

APPROVED MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on December 16, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: None

The regular meeting of the Rye City Council convened at 7:45 P.M.

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. General Announcements.

Councilwoman Killian announced that she had the pleasure of attending the Rye Association for the Handicapped and Rye Seniors luncheon. She acknowledged the members that she met and wished everyone a happy holiday. She further stated that the Rye Association for the Handicapped and Rye Seniors are terrific, and are looking for new members in the community.

Councilman McCartney stated that he attended the annual Holiday Bonfire and Sing-along on December 13, 2015, which was a great family event. He thanked the Rye Recreation staff who organized the event and those who donated to Toys for Tots. He announced that the Recreation Department runs a winter break program, "Come Out and Play." On Monday, December 28th and December 30th, 2015 there will be ice skating in the ice rink at Rye Country Day School from 2:15-4:00. The gym at Rye Country Day will also be open for basketball. On December 19, 2015 there will be a Mad Science show at the Damiano Recreation Center. Councilman McCartney further announced that the Rye Golf Club is currently maintaining winter greens and the course looks great. Lastly, he announced that there will be a brunch with Santa at Whitby Castle on December 20, 2015 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held December 2, 2015.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Slack and unanimously carried, to approve that minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held on December 2, 2015.

5. Issues Update/Old Business.

Mayor Sack stated that earlier this year there were some concerns raised by Mr. Sculti, the chairperson of the Rye Golf Club Commission, with respect to activities at the Rye Golf Club. After these concerns were raised, the City Manager conducted an investigation. The City hired Vincent Toomey, who conducted a further investigation and Mr. Toomey spoke about his findings.

Vincent Toomey, Esq., as consultant for the City of Rye, stated that he is the City's labor counsel and has served in that capacity for over 20 years. After conducting his investigation he was happy to report that there was no misconduct involved in this particular case and in fact the investigation showed an exemplary performance by city personnel. Mr. Toomey reiterated the unfortunate situation with the greens in 2015. He stated while there was a question as to whether Rye personnel contributed to this incident, Mr. Toomey learned quickly that there was no misconduct. There were very minor issues that could be improved, but there was certainly no wrongdoing. The City of Rye hired experts for the greens who all concluded that this was a tragic situation, but not one that any personnel had an impact on. Mr. Toomey stated that there was no way that the Golf Manager or superintendent would have known that this product was defective. Minor corrective recommendations will be presented to the City Council shortly, but Mr. Toomey praised City personnel. Lastly, he stated that there should be a sense that City personnel are acting appropriately and should be continuing their jobs.

Mayor Sack thanked Mr. Toomey for his thorough job on the investigation and report. Earlier unrelated incidents has led to this level of scrutiny. Mayor Sack stated there is a need to start a healing process in which the community appreciates the good work from the City personnel. He encouraged personnel to keep up the good work, and reminded residents to raise issues that exist. The City Manager is able to manage questions and feedback of personnel. Mayor Sack stated that this instance was a good exercise to examine whether matters are being handled appropriately.

Councilman McCartney thanked Mr. Toomey for the presentation. He stated it is positive for questions to be asked. He commended Jim Buonaiuto, Rye Golf Club Manager, and Chip Lafferty, Golf Course Superintendent, on their efforts during the issue with the Rye Golf Club greens. As soon as the issue escalated, Mr. Buonaiuto and Mr. Lafferty were already working diligently to mitigate the problem and were present at the Commission's many meetings. Councilman McCartney noted that there were 22 other clubs with the same issue, but

Rye Golf Club bounced back faster than everyone. Chip Lafferty and Jim Buonaiuto did everything right.

Mayor Sack agreed with Councilman McCartney's comments.

9. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the settlement agreement between TessenderloKerley, Inc. (TKI) and the City of Rye.

This item was taken out of order.

Councilman McCartney stated he and the Council would like to thank the Rye Golf Club members for their trust and patience, the Rye Golf Commission for cooperation in working through this, Councilwoman Bucci and Councilman Slack, the City of Rye Corporation Counsel and City Manager, and Rye Golf Club staff members Jim Buonaiuto and Chip Lafferty. It has been a long process in which the Golf Club studied the problem, hired experts, and then began the negotiating process with TKI. Councilman McCartney noted that this was a good experience with a quick settlement and thanked TKI, their carrier and their representatives for their professionalism. He further stated that the proposed settlement is for \$2.519 million with an additional \$60,000 that may be spent to help the greens in spring 2016. Part of the settlement agreement (paragraph 8.1), states how the City arrived at the settlement amount is confidential. Councilman McCartney stated he felt that the overall settlement is fair. He was happy to report that the Rye Golf Club greens are back and the experts have confirmed that the chemical is gone. He also reported the settlement work was all done in-house with the City's Corporation Counsel, eliminating any outside legal fees. Councilman McCartney recommend that the Council authorize the City Manager to execute the settlement agreement.

Councilman Slack added that he felt this is a fair settlement. In terms of the negotiations, the City felt strongly that certain provisions were included. He recognized Councilmembers McCartney and Bucci for their work on the settlement and stated that he supports this agreement.

Councilwoman Bucci recognized Councilmembers McCartney and Slack, and Corporation Counsel Wilson for their work on the settlement agreement. She stated she also supports the agreement.

Leon Sculti, Rye Golf Club Commission Chair, thanked the Council for its hard work on the settlement negotiations.

Corporation Counsel Wilson reminded the City Council to disclose whether they were a member of the Rye Golf Club prior to voting, and to also disclose whether they felt they could vote fairly.

Mayor Sack and Councilmembers McCartney, Slack, Bucci and Mecca announced that they were all members. Each person also stated that they felt they could vote fairly and impartially on this matter.

Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried, to authorize the City Manager to sign the settlement agreement between TKI and the City of Rye.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

10. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into an Inter-Municipal Developer Agreement with Westchester County and Pawling Holdings, LLC for the City to construct the North Street sewer line and other on-site infrastructure improvements for the Theodore Fremd Avenue and North Street affordable senior housing project.

This item was taken out of order.

City Manager Serrano stated that this issue was discussed at the December 2, 2015 meeting of the City Council. This particular project has been in the works for over a year and recently received Board of Architectural Review approval. The agreement before the Council would allow the City to improve the sewer line as outlined in the agreement, funded by the County. City Manager Serrano noted that there would be no cost to the City regarding this project. He announced that Mr. Anthony Zaino was present to answer any questions on behalf of the County.

Mayor Sack commented that improvements and comments were made to the agreement in the copy attached to the agenda currently before the Council.

Councilman Slack thanked Corporation Counsel Wilson for the comments and changes that were negotiated into the agreement. However, he noted that one addition was added in paragraph 17, dealing with compliance with laws. He inquired as to the rationale behind adding the “without limitation” language, which would reference the City being responsible for compliance with fair housing laws, and how the language would be applicable to the current agreement.

Corporation Council Wilson responded and stated that the language that was added is likely due to the County bound by the housing laws.

Mr. Zaino commented that the language is related to how the property is ultimately marketed and used.

Councilman Slack commented that the language in question is not related to infrastructure, which is the subject of this agreement. He felt that keeping this added language would send the message that marketing is related to our obligation of this agreement.

Councilman Slack then suggested that the Council return to the earlier draft, striking the added language in paragraph 18.

City Counsel Wilson stated that it was her recommendation to strike out the added language. City Manager Serrano agreed.

Councilwoman Killian, seconded by Councilwoman Brett and unanimously carried, made a motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Inter-municipal Developer Agreement with Westchester County and Pawling Holdings, LLC for the City to construct the North Street sewer line and other on-site infrastructure improvements for the Theodore Fremd Avenue and North Street affordable senior housing project, on the condition that the added language to paragraph 18 is stricken from the agreement.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

6. Continuation of the Public Hearing on the proposed 2016 Budget.

The Council continued the Public Hearing on the proposed 2016 budget.

Councilman McCartney made a motion to 1) set aside the amount of money it would take to give the existing 2015 Rye Golf Club members in good standing a 35% discount on their 2016 golf dues, provided they sign a release for the TKI issue with the greens; 2) reimburse the Rye Golf Club's lost 2015 revenue in the approximate amount of \$283,000; 3) reimburse the Rye Golf Club's remediation costs of approximately \$115,000; and 4) use the remainder of the money for Rye Golf Club projects and resolving outstanding claims.

Mayor Sack clarified that the remainder will remain in the Enterprise Fund.

Mayor Sack stated he felt the motion was fair and a good business proposition which would be helpful to members. He stated the Golf Club is a positive environment generating business.

Councilman McCartney made the above-referenced motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Mayor Sack then addressed the additional funding requested by the Rye Free Reading Room. Councilwoman Bucci stated that unfortunately, the City would not be able to accommodate the request for additional funding for 2016. It is her sincere hope that next year we will be able to find more money for the library.

Mayor Sack then opened the floor for comments on the proposed 2016 fee schedule.

City Manager Serrano stated the staff tried to be proactive to budget for the 2017 year. He asked all departments to look at fees and how the City of Rye compares to neighboring communities. The majority of the fees proposed do not affect 2016 year, so if necessary, they may be put over for discussion in 2016. There are also some new fees to be considered.

Mayor Sack stated he would like to set aside the proposed increases to parking for more discussion in 2016. Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett and unanimously carried, to set aside all proposed fee increases for the parking.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Mayor Sack then introduced discussion regarding other increases. Councilman Slack stated that if the City staff has done the work on comparisons with other communities, he would be in favor of the increases.

Councilwoman Killian inquired about new certificates for old buildings. City Manager Serrano explained that this item is a new certificate of occupancy for a pre-existing building.

Councilman Mecca expressed concern with some of the proposed building department fees, specifically the rock chipping.

City Manager responded that there is a lot of work done by the building department, as well has effort, extra work and oversight with the rock chipping.

Councilwoman Killian stated that the City created a lot more work for the building department concerning rock chipping, and as such, there should be a fee.

Councilman Mecca stated his concern that the building department as being used as a cash cow with significant fee increases.

Mayor Sack recommended that the two electrical fees that increased should return back to \$100.

Councilwoman Killian recommended that the sign posting at Cross Street be brought back to \$35.

Mayor Sack and Councilwoman Brett suggested that pre-date letters be changed to \$200.

Councilwoman Killian inquired about the movie shoot parking lot rental per day in the recreation parking lot. The new fee would be \$1200.

City Manager Serrano responded that there was no fee for parking in the recreation parking lot to shoot a film. This would standardize a new fee.

Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney, and unanimously carried, to amend the fee schedule by the four changes stated above.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

14. Resolution for the Boat Basin Commission to establish a licensing and annual fee agreement for contractors working at the City of Rye Boat Basin.

This item was taken out of order. City Manager Serrano stated that the Boat Basin has been working hard to regulate the activities happening at the Boat Basin. For example, the Boat Basin Commission wants to make sure the contractors working at the Boat Basin are controlled, and have the proper insurances, etc.

Councilman Mecca added that the Commission is working really hard to come up with funds and also keep control of the Boat Basin area.

Councilwoman Killian discussed increasing the mooring fee. Councilman Slack stated he felt the proposed fee may not be substantial enough compared to what other Clubs charge.

Councilwoman Brett clarified that those paying the fee are solely applying for the right to put the mooring there. There are other extra fees and work associated with this type of activity that would not be the responsibility of the Boat Basin Commission.

