Center. This will reduce the total vehicle footprint and reduce insurance costs to the City.

Councilwoman Keith made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gamache, to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the City has been provided with a list of Fire equipment identified as being obsolete or will become obsolete during 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Department has recommended that the 1982 Hahn Fire Pumper be declared surplus, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 1982 Hahn Fire Pumper is declared surplus, and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that authorization is given to the City Comptroller to donate said equipment in a manner that will serve in the best interests of the City.

ROLL CALL:

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

The Resolution was adopted by a 7-0 vote.

16. Miscellaneous Communications and Reports

There were no items discussed under this item.

17. Old Business

Councilman Jovanovich thanked Interim Corporation Counsel Wilson for her memorandum on residency requirements for serving on City Boards and Commissions. He suggested that the City Code should be amended to allow for non-citizens to serve on Rye Boards and Commissions, with the exception of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

18. New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

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Continuation of discussion on the 2011 Budget

The Council continued their discussion on the 2011 Budget on the following topics:

**Staff Recommendations**

Cut \$50,000 to Rye Town Park – the Council concurred with the recommendation but a question was asked about how capital improvements would be dealt with. Mayor French said that a reserve would be built up from fees to pay for basic maintenance and larger projects would be bonded. City Manager Pickup said he hoped that Rye Town Park capital planning could be incorporated into the City’s capital plan.

Reduction in Materials and Supplies by \$122,160 – City Manager Pickup said he and Comptroller Gribbins had reviewed actuals for the line items proposed for three years and determined that in many cases the actuals were about 1/3 of what was projected. He said they are comfortable that the numbers are achievable without major risk to the operation.

Increasing parking fine revenues and merchant parking permit fees to yield an additional \$25,000 – The Council concurred on the increases to parking fines but there was disagreement regarding a proposed increase to merchant parking fees. Councilman Sack said he felt a 10% increase was too low because the commuter parking rates had been doubled. Councilwoman Parker said she felt a 2 -3% increase would be better.

Change in Corporation Counsel Position to reduce costs by \$25,000 – The consensus of the Council was that the position should be changed from an employee to an independent contractor.

Cost Recovery of \$9,000 in Police Overtime – The Council concurred with the proposal of recovering overtime costs from private user groups who utilize the police for their events.

City Manager Pickup said that if all of the staff recommendations were adopted as proposed it would reduce the tax rate to .97% but if the change to Rye Town Park funding was not made the tax rate would be around 1.16%. If the Council wanted to get to 0% it would need to cut an additional \$193,489.

**Other discussion**

Mortgage Tax Revenues – A suggestions was made that mortgage tax revenues have been underestimated in the past and could be increased by \$100,000.

**Marine Unit, DARE Program and Youth Officer**

- What will be saved by the proposed changed to the Marine Unit? (There will be no savings in dollars. The City will gain on-street productivity because the Marine officer will be on patrol during April and October when he would have been assigned to the Marine Unit.)
- The Marine Patrol may not be the most productive use of a trained police officer. It may be more efficient to use part-timers.
- What will happen to the Youth Officer Function? (It will be modified because there will no longer be a full-scale DARE program. He would still be the primary contact for youth related initiatives but the job of a detective is demand based.)

- Did the School District suggest they wanted to spend fewer hours on DARE? (The School District has indicated that they would be happy to recapture the classroom time to reprogram it without losing it altogether. They do not want to pay for a School Resource Officer.)
- How much less Youth Officer work will Detective Wood be doing next year? (It depends on what type of youth activity there is in the community. Currently 30-40% of his time is devoted to DARE. The amount of time spent in 2011 will depend on what is negotiated with the School District.)

Recreation Field Surcharge Increase

- What is the amount of additional revenue expected from the \$10 increase in this fee? (Approximately \$70,000.)

Rye Free Reading Room

- If additional money is given to the Library, they must agree to work with the City on their next labor contracts.
- The proposed \$100,000 cut for the Library is about right. The City is reducing labor costs and since most of the money from the City goes to meeting the Library's labor costs, they should do the same.
- If mortgage tax revenue projections were increased the Library could be given an additional \$25,000.
- The Community values the Library and would probably be willing to pay for it. The Council must find a way to keep it open on Saturdays.
- The Library can do other things to save money; they do not have to choose to close on Saturdays.

Administrative Pay Group Bonuses

- It may not be appropriate to give this group a raise in this economy because the money saved could help get to a lower tax rate.
- The APG did not get a raise last year and for moral purposes it should not happen again this year. They should be given the proposed bonus.
- The bonus would be a management tool and would be given at the City Manager's discretion only if revenues allow.
- A bonus structure should be established as a means of compensation for the APG.

Rye Golf Club

- Rye Golf should be asked to contribute more. People are concerned about subsidizing a luxury. Since the Recreation Department and Library are taking a hit this year the Golf Club should as well.
- Rye Golf Club should be asked to contribute an additional \$30,000.
- Don't ask Rye Golf Club for additional revenue this year, but ask them to decrease the amount of proposed increase in their rates from 3% to 1%.

Additional Revenues

- Additional user fees that could be raised to provide increased revenue.

- The only way to reduce the tax rate is through increased revenues and there is no guarantee that the additional revenue are achievable.

There was a discussion on the necessity for an additional workshop with the Police Department. While some members of the Council indicated they believed it would be helpful, City Manager Pickup advised that if a workshop was held it would be a better idea to meet with the Police Commissioner than with members of the Police Union. An additional workshop was not scheduled.

Mayor French said that if the Council had any further recommendations regarding the budget they should forward them to the City Manager.

19. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Councilman Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jovanovich and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk