

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on April 27, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

JOSEPH A. SACK Mayor  
KIRSTIN BUCCI  
EMILY HURD  
JULIE KILLIAN  
RICHARD MECCA  
TERRENCE McCARTNEY  
DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN  
Councilmembers

ABSENT: None

The Council convened at 7:00 P.M. Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried to immediately adjourn into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:30 P.M. The regular meeting convened at 7:35 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 Corporation Counsel to call the roll; a quorum was present to conduct official City business.

3. General Announcements.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein announced that the Friends of the Rye Sustainability Committee have started a Facebook page. She also announced that the Senior Summit was a huge success with a great turnout.

Councilman McCartney reminded residents that the Rye Golf Club Opening Day Scramble will be held on May 1, 2016. Also, early enrollment is due for the Rye Golf Club pool membership on May 13, 2016. Councilman McCartney also stated that Rye Recreation summer camps are filling up, and encouraged residents to visit the Recreation website.

Councilwoman Bucci announced that the Library Science Fair will be held Sunday, May 22, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 P.M. on the Village Green.

Councilwoman Hurd announced that the Memorial Day Parade will occur as planned.

Councilwoman Killian announced the sad news that Elliot Meister, a 2014 Rye High School graduate passed away at the tender age of 20 years old. There was a moment of silence held by the Council. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends in Rye and beyond. She lastly stated that raising our children is incredibly difficult and we need to come together as parents and as a community.

Joseph Murphy, Senior Advocacy Committee, addressed the Council and reported on the Senior Summit. Eighty residents attended the event, which addressed senior issues. He is looking to hold another event, which will cost \$650. He thanked the Mayor for his address at the Senior Summit and Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein for her help as liaison.

4. Approval of the election of one new member to the Rye Fire Department.

Councilman Mecca stated that Joseph Ganci was elected to membership to the Poningoe Hook and Ladder Company as the newest member to the Engine Company and we welcome him to the Fire Department.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, and unanimously carried, to approve Joseph Ganci as a member of the Rye Fire Department.

5. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held April 13, 2016.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held April 13, 2016.

6. Issues Update/Old Business.

Assistant City Manager Militana provided an update on the New York Rising grant, noting that there was a meeting with staff from the Governor's office, and an RFQ was sent out in January for modifications for the Sluice Gate. No engineering firms responded to the RFQ, and as a result, the City in working with the Governor's office has decided to work with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY). DASNY has chosen the engineering firm of O'Brien and Gear who specializes in dam work. City staff recently met with the Governor's office and Rye Brook staff to discuss the grant projects. The stormwater drainage project at Milton Road was discussed, as well as the Upper Pond resizing project, which will remove silt. She briefly discussed that one of the originally proposed projects located on the SUNY Purchase grounds would no longer be explored, after the City was advised that the grounds would be forever preserved as open space. Assistant City Manager Militana also announced that there will be another meeting on April 28, 2016 regarding the projects for the New York Rising grant.

Councilwoman Killian inquired as to what happened with the original retention project proposed on the SUNY Purchase grounds. Assistant City Manager Militana responded that a review of the originally proposed projects by the City, DASNY and the engineering firm shifted

the priorities. Further, the campus had internal concerns about the retaining ponds. Councilman Mecca expressed comments concerning moving forward with water retention.

Mayor Sack stated that he was not surprised by the outcome of the SUNY Purchase project. He inquired about the RFQ that was put out by the City. Assistant City Militana explained that it is a very technical project that requires specialized knowledge, which is perhaps the reason that there were no bids submitted. However, as the City is now being aided by DASNY, the State agency has the authority to retain an engineering firm with the specific skill called for by the proposed projects.

Councilwoman Hurd commented that she has done research concerning the “forever wild” designation by SUNY Purchase, which may require certain environmental issues.

There was general discussion concerning the New York Rising grant funds.

Assistant City Manager Militana announced that regarding the Central Business District improvements, bid specifications are being done in house by the City Engineer and expected to be collected in May 2016. It is anticipated that the City Council will have the opportunity to approve the bid results at the June meeting. The Memorial Day Parade will take place as originally planned beginning at the train station and progressing down Purchase Street down to the Village Green.

Councilwoman Killian inquired as to certain aesthetics and safety measures within the downtown area, encouraging such measures to be a part of the bid.

Concerning the MTA Central Avenue Bridge closure, Assistant City Manager Militana stated that the MTA has acknowledged that the bridge is in disrepair. The bridge has been closed and the City has been working with MTA to improve the detour route. It is anticipated that the bridge will be closed for six months. The bridge will remain open for pedestrian traffic.

There was general discussion over the bridge. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated that unfortunately, the closure is out the City’s control, but she is hopeful that the results of the work will be positive.

Mayor Sack stated that concerning the Traveler’s law suit, the City Manager’s office will be executing the general release shortly.

7. Resolution to approve the project to switch street lights in the City of Rye to LED lighting.

Assistant City Manager reviewed the project with the Council and stated that the City DPW is looking to move forward with the project. The test light has been installed in the City Hall parking lot. The Council took a two minute recess to examine the test light.

