

APPROVED MINUTES of the Budget
Workshop of the City Council of the City of Rye held
in City Hall on November 19, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSEPH A. SACK Mayor
LAURA BRETT
KIRSTIN BUCCI
JULIE KILLIAN
TERRENCE McCARTNEY
RICHARD SLACK
Councilmembers

ABSENT: RICHARD MECCA, Councilmember

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Discussion of the FY 2015 Budget

- Recreation Department Budget Review

Recreation Superintendent Sally Rogol made a presentation about the Department outlining the buildings, parks, and fields they maintain, as well as the programs, and special events that are provided with a goal of “providing something for everyone”. She said there were over 5,000 users of recreations facilities over the year and the Department recovers 45% of their costs through fees and charges. The way that program fees are determined was also discussed. Ms. Rogol requested that the Council consider the request to add additional full-time staff to the Department including the position of Assistant Superintendent and a grounds keeper. She said she believed the Department was well equipped to oversee the Boat Basin that has been proposed by the City Manager. There was a discussion among the Council about how the recovery percentage for the department is calculated and how this rate will be affected by the addition of the new positions.

- Rye Golf Budget Review

Golf Club Manager Jim Buonaiuto and members of the Golf Commission including Mack Cunningham, Patrick Dooley, Charley Davies, John Duffy, T.J. Hanson and Leon Sculti represented the Golf Club. Mr. Buonaiuto made the presentation about the Golf Club which is a City-owned membership based club that is required to be fully self-sustaining from dues and fees for services provided. A \$400,000 profit margin is projected for 2014 which was achieved without an increase in fees and the removal of the \$300 food and beverage minimum. Golf revenues were up in 2014 by over \$156,000 but pool revenues were down. However, there were more prorated pool membership sales in 2014 than in 2012 and 2013 combined. Changes that were made to the pool operation during the season and proposed changes for improvements were also discussed. The 2015 Budget is the most transparent ever presented and reduces operating expenses by over \$1.8 million by reducing the expenses in revenue associated with operation of the food and beverage business. The 2015 Budget covers all of the Club's expenses and should result in a surplus that can be used to further replenish the Reserve Fund or fund capital projects at the Club, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015. Several members of the Council commented on the quality of the facility and praised the members of the Golf Commission and General Manager Buonaiuto for their work over the last year in turning the club around. Members of the Commission said the Commission is very engaged in looking to reduce costs in areas where they have control and they are also looking to have a stable long-term plan. There was also a discussion of the interfund service costs that are charged against the Golf Club in the Budget and if they are fairly allocated, and flexibility on the deadline for the Club's annual budget submission.

4. Adjournment

The Budget Workshop portion of the meeting ended at 8:10 p.m. when the Council began the regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk