

APPROVED MINUTES of the Budget
Workshop of the City Council of the City of Rye held
in City Hall on November 9, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: None

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

- Rye Golf Club Budget Review

Jim Buonaiuto, General Manager of Rye Golf Club provided an overview of the proposed 2016 Operating Budget. The 2016 proposed budget will take the unfortunate events of the 2015 season into account with the greens being damaged. The proposed budget does not reflect additional staffing, as there may be a potential reduction in revenues. Mr. Buonaiuto explained that he has seen improvement with greens and is hopeful for a successful season of membership. The Golf Club is planning for a 10% reduction in membership in a worst case scenario for 2016.

Mayor Sack stated the City has been engaged in potential settlement with TKI (Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc.), and it is possible that there could be some settlement money coming to the City. Any monies received could possibly be used as an incentive for members to return to the Club.

Mr. Buonaiuto stated that the Golf Club is not including many improvements within the budget, but there are some priorities.

Councilman Mecca mentioned that there are two bonds from 1998 will mature in 2018, which could be used as relief.

Mr. Buonaiuto stated that the Golf Club is trying to create the best experience for members and hires employees that are local. The Club has not raised membership fees in seven years.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca and unanimously carried to adjourn into execution session to discussion litigation matters at 8:00 PM.

Councilwoman Bucci made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett, and unanimously carried to exit executive session and resume with the public meeting at 8:20 P.M.

- Capital Projects Update

Boston Post Road Roundabout Road Relocation and Nature Center Access

Christian Miller, City Planner, introduced the capital projects segment of the meeting to the Council. He first reviewed the roundabout relocation project at Boston Post Road. He stated that this \$50,000 project for a preliminary design on Boston Post Road in the Parsons Street area to shift the road over and build a roundabout. The project will allow for a connection of the Nature Center roadway.

John Meyer, traffic engineering consultant for the City, spoke about his traffic design and study for this project. He stated that the proposed roundabout would improve the current state of traffic in that area. Mr. Meyer with the City staff previously considered five or six alternatives to this particular plan, but recommends that the current proposal would be the most effective. The Council then discussed the specifics of the plan.

City Planner Miller and Ryan Coyne, City Engineer, then briefly discussed the Nature Center bridge, which will cost approximately 1.1 million to improve. The bridge has been flagged for safety issues. At a minimum, Mr. Coyne stated that the bridge needs \$40,000 of work.

City Planner Miller told the Council that the roundabout project has a design timeframe of 2016, with construction not beginning until 2017.

Five-Points Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements Project

City Planner Miller stated to the Council that the City issued a request for proposal and as a result, John Meyer Consulting was retained as consultant for this particular project. This project was identified by the Safe Routes to School program as a possible hazardous intersection, located at Grace Church and Midland Avenue. There is a potential pedestrian safety issue that has been identified. With a budget of \$250,000, the City is currently in the design phase for this project. Mr. Meyer presented the particulars of the proposed redesign to the Council to gather feedback about moving forward. He suggested removing traffic signals as a delay in traffic is caused by the signals. He also suggested reducing the paved area to further pedestrian safety.

City Planner Miller stated to the Council that this was a community-wide initiative. The Council continued to discuss the issue.

General Comments on Capital Projects

City Planner Miller made some general comments to the City Council regarding capital projects for 2016. He discussed the road resurfacing program, projected to cost \$615,000 from general revenues and \$315,000 from grants and aid. He also discussed annual programs such as pedestrian safety initiatives with a cost of \$50,000. The Safe Routes to School initiative was discussed, in which funding will be needed to institute a grant. Inflow and Infiltration prevention measures (I&I) will also be included in capital projects to comply with state requirements. Other possible projects include a City master plan, with a projected cost of \$150,000 and a Forest Avenue pedestrian safety study, with a projected cost of \$50,000. City Planner Miller also discussed the United Hospital study, with a projected cost of \$20,000. The City has already spent \$25,000 on this project. There is a proposed project for 2016 looking to retain a consultant on the implementation of LED lights.

Councilman Slack commented about possibly increasing the self-imposed debt limit and inquired about the tax cap implications of doing so.

City Manager Serrano stated that currently the self-imposed debt limit is 5%, which can be used toward capital projects. He suggesting meeting with the finance committee. He also stated that it may be difficult to stay below the tax cap and meet the new state requirements for I&I.

Streetscape Improvements to the Central Business District at the Purchase Street/ Elm Place/ Smith Street Intersection

City Planner Miller discussed this project and stated that the streetscape improvements will be implemented in spring 2016.

Boston Post Road Diet and Retaining Wall Project

City Planner Miller stated that the Boston Post Road diet has been paved and striped, and the City is currently considering various alternatives of wall designs.

- Public Works Department Budget Review

Joseph Fazzino, Acting Comptroller, discussed the building and fund review. He stated the largest proposed increase is salt for the winter. It will cost the City approximately \$50,000. He stated there has been a decrease in administrative part time salaries by \$15,000. He also stated there has been a decrease in pay station credit card fees. He also stated that electricity costs are down. The budget will account for additional building repairs.

- Building and Vehicle Fund Review

Ryan Coyne, City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works, stated that the 2016 budget includes \$350,000 for public works vehicles. The vehicles will consist of a plow truck, a utility truck and a trailer.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. D'Andrea
City Clerk