

APPROVED MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on May 3, 2017 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: TERRENCE McCARTNEY, Councilmember

The special annual Square House meeting convened at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Sack welcomed the community.

Jennifer Plick, Acting Director of the Rye Historical Society, welcomed everyone to the annual ceremonial meeting in the Square House, which served as Rye's Municipal Hall from 1904 to 1964. She stated that the Square House had a great deal of history important to Rye and that it was an honor to have the community and Council there again.

Mayor Sack thanked the Rye Historical Society for hosting the meeting each year. He thanked the community for being present at the meeting. He stated that this annual event is a combination of a family reunion and an all-star game. He acknowledged the hard work of those within the community. He stated that being on the Council was an honor and takes a great deal of hard work, and as such, he thanked the community for their support.

Councilman Mecca stated that this was his 37th year in Rye, and 30th year involved in Rye's history as an active member of the community. He acknowledged those who made the community special by their effort, dedication and hard work through volunteerism.

Councilwoman Hurd stated it has been a privilege and responsibility to work with the incredible volunteers within the City, as well as City staff who work tirelessly. She also thanked the Commissioners of the groups she works with as liaison. She mentioned Jack Zahringer of the Committee on Historic Preservation, Greg Gavlik of the Boat Basin, Bernie Altoff and Holly Kennedy of the Flood Advisory Committee, and Chamber of Commerce president, Margaret Ricketts. Councilwoman Hurd said that the Council was working hard to make sure that the law put the community in the best position moving forward.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated the Square House was an appropriate place to be, as it is important to know where you have been and where you are going. She felt it was important that the work done on the Council would reflect the history of Rye. She hoped that in 20 years, the Council then could look back and be grateful for the decisions made. She

thanked the Sustainability Committee, EMS, Deer Committee, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee, and Human Rights Commission. She also thanked the City staff for their help.

Councilwoman Bucci stated that she was coming to the end of her term and she has come to greatly respect the City staff for their dedication and hard work. She stated she has come to realize that the problems that did not appear hard were actually more difficult than they appeared. She thanked the City staff for all of their work in helping the Council and community succeed. She said that it was important to abide by the City's policy for the Council to first go through the City Manager's office to access the staff.

Councilwoman Killian stated this was her sixth year on the City Council. She acknowledged the people that she has met and relationships that have been formed during her time on the Council and volunteering within the community. She also thanked the City staff. She thanked the Rye Town Park Commission and those that she met. She stated she was grateful for the Council and her time on the Council.

Mayor Sack welcomed Acting City Manager Militana, who was filling in for City Manager Serrano. Ms. Militana stated she was proud of the City staff with their hard work, despite being a small staff. She acknowledged department heads, many of whom were in attendance:

James Buonaiuto	Golf Club General Manager
Maryann Cianci	Personnel Manager
Michael Corcoran	Public Safety Commissioner
Ryan Coyne	City Engineer
Carolyn D'Andrea	City Clerk
Kerry Donahue	IT Coordinator
Joseph Fazzino	Deputy Comptroller
George Hogben	Boat Basin Supervisor
Erin Mantz	Deputy Recreation Superintendent
Kerry Lenihan	Building Inspector
Nicole Levitsky	Cable Access Coordinator
Christian Miller	City Planner
Sally Rogol	Superintendent of Recreation
Chris Shoemaker	Library Director
Kurt Tietjen	Fire Lieutenant
Noreen Whitty	City Assessor
Kristen Wilson	Corporation Counsel

Acting City Manager Militana also acknowledged the remaining staff, who work tirelessly to make sure that the City runs efficiently on a daily basis.

Mayor Sack announced that this was his 14th year at the Square House meeting. He recalled a time when he asked the past Councils for guidance. He stated that being a Councilmember was a constant learning process. He thanked for Mayor Steve Otis for his guidance.

Former Mayor Otis stated that Rye was such a special community because of those who have served by volunteerism to make the City a better place. He mentioned the uniqueness of Rye and congratulated Mayor Sack and the Council for their diligent work.

Judge Joseph Latwin thanked the City Council and staff for the support provided to the Court, which is a state institution. He thanked the maintenance crew from DPW for their hard work with the Court. He also thanked the Police Department who have been diligent about enforcement.

Judge Robert Cypher stated that the Court has a welcoming tone. He thanked the court staff personnel individually, who make the court run efficiently and safely.

Mayor Sack recognized former Councilwoman Pat Levine. Ms. Levine thanked the late Ed Grainger for his fight against the bridge that would have connected Rye with Long Island. She also said she was happy to see women in the Councilmember roles. She thanked Mayor Sack and the community.

Marcia Kapilow, former Councilwoman, stated she was very proud to be an alumnus of the City Council group. She said she was proud to be a part of such a beautiful community.

Carolyn Cunningham, former Councilwoman, stated she had been in Rye for 47 years. She was proud to once be Deputy Mayor and currently part of the Conservation Commission. She recognized Tracy Stora for her hard work on the Commission.

Catherine Parker, former Councilwoman and Westchester County Legislator, stated that the Annual Meeting was a reminder of all that was done by the volunteers to make the community succeed.

Andy Ball, former Councilman, stated that his father, who will turn 93 this year, also served on the City Council years ago. He acknowledged the City staff's hard work. He also mentioned the strong volunteerism. He thanked the City Council members for their strong dedication.

Pat Lorusso, former Councilman, stated it was always a pleasure to attend the annual meeting. He was hopeful that Rye could continue with strong people willing to give back to the community.

Maurio Sax, member of the Landmarks Committee, talked about the importance of working across party lines within the community. He also mentioned Jack Zahringer, Landmarks Committee, who believes in the historical importance of the City.

Jerry Coleman, member of the Landmarks Committee, thanked Jack Zahringer and Maurio Sax for their dedication in preserving Rye's history.

Tracy Stora, member of the CC/AC, stated that it was important to preserve the community and was happy to help the City.

Jim Kuster, member of the CC/AC, stated he looked forward to serving for the Conservation Advisory Committee.

Tony Piscionere, member of the Board of Appeals, talked about the Zoning Board of Appeals and the process of cooperation to meet resolution with difficult applications. He thanked the City Council and City staff for their dedication and hard work.

Martha Monserrate, member of the Planning Commission, thanked Mayor Sack and former Mayor Otis for appointing her to the Planning Commission. She said she appreciated the collegiality among the group and within the community.

Russ Gold, member of the Rye Town Park Advisory Committee, thanked the volunteers of Rye and discussed the Rye Town Park Commission. He felt it was important for the park to be protected and preserved.

Carolyn Surhoff, member of the Recreation Commission, stated she was honored to serve on the Recreation Commission. She thanked the community for their hard work in enhancing the parks and keeping the space great for the future.

Sara Goddard, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, thanked the community for allowing her to serve as a volunteer for the City through the Sustainability Committee.

Bob Marrow, Rye resident, stated that the Rye Golf Club has made great strides over the last few years. He thanked City staff for helping improve the golf course.

Richard Smith, Rye resident, stated he has lived in Rye for 35 years. He stated it was his first Square House meeting. He thanked the City Council.

Ralph Valone, Rye resident, stated he moved to Rye 48 years ago. He said each year has gotten better.

Sherri Jordan, former Director of the Rye Historical Society, said that the way the citizens step up makes Rye very unique.

The Square House meeting ended at 8:50 P.M.

The regular meeting of the City Council commenced at Rye City Hall Council Chambers at 9:06 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 Tagger-Epstein announced that the Second Annual Senior Summit program would take place on May 25, 2017 at 9:30 A.M. at the Rye Free Reading Room in the Annex, sponsored by the Rye Senior Advocacy Committee, featuring a variety of important topics. She also mentioned that the Rye Y's Community Roundtable will be sponsoring an event called "All About Lyme" Friday May 12, 2017 at 8:15 A.M. at Rye City Hall.

Councilman Mecca said that the Rye Golf Club had their Opening Day Scramble on Sunday, April 30, 2017. He thanked Jim Buonaiuto, Rye Golf Club Manager, and the staff for a great event. He said that the course looks fantastic and he looks forward to even more improvements.

Councilwoman Killian announced that Rye ACT Parent University will hold an event on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at Rye High School in the Performing Arts Center. There will be a presentation of the data of the survey given to grades 7-12, followed by a presentation given by Dr. Robert DuPont and a workshop. Councilwoman Killian also encouraged the community to drive down Manursing Way to see the beautiful spring daffodils.

Councilwoman Bucci said that the library was hosting the Annual Vehicle Fair on Sunday, May 21, 2017 from 11 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on the Village Green.

Councilwoman Hurd announced that the construction improvements downtown will be completed as projected. She recognized the Sustainability Committee for the planting of the honey locust in the central business district.

Mayor Sack said that the FBI building in Rye was being dedicated May 4, 2017. He also announced that the Rye Youth Council was holding a luncheon on May 4, 2017, and the Midland School Parade will be held May 13, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

4. Draft unapproved minutes of the regular meetings of the City Council held April 5, 2017 and April 19, 2017, the special meetings of the City Council held April 17, 2017 and April 21, 2017 and the Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Rye City School District Board of Education held April 22, 2017.

Mayor Sack made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Killian and unanimously carried, to adopt the minutes of the regular meetings of the City Council held April 5, 2017 and April 19, 2017, the special meetings of the City Council held April 17, 2017 and April

21, 2017 and the Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Rye City School District Board of Education held April 22, 2017.

