



City of Rochelle

Engineering Department

Memo

To: David Plyman, City Manager

CC: Don Elliott, Supt. of Street Division
Curt Ward, Engineering Technician
Chris Frye, Finance Manager
Alan Cooper, City Attorney

From: Sam Tesreau, PE – City Engineer

Date: November 6, 2012

Re: modifications and extension of Articles VII and VIII of chapter 90 of the Rochelle Municipal Code

Encl: (1) proposed modified ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES VII (MUNICIPAL GAS TAX) AND VIII (MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY TAX) OF CHAPTER 90 (TAXATION) TO EXTEND UTILITY TAXES THROUGH APRIL OF 2018

1) On January, 2008, ordinance #08-3636 was approved and adopted amending Chapter 90 of the Rochelle Municipal Code to add articles extending municipal gas and electric rates through April 2013. The available utility tax funds are currently to be allocated for the following projects: sidewalk repair and replacement, street improvements in residential areas lacking curb, gutter and sidewalks, accessibility ramps and other expenses related to those projects. Allocation shall be based upon the amount authorized in the budget for each of the projects during the appropriate fiscal year. This ordinance will end in April, 2013 if not renewed. A majority of the funds have been used throughout the community over the past to repair or replace existing sidewalks, upgrade accessibility ramps, build new or missing sidewalk sections or gaps along with the construction of curb and gutter streets and/or sidewalk in residential areas lacking said infrastructure improvements. Since 1997 over 600,000 sq. ft. of sidewalks and accessibility ramps have been removed and replaced or newly constructed at various locations throughout the City.

2) In FY 2006/07 sidewalks were organized and rated in a multi-year project to address deficiencies in the City's sidewalk and pedestrian access network. While the schedule of replacement is organized in a systematic order based on condition of the existing sidewalk, the schedule is reviewed and adjusted as required on an annual basis due to budgetary funding and other priority projects that may arise during that time. The current multi year program is expected to end in 2013 and a new sidewalk replacement program will be developed for another 5 years to continue to work towards the PROWAG requirements for accessibility on public rights of way. Sidewalk and accessibility ramp replacement and/or new construction will need to continue to be funded as other sections of town age and deteriorate. In addition to sidewalk replacement,

sidewalk accessibility ramps will need to be constructed or reconstructed, with ADA compliant detectable warning surfaces/plates, in many sections of the City. Additionally, alley approach aprons have become an integral part of the sidewalk replacement as many locations provide for an area to turn or pass wheel chairs without running off the walkable surface. Currently the ADA Accessibility guidelines (ADAAG) and the Federal Highway Administration recommend a passing clear width area at least 5 feet wide at intervals not to exceed 200 feet.

It's important to note that there are currently several areas in the community where sidewalk disconnects exist. These disconnects exist in established residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas. Furthermore, certain waterways or tributaries that meander throughout and around Rochelle have provided barriers from one side to the other or connections to other pedestrian or bike paths. Portions of the utility tax funds be used to complete these connections with new sidewalks or pedestrian bridges in order to provide a complete network of sidewalks to serve pedestrian traffic and reduce the pedestrian/vehicle conflicts on suitable off-road facilities.

The current fiscal year cost of the sidewalk pedestrian path replacement program is approximately \$290,000 which is approximately 15% higher than it was in 2008. However, with the potential for cost sharing in state funded grant opportunities, upcoming state/local projects, increasing material, fuel and labor costs the budgeted amount will need to be increased over the next few years to sustain the quantity of infrastructure replacement and/or construction through 2018. Revisions have been made to the ordinance to update the uses for the utility tax funds. Attorney Alan Cooper has reviewed the proposed ordinance and sent the final version on for your consideration.

- 3) Please consider approval and adoption of enclosure (1)