Greg Gavlick, Chair of the Boat Basin Commission, stated that the fee would give a permit holder coordinates to put the mooring in that particular place. This differentiates from a vendor like American Yacht Club, who is installing the mooring, inspecting it, and providing a service to get the person to their boat. There is a substantial difference between what those vendors are doing and what the Commission is doing.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett and unanimously carried, to adopt a resolution for the Boat Basin Commission to establish a licensing and annual fee agreement for contractors working at the City of Rye Boat Basin.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

13. Resolution for the Rye Golf Club to adopt a Referral Program to offer incentives to existing members of the Club to encourage them to refer friends, family, or neighbors to become new members of the Club.

This item was taken out of order. Councilman McCartney explained that this program worked well last year, bringing in a net gain of \$60,000. Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried, to adopt a Referral Program to offer incentives to existing members of the Club to encourage them to refer friends, family, or neighbors to become new members of the Club.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried, to close the public hearing on the proposed 2016 budget.

Deputy City Comptroller Fazzino gave a brief recap of the changes to the proposed budget. The only notable change was moving the \$100,000 to be spent on the five-points intersection to funding for the fire administrator position, which does not affect the tax rate or the property tax levy. Overall, the property tax levy will be \$22,038,527. The tax rate will be \$157.16 per thousand of assessed value which translates to a \$49.99 tax increase for the average homeowner of the City of Rye. The City will be under the tax cap by \$26,100.

7. Resolution to adopt the 2016 Budget and establish the 2016 tax levy and 2016 tax rate.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Slack and unanimously carried, to adopt the 2016 budget.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

8. Resolution authorizing the City Comptroller to make the necessary year-end closing transfers.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried, to authorize the City Comptroller to make the necessary year-end closing transfers.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

11. Resolution to reduce the speed limit in the City of Rye from 30 to 25 miles per hour.

Mayor Sack stated that there is enough of an interest to move ahead with the process to ask Mr. Otis and Mr. Latimer to pursue this initiative up in Albany.

Councilman Slack commented that he felt the idea of asking our State legislators is a good one. It is important that Rye control these kinds of decisions. However, he felt that there should be an established benefit in a safety perspective prior to changing the speed limit. At this time, Councilman Slack stated he does not feel the current study demonstrates that. There should be active enforcement to change public behavior. There is a lot more discussion that needs to take place. Councilman Slack stated the he wholeheartedly approves of Rye looking into lowering the speed limit, but he has serious reservations about the current substance of the change.

Mayor Sack stated that when a person drives 5 miles per hour slower, there is more of an opportunity to react and the pedestrians have more of an opportunity to act accordingly. The safety benefit is clear. In order to make a lower speed limit work, there would have to be a component of education and enforcement.

Councilwoman Killian stated that there was not a large expectation for the pilot program to work. There is a need for more traffic calming measures.

Councilwoman Brett stated that there should be a priority of having people drive slower through town. There are certain roads where 30 miles per hour is too fast.

Councilman McCartney added that drivers will not adapt to a change unless there is enforcement.

Councilman Slack clarified that he felt there should be additional data before a drastic change is made.

Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried, to request our State representatives to introduce legislation to allow the City of Rye to set its own legislation regarding speed limit, amended the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

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

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

15. Consideration of a resolution to increase the size of the Boat Basin Commission from five to seven members.

Councilman Mecca stated that the Boat Basin Commission has been working very hard. There is a consensus that increasing the number of commissioners to 7 brings a variety of viewpoints. One member may be a non-resident of the City of Rye.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney and unanimously carried, to increase the size of the Boat Basin Commission from five to seven members.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

16. Resolution to authorize participation in Westchester County contracts.

City Manager Serrano explained there is a yearly agreement with the County for the City of Rye to be involved in the County purchasing contracts.

Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Brett and unanimously carried, to authorize the City of Rye's participation in Westchester County contracts.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

17. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Rye Free Reading Room to furnish library services for 2016.

Councilwoman Bucci made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried, to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Rye Free Reading Room to furnish library services for 2016.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Brett, Bucci, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Slack
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

18. Resolution designating the days and time of regular meetings of the City Council for 2016 setting January 13, 2016 as the first regular meeting.

Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Slack and unanimously carried, to adopt a resolution designating the days and time of regular meetings of the City Council for 2016 setting January 13, 2016 as the first regular meeting.

19. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

Councilwoman Killian stated that the new Drug and Alcohol Coalition will be sending out a survey that they hope all parents will fill out.

20. New Business.

Councilwoman Brett announced that the historic district creation for Hidden Spring Lane is something the Landmarks Committee would like the City Council to consider in 2016. She also announced that the Apawamis Country Club celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Mayor Sack announced that the Council has arrived at the time to say goodbye to two of their beloved members, Councilwoman Brett and Councilman Slack. He stated the Council is very sad to see them go. Mayor Sack stated he first met Laura Brett after being elected to the City Council in 2008. At the time, Councilwoman Brett was president of the Historical Society.

Mayor Sack stated he was thrilled when she decided to run for City Council in 2011. There is no one else he would have thought to fill as Deputy Mayor. He stated that Councilwoman Brett made the Council group a working team. She has been a moderating influence and there was a great partnership. The two issues that Councilwoman Brett will be remembered for are selling the 1037 Boston Post Road building (currently Mrs. Green's), and the dogs in Rye Town Park. Mayor Sack felt that Councilwoman Brett applied herself seriously to all issues. He will miss Councilwoman Brett and thanked her for her tremendous service to the City of Rye.

Councilwoman McCartney stated that Councilwoman Brett is the glue that holds everyone together. She is a mentor who he can call about anything and utterly apolitical. She will always will do what is best for Rye. She is also great at explaining complicated issues, she is very smart and tougher than she looks. Councilman McCartney praised Councilwoman Brett on her work with the litigation committee. Further, the Historic district law is her passion and the Planning Commission work has been wonderful. He stated the Council and community owes Councilwoman Brett a huge debt of gratitude.

Councilwoman Killian recognized both Councilwoman Brett and Councilman Slack. They are the glue that holds the City together. After this experience, Councilwoman Killian stated she knows both councilmembers better and treasures them as friends. She also stated she is grateful for their legal skills and the Council will miss that. She commended Councilwoman Brett for her work with the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Killian lastly stated that she has working with the outgoing councilmembers and will miss them tremendously. She thanked them both.

Councilwoman Bucci stated that it has been an absolute pleasure to work with both outgoing councilmembers and they have both brought tremendous assets to the City. She thanked them both for their service.

Councilman Mecca recognized Councilwoman Brett. He felt her greatest strengths were that she is poised, thorough and classy. He stated he has really enjoyed working with Councilwoman Brett.

Councilwoman Brett announced that it has been an absolute pleasure to serve this community. She stated she ran for City Council because she loves Rye and wanted to serve the community and serve it well. She learned so much about the community. It has been great to meet a lot of people in the City. She thanked her family first with their patience and support. She also thanked her friends for helping with family during her time as volunteer. Councilwoman Brett further stated that she has learned from the professional City staff. She is excited for the beginning of a new era with the Rye City government. She thanked the new City Manager and City Clerk, new Police Commissioner, and new Golf Club Manager. She stated she is pleased with the Golf Commission report. Councilwoman Brett thanked Assistant City Manager, Eleanor Militana for being the rock for this community. City-wide, people know how much work Assistant City Manager Militana does to help the City run smoothly. Councilwoman Brett then recognized other department heads. She is impressed with the professionalism of the staff and thanked the department heads. She also thanked the commissions and boards and the volunteers. She thanked the Rye Town Park Commission for benefitting the communities.

Lastly, Councilwoman Brett recognized the Council and stated she has enjoyed working with all of its members. The mutual respect for councilmembers has benefitted the community. Councilwoman thanked each of the members for their comments and thoughtfulness, and stated they do a terrific job. One responsibility of a councilmembers is to leave the City a better place than when the term began. Councilwoman Brett stated that she is proud of the City government.