5. Announcement of the winner of the Rye Sustainability Leadership Award.

Sara Goddard, Rye Sustainability Committee, stated that she was proud to present the Rye Sustainability Leadership Award to individuals who reflected the spirit of Rye sustainability and who worked hard within the community. She was happy to announce that Christine Siller and Taro Ietaka, both of the Rye Nature Center, were the recipients of the award. She recognized both for excelling within the community.

Christine Siller, Rye Nature Center, thanked the Council for keeping sustainability in Rye. She remembered Rye sustainability pioneer, Edith Reed.

6. Issues Update/Old Business.

Councilwoman Killian asked about the possibility of putting benches in the downtown.

7. Consideration of a Resolution regarding the City of Rye's Policy of Immigration Enforcement and Public Safety.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein said that the Human Rights Commission is presenting a resolution to the City to drive an anti-discrimination sentiment throughout the community. She said that many other municipalities have adopted such resolutions denouncing such discrimination. She spoke at length about the current uncertainty with immigration issues and enforcement. She said the resolution speaks against discrimination, but allows the Public Safety Commissioner to create a specific policy.

Suki Van Dijk, 62 Garden Drive, stated support for the resolution, as Rye is a warm and welcoming place.

Robert Byrne, 72 Wappanocca Avenue, asked if she had been approached by City taxpayers who were nervous for their own immigration status. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein clarified that this was a larger scope issue, which could help anyone who those who step foot into the community ease unnecessary fears of persecution. She mentioned the importance of a person being comfortable enough to call for emergency services, without fear that immigration status would be called into question.

Councilwoman Killian stated that despite the resolution, the Commissioner will be updating the policy, as he has done with a myriad of other issues. There was discussion over written policies having a stronger impact within the police department.

Sherri Jordan, 15 Coolidge Avenue, stated that two years ago there was an exhibit on immigration in Rye at the Rye Historical Society. She said that starting in 1850, Rye

experienced an influx of Irish immigrants escaping the potato famine, and then an influx of Italian immigrants. She stressed that immigration has shaped Rye.

Jerry Coleman, 2 Hidden Spring Lane, asked how the initiative be proper before the Council if there was not a quorum of the Human Rights Commission. Mayor Sack responded that the resolution came due to a councilmember. He expressed concern over language within the resolution.

Allison Relyea, 12 Halsted Place, stated it was not just property-owning tax payers who live in this community. She stated support for the resolution.

Tony Piscionere, 363 Boston Post Road, stated support for allowing Police Commissioner Corcoran to create policy. He expressed some concern over language within the resolution. He thanked the Council for listening and for all of their hard work.

Councilwoman Hurd provided a statement of support for the resolution.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein stated support for Commissioner Corcoran's judgment.

Mayor Sack stated that he felt progress was being made with regard to the resolution. He stated some hesitation with the language as it currently stands. He recommended adding language giving the Commissioner as much discretion as possible.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hurd, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The City of Rye is committed to upholding and protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals regardless of their race, creed, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or immigration status

We, the City of Rye, denounce acts of racism, bigotry, xenophobia, religious discrimination, antisemitism and acts of discrimination based on a victim's gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our Department of Public Safety's primary mission is to keep the community of Rye, its residents, workers, and visitors safe. Its practices are designed to promote mutual respect and open dialogue between all members of the community, and law enforcement.

Immigration Enforcement beyond which required by federal or state law is not the role of our City employees and public officials. Consistent with the City Charter and the authority delegated to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the City hereby directs the Commissioner to develop a policy that is consistent with the current practices of the department and in accordance with established policies in Westchester and throughout New

York State, and in any manner that the Commissioner sees fit, within 45 days of the effective date of this Resolution.

Once received, the City Council will consider such policy at its next City Council meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Caryn DeFilippo, Recent Rye resident, stated issue with Rye Town Park in the morning. She stated that her parking pass should work from 6:00 a.m. onward.

9. Consideration of the proposed addition to the Rules and Regulations of the City of Rye Police Department General Order #121.4 regarding a Social Media Policy.

Assistant City Manager Militana explained that Commissioner Corcoran would like to implement a social media policy for the police officers.

Councilwoman Hurd made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein, to adopt the proposed addition to the Rules and Regulations of the City of Rye Police Department General Order #121.4 regarding a Social Media Policy.

ROLL CALL

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

10. Miscellaneous communications and reports.

Mayor Sack recognized Commissioner Corcoran and the Rye Fire Department with their diligence regarding the narcotics issues. He stated that additional resources had been added to aid in the fight against narcotics within the community.

Councilwoman Killian recognized Rye ACT who has contributed to training funding.

11. New Business.

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Mecca made a motion, seconded by Mayor Sack, to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. D'Andrea
City Clerk