After the review of the light, the Council had positive feedback. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian, to approve Resolution 2016-16, the project to change the street lights in the City of Rye to LED lighting.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

8. Resolution to transfer \$350,000 from the Capital Projects Fund Balance for the LED lighting project.

Assistant City Manager Militana explained that with a switch to LED lighting, there will be savings across the City in terms of both labor and energy savings. This funding transfer will allow for the proposed project to move forward, as this particular project was not contemplated during the budget discussions.

Councilman Mecca commented on the project being an investment with a return for the City. Councilwoman Killian agreed that there will be savings going forward by the approval of the LED light project. There was further discussion about moving forward with the cost savings.

Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2016-17, approving the transfer of \$350,000 from the Capital Projects Fund Balance for the LED lighting project.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

9. Resolution to transfer \$2,000 from the City Manager Consultant line to the Building and Vehicle Fund, Recreation Thruway Fields Fund for the appraisal and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on the NYS Thruway property.

Mayor Sack explained that the funds proposed would be used to study and assess the Recreation Thruway Field property on any environmental issues prior to the City moving forward on any possible acquisition of this property.

Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilman Mecca and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2016-18, approving the transfer of \$2,000 from the City Manager Consultant line to the Building and Vehicle Fund for the appraisal and Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on the NYS Thruway property.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

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

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

11. Resolution for the Rye Golf Club to waive guest fees on June 7, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to close of business in participation of national “Women’s Golf Day”.

Councilman McCartney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2016-19, which will waive the guest fees on June 7, 2016 between 4:00 P.M. to close of business in participation with Women’s Golf Day.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

12. Consideration of request to amend local law Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Rye City Code, Section 191-19.1, “Parking prohibited certain hours”, to prohibit parking on the east side of Boston Post Road in front of the Resurrection Middle School from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Assistant City Manager Militana explained that the Director of Facilities for Resurrection School met with the City Manager’s office and the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee on the issue concerning drop off dismissal times. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein explained that there is a safety issue that occurs with busy school ingress and egress times and this proposed amendment will hopefully alleviate some of the issues.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd and unanimously carried, to amend local law Chapter 191, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Rye City Code, Section 191-19.1, “Parking prohibited certain hours”, to prohibit parking on the east side of Boston Post Road in front of the Resurrection Middle School from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

13. Consideration of request to amend local law Chapter 191, "Vehicles and Traffic", of the Rye City Code, Section §191-20, "Parking time limited", Subsection (E) "Fifteen-minute limit" to designate four parking spaces in Car Park 2 as fifteen minute parking spaces.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein explained that the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee considered this issue and the shorter parking spot times will help the Business District and encourage an overturn of business through busy times of day.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to amend local law Chapter 191, "Vehicles and Traffic", of the Rye City Code, Section §191-20, "Parking time limited", Subsection (E) "Fifteen-minute limit" to designate four parking spaces in Car Park 2 as fifteen minute parking spaces.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and Tagger-Epstein  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

14. Two appointments to the Boat Basin Commission, by the Council, to fill terms expiring on January 1, 2017.

Councilwoman Hurd explained that the Boat Basin Commission met and discussed several applicants who wished to fill open positions created by recent bylaw amendments. Brendan Doyle, Rye resident, and Stephen Monaldo, nonresident, have been recommended to the Council by the Commission. Councilwoman Hurd and Assistant City Manager Militana explained that the bylaws procedure requires a nomination from the committee with Council approval.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney and unanimously carried, to approve that Brendan Doyle and Stephen Monaldo fill the two vacant positions on the Boat Basin Commission, with terms expiring January 1, 2017.

15. One appointment to the Conservation Commission Advisory Council for a three-year term, by the Mayor with Council approval.

Mayor Sack appointed Jay Archer to the Conservation Commission Advisory Council for a three-year term expiring January 1, 2019, which was unanimously approved by the Council.

16. One appointment to the Landmarks Advisory Committee for a three-year term, by the Mayor with Council approval.

Mayor Sack appointed Margot Clark-Junkins to the Landmarks Advisory Committee for a three year term, expiring January, 2019, which was unanimously approved by the Council.

17. Resolution to declare certain City of Rye equipment as surplus.

Assistant City Manager Militana stated that four City departments had recently cleaned out old equipment that had become obsolete. There was some general discussion, with an understanding that the City would sell any items that could be sold.

Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution 2016-20, declaring certain City of Rye equipment as surplus.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Sack, Councilmembers Bucci, Hurd, Killian, McCartney, Mecca and  
Tagger-Epstein

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

18. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

Mayor Sack announced that the Rye Town Park Commission was holding a special personnel meeting on May 1, 2016 to interview candidates for the Director role. This will be a closed meeting due to personnel issues. There will be a general Rye Town Park information session held on May 14, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

Councilwoman Hurd praised Police Commissioner Corcoran for his efforts with individuals within the community who are in need of help during emergencies. She generally discussed the work of the Community Emergency Response Teams and the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan, which is currently being rewritten.

The Council discussed the Master Plan update. Mayor Sack stated that the subcommittee would be meeting to discuss next steps and the potential use of a survey to gauge priorities among residents.

Councilwoman Hurd stated there had been some discussion about the School Board having a spot on the master plan committee as well as Substantiality or environmental conservation. Mayor Sack responded that he and the committee are open to all input from everyone, but the makeup of the committee itself will remain the same.

19. New Business.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

20. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Councilman McCartney, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. D'Andrea  
City Clerk