

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on November 6, 2013 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor  
LAURA BRETT  
RICHARD FILIPPI  
PETER JOVANOVICH  
JULIE KILLIAN  
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.

3. General Announcements

Mayor French congratulated the winners in the election and offered thanks to everyone who had run.

Councilwoman Parker noted that the City Council had designated November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month.

Councilman Filippi announced that on November 21<sup>st</sup> the Pace University Land Use Training would be offering a seminar on Affordable Housing in Westchester at the Mamaroneck Town Center.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held October 23, 2013

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on October 23, 2013.

5. Mayor's Management Report

- Capital Projects Update

City Manager Pickup reported that work on the Old Milton Road drainage project continues. The City Engineer is close to working out the issues regarding encumbrances in the right-of-ways and it is hoped that the project will be completed prior to the winter weather setting in. Mr. Pickup also reported that there is a busy schedule of capital work that is in process, approved through the bond, or approved through grants that will be worked on through the winter and, hopefully, out to bid in Spring.

- Legal Update

There was nothing reported under this topic.

6. Presentation of the FY 2014 Budget by the City Manager

Prior to presenting the proposed 2014 Budget, Deputy Comptroller Joseph Fazzino reviewed the projections through the end of 2013. The City expects to have a profit of \$1.5 Million, which is largely due to revenues performing better than budget.

2014 Proposed Budget

The total amount budgeted for 2014 Expenditures is \$34,589,349, which is \$2,883,000 over the 2013. The largest portion is transfers to the Capital Project Fund and Building and Vehicle Fund for \$2 Million as opposed to \$195,000 in 2013. This will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, not the tax levy. Health insurance costs will increase by 14% and salaries by 4.8%. The budget will be balanced in three ways:

(1) Use of Fund Balance for capital projects and equipment purchases and \$310,000 use of Restricted Fund Balance for a Workers Compensation premium payment.

(2) Revenues other than property taxes such as a \$400,000 increase in mortgage tax and \$195,000 increase in building permit revenues over the 2013 budget.

(3) Increase the property tax levy. The levy for 2014 is 66% of total revenues. The property tax levy is \$21,129,446, with a levy increase of \$566,206 over the 2013 budget. This translates to a 2.52% tax rate increase or an annual increase of about \$92 to the average home in Rye. The 2014 total levy is approximately \$37,000 under the tax cap.

Mr. Fazzino concluded by saying the proposed budget is positive for 2014 in that revenues have rebounded; there is fund balance for capital projects; and service levels have not been reduced. Pension rates have stabilized and hopefully will continue to decrease. Health insurance costs continue to go up but the City has not yet felt the affects of the Affordable Care Act. The City must continue to explore new sources of revenue and ways to reduce the expenditures that can be controlled.

7. Consideration to set a Public Hearing on the 2014 Budget for December 4, 2013

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Filippi and unanimously carried, to adopt the following Resolution to set the public hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget for December 4, 2013:

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to call a public hearing on the proposed 2013 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 4, 2013 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 Wednesday, the 4th day of December, 2013 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, 2014 through December 31, 2014, 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	\$34,589,349
Rye Cable TV Special Revenue Fund	422,773
K.T. Woods Permanent Fund	-0-
Debt Service Fund	403,384
Capital Projects Fund	950,000

Boat Basin Enterprise Fund	968,756
Rye Golf Club Enterprise Fund	6,197,291
Risk Retention Internal Service Fund	663,472
Building and Vehicle Maintenance Internal Service Fund	<u>6,176,144</u>
TOTAL - All Funds	<u>\$50,371,169</u>

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk  
Dated: November 21, 2013

8. Consideration to set a Public Hearing for November 20, 2013 to add a new article to the Rye City Code to provide tax exemptions for improvements to historic properties

Councilwoman Brett summarized the proposed local law as a way to encourage people to renovate and restore historic properties rather than tear them down. She said implementation of the law would require the Landmarks Committee to designate Historic Districts. Corporation Counsel Wilson said the tax exemption would only apply to City taxes and not to School or County taxes. Councilwoman Parker asked if the School District and County could be contacted to see if they would be interested in enacting similar legislation.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Council wishes to amend Chapter 177  
“Taxation” of the Code of the City of Rye; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to call a public hearing on such  
proposed amendments to the law, 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 November 20, 2013 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 proposed local law.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF RYE**

**Notice of Public Hearing on a proposed local law to amend  
Chapter 177 “Taxation”, of the Code of the City of Rye,  
New York by adding a new Article XII “Exemption for Historic Districts.**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Rye on the 20th day of November 2013 at 8:00 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, at which interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard concerning a proposal to amend Chapter 177 “Taxation” of the Code of the City of Rye, New York by adding a new Article XII “Exemption for Historic Districts”.

Copies of said local law may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk.

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk  
Dated: November 13, 2013

9. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for professional consulting services to conduct an Executive Search for a Police Commissioner for the City of Rye  
Roll Call.

City Manager Pickup said that the ICMA process is a collaborative community process as opposed to a traditional search process. There is a vigorous community outreach component that is fairly time consuming in order to build community consensus about what the Candidate Profile would look like; what department and community issues are relating to the police; and identifying candidates in the search who meet the criteria. The actual search process will not take place until 2014. There was a discussion among the Council regarding what would be involved in the various phases of the ICMA process including the Community Outreach phase, the development of the Candidate Profile, the Recruitment Phase, as well as the advisability of proceeding with the process prior to the new Council taking office in January. The item was deferred to November 13th in order for the City Manager was asked to provide the Council with two exhibits referred to in the contract.

*John Carolin* suggested that the City should ask Police Organizations for referrals for Police Commissioner and should put together a committee of two or three qualified people to hear proposals instead of spending month on a contract with ICMA. He also said that the sound system in Council Chambers needed to be fixed because people in the room and at home cannot hear what is being said at meetings.

Councilmembers-elect *Terry McCartney* and *Kirsten Bucci* said the City should reconsider spending the \$40,000 and agreed that the process should wait until the new Council is in place to begin the process in order to determine if they want to continue with the position as Police Commissioner or go back to Police Chief.

10. Residents may be heard on matters for Council consideration that do not appear on the agenda

*Jim Amico* spoke about several issues related to the Police Department. He also said that public safety issues should be taken into consideration when choosing a new Police Commissioner.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Councilman Filippi made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk