

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 9, 2022

The Regular Legislative Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Furry,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar (7:40), Mr. Moran

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Moran seconded by Mr. Furry that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of April 25th, and the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of May 2nd, be waived and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote: Hunt – aye
Furry – aye
6 ayes

Shepherd – aye
Morris – aye

Gallagher – aye
Moran - aye
0 nays

PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that Tree Planting begins this week on Carmen, Dale, Forestview and Northview Roads. The restrooms in all the parks will be open soon as construction finishes up. At Rocky River Park there is a great deal of driftwood on the beach. Crews will be on the beach within the next couple of weeks for clean-up. The city appreciates the many groups that assist with beach clean-up.

The Mayor asked Director Snyder to explain the door hangars at Council's seats. Director Snyder stated that this is part of the Comprehensive Sidewalk Program. This program was started last year with the intent to make it through the city within 5 years. Last year the focus was north of Lake Road and this year the focus will be south of Lake and north of Detroit Road. Public Works Coordinator Mark Filipic and John Peters of the Building Department will evaluate sidewalks based on the Municipal Code. They will be looking for damaged or lifted concrete blocks and will leave a door hangar if the sidewalks are adjacent to your property. A follow-up letter will be sent by the Building Department stating if it is the adjacent property owner's responsibility due to concrete issues or it might be a combination or if it is related to tree lawn trees or utilities, it is the responsibility of the city. This project will be bid later this year with a similar arrangement as last year meaning residents will be able to reach out to the city's vendor and realize cost savings. The door hangars will be the first step followed by a letter from the city. Sidewalks deemed outside of code, will be marked with dots as explained on the door hangar.

- Councilman Furry asked if there was pushback last year. Director Snyder said there was some, but there is a good understanding of what is being done and that it is for the betterment of the community. The city is still following up on a few from last year.
- Councilwoman Gallagher asked if the city uses the same contractor each year. Director Snyder said it is bid out every year as the cost and the scope of work changes every year. The Mayor stated that the city is evaluating if there is anything on the public side the city needs to do in addition to the sidewalks where tree lawn trees have lifted or a utility issue has caused the problem.

- Councilwoman Morris commented that she replaced sidewalks last year and thought the price was reasonable.
- Director Snyder said there is a significant savings for residents if they reach out early to the city's contractor.
- Councilman Moran asked if there is ever an opportunity to grind or sand a block. Director Snyder said that could work if it falls within the requirements of the sidewalk code. Director Snyder added that leveling sometimes does not address the root of the situation.

The Mayor announced that waterline work will begin on Fairhill and Nelson Park. Erie Road will be done in 2023.

The Spencer Road Project bids came in very good. The Engineer's estimate was \$1.85 million with the bid coming in at \$1.3 million. This has been evaluated and will be in front of Council soon. The Engineer's estimate for Oak and Culver was \$1.9 million and the bid came in slightly higher than \$1.5 million. Unfortunately, the Bradstreet Landing bids were not as good. Director Snyder and the Consulting Engineers will be designing a path forward for additional bids for Bradstreet's Landing. The Mayor added that the city is still committed to opening Bradstreet's Landing as soon as the railing is installed on the pier and will remain open as much as possible through any construction this summer.

The Mayor announced the April Building Stats:

- Building Permits for 2022 are up to 508 from 496 from 2021 for residential and commercial.
- Valuation for 2021 and 2020 were record high years with \$40 and \$60 million respectively for the entire years. The city was at \$16.8 million last year and this year at \$10.2 million. The good news is the city is well ahead of past years and it can change quickly.

Engineering for Argyle, Arundel and Buckingham is commencing. The city should know soon regarding Rockcliff. The Mayor met with Congressman Gonzalez on Tuesday and had a long fruitful conversation.

Safety Town Registration opened today. There will be four sessions during the first two weeks of August. It is open to kindergartners and only Rocky River residents. All structures have been built by the WestShore Technical Group and primed by Cox Communications. Director Snyder is working with the Landscape Engineers to build the roadways and placing the structures by the outdoor pool.

The Senior Center Art Show begins this Saturday with a reception from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Many of the artists will be in attendance. The show will continue through June 10th. The Senior Center won a \$500.00 prize from the Cuyahoga County Mind Challenge for Senior Centers for submitting eight trivia teams. The Rocky River Senior Center will be hosting some of the playoffs.

The Mayor announced that Senior Center Director Deb Huff and Program Coordinator Laurie Schaefer will be presenting at the State Conference in Columbus next week. Director Huff will be presenting on Policies and Procedures for Senior Centers and Laurie will present on how to set up a trivia challenge.

On Wednesday, a time capsule will be placed by the Rocky River Chamber of Commerce for their 100-year anniversary. The ceremony will be held at "Behind the Woods". The city has contributed several items and the Mayor will be writing a letter to the future including remarks from the Chamber's Gala a few months ago.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

Mr. Moran said this is payment to the City of Cleveland for the annual cost of the water meter readings for the consumption data needed to generate the sanitary sewer bills in the amount of \$33,775.08. From 2018 through 2022, the highest bill was \$34,108 with a low of \$33,251. The cost is always within a \$1,000 range. This will be discussed more at next week's meeting with a third read in two weeks.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-22 **BY: DAVID W. FURRY**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR MORLEY PARK FROM SNIDER RECREATION INC. AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$64,760.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
2nd READING

This ordinance is for the purchase of playground equipment for Morley Park. Last week Mr. Furry shared the latest colored renderings of the project. From a distance, the current playground equipment looks fine, closer inspection, not so much.

The removal of the current structure and excavation of space will be completed by the city and the installation of the new equipment will be by Snider with an average lead time of six to eight weeks.

Six proposals were vetted by the Parks and Rec Commission, the Parks and Rec Foundation as well as Recreation Department staff. Snider Recreation was the lowest and best bid. Mr. Furry added that 35% of the new equipment is recycled material. Mr. Furry will be seeking passage in two weeks.

- Councilwoman Morris asked what happens to the removed structure. Mr. Snyder said it is being disposed of by the contractor. The Mayor added that you cannot remove a playground structure and place it somewhere else.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-22 **BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE PARTS AS NEEDED FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
2nd READING

Mr. Shepherd said Best Equipment is the local provider for parts for repair of leaf grinders and refuse compactor trucks. There have been unexpected repairs this year and the city would like to have an additional \$45,000 for the year, in case additional repairs are needed. There have not been any questions regarding this ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran wished Director Snyder a happy birthday!

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Pat Roberts, 3 Hidden Valley, has lived in Rocky River for 31 years. A year and a half ago, a sewer line exploded by the creek and 100 feet of pipe needed replaced. Director Snyder, the County and EPA met with Mrs. Roberts. Thirty-three residents covered the cost of \$50,000 to repair the sewer line. Mrs. Roberts has reports with initiatives from Elizabeth Eisner from the County. The Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District surveyed the watershed stream maintenance and shared various ideas. Three engineers also came to look at the erosion and the wall. The Hidden Valley residents had their landscaper use only eco-friendly products which costs more and had them eliminate the evasive plants. The residents removed asphalt found on the hillside and in the water, filling a pick-up truck. Mrs. Roberts applied for a grant from Cuyahoga County for trees that will be planted this Saturday with the help of RRHS students. Mrs. Roberts also is involved with Wildflowers and will plant eco-friendly wildflowers to help with the bugs

with plants that are bee pollinators. The residents are also redoing the side of the creek with an engineer for an additional \$30,000. Mrs. Roberts stated that the engineers have stated the culvert is too small. It is 40-years old with excessive build up. The stream and back-up can cause accelerated erosion process. The report from the engineers stated that a community should have a policy in place in addressing stream maintenance issues according to the Ohio Drainage Law. In the policy it states that the community will address maintenance problems on private property if it threatens the infrastructures and if the problems are severe. Spencer Creek aligns with Elmwood Park and it goes to the water district. Mrs. Roberts is asking the city for help to clean the culvert.

- The Mayor asked who will be attending the meeting Wednesday? Director Snyder stated that Jared Bartley from Cuyahoga County Soil and Water District, Councilman Hunt, Mrs. Roberts and himself.
- Councilman Furry asked if the culvert is at the bottom of the hill. Director Snyder said yes.
- Director Snyder stated that he has worked with Mrs. Roberts significantly along with Cuyahoga County Soil and Water and they are providing free plant stakes to help stabilize the hillside. There are additional issues causing the erosion outside of the tributary to Spencer Creek. There are downspouts from adjacent properties that are causing erosion. Mr. Snyder said they worked together to procure, at a discounted rate, the trees that the HS students are planting.
- The Mayor stated there was a sewer issue that was internal to the private development.
- Mrs. Roberts stated that Director Snyder has been stellar. The Mayor said the city will be down there but it is on private property, so it is not the city's immediate responsibility. The city will look at what you are presenting but the culvert is contributing and that culvert is part of the infrastructure of the private development. The city will see what they can help with.
- Mr. Snyder asked for copies of the report from the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water District from Mrs. Roberts.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next City Council Meeting will be held on May 16, 2022 in Council Chambers.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council