Mayor Sack then recognized Councilman Slack and his service to the Council. The first time he met Councilman Slack was in 2012 during his public about issues with Rye Cable. Mayor Sack commended Councilman Slack for always being a person of integrity and willing to speak out if he felt there was an injustice. Mayor Sack recognized Councilman Slack for his work with rock chipping and affordable housing on Theodore Fremd. Further, he thanked Councilman Slack for all the time dedicated to litigation matters. On behalf of the Council and the City, Mayor Sack thanked Councilman Slack for his service.

Councilman McCartney commended Councilman Slack for being “on point” when engaged in an issue. He stated that Councilman Slack always provides thoughtful comments. Further, he stated that Councilman Slack is a hard worker and always prepared. The quality of his legal skills could not have worked out better for the City. Councilman Slack also noted that Councilman Slack will be remembered for his great work with the rock chipping legislation. He thanked Councilman Slack for his service to the City.

Councilman Mecca recognized that Councilman Slack has done a great job of pulling this Council together and the Council members are grateful for it. Councilman Mecca also noted Councilman Slack’s impressive organizational skills that he brings to the Council. Lastly, Councilman Mecca stated that the City will be missing Councilman Slack’s service and the Council thanks him for all that he has done.

Councilman Slack addressed the Council and community. He stated that it has been a pleasure to serve the community as part of the Rye City Council. He thanked the Council members for their kind words. Councilman Slack stated that when he was asked to serve on the Council two years ago, there was a confidence lacking for City government. He felt that the hiring of a new city manager was very important to restoring that confidence. Councilman Slack thanked Frank Culross, former City Manager, for his time as interim manager for restoring faith in the position. Councilman Slack is very confident with the Council’s choice to bring on current City Manager, Marcus Serrano. Councilman Slack then highlighted some past successes for the Council, such as the Rye Playland issue and building issues. He felt pleased with the Council doing what is best for the City. Councilman Slack noted that the other Council members set aside politics when decision making. He also noted the Theodore Fremd affordable housing project, stating that he was thrilled with the project’s approval. After the Council handled concerns with the environmental issues for the affordable housing project, it was approved with conditions to remediate any environmental concerns. Councilman Slack then spoke about the rock chipping legislation. This issue at times was contentious within the community and Council, yet the members worked through it and ended up at a positive result with limits on the timing of rock chipping. It was an important experience that demonstrated both the Council and community coming together to create groundbreaking legislation. Councilman Slack thanked Councilman Mecca for his efforts and the rock chipping committee. Councilman Slack then

recognized the hard work of the Rye City staff. He thanked the department heads for their diligent efforts. Councilman Slack then recognized Assistant City Manager Eleanor Militana for being the “glue” that holds the City together. He thanked her for all the help she has given to him and the Council. Councilman Slack then recognized Corporation Counsel Kristen Wilson, as he stated there is no harder job in the City. He recognized her for managing issues and litigating on behalf of the City. Councilman Slack then thanked his family for their constant support and time commitment, and his wife for her enormous common sense and judgment. Councilman Slack then addressed the Council members. He stated that each member demonstrates that they care deeply for Rye, setting the bar high for future members. He felt the City is in great hands with this Council. Councilman Slack then recognized outgoing Councilmember Laura Brett, who will be missed. He thanked her for being wise, hardworking, and collaborative. Lastly, Councilman Slack thanked Mayor Sack for his hard work, the ability to listen, and encouraging transparency. He stated that serving with the Mayor has been an honor, and he is confident that he leaves the Council in excellent hands. Councilman Slack then thanked the Councilmembers and community.

Mayor Sack then presented gifts to outgoing Councilmembers Brett and Slack.

21. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Brett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Slack, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. D’Andrea
City Clerk