

**REVISED
CITY OF ROCKY RIVER**

April 14, 2025

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

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Shipp, Mr. O’Boyle,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

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

Law Director: Mr. O’Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Hunt that the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting April 7th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Hunt that the reading of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting April 7th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The weather is now breaking and Rich Snyder has informed the Mayor that they now have a new task, Operation Orange Barrell. Crack sealing is happening, potholes are being repaired, sink holes are being addressed both by the Sewer Department and Streets Department. So be careful. You will see a lot of our employees out fixing the roads.

The Mayor gave a NOACA funding update. It’s all good news. The US Department of Transportation has recertified NOACA. The certification is good for four years. We, along with ODOT take advantage of grants that flow through NOACA. They are our regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Second, the Governor signed the transportation budget very favorably to communities across the state. The Federal Highway Administration advised NOACA that they can proceed with a \$15M EV charging station program. There is a statewide charging plan and it was \$15M just for the MPO which consists of five counties. Very good news and happy to see some concrete information coming from NOACA.

You will see some activity at the fire station this week. They will be performing soil borings as we prepare for the engineering of the new fire station.

You should have all received the Ready Notify notice about Detroit Road. It will be closed tomorrow morning from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. so Cleveland Water can make a new connection between Smith Court and Lakeview. There will be a detour.

Next week the sidewalk replacement work under the Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beachcliff and Lake will commence. The Mayor thanked Rich Snyder for making that happen.

The Mayor gave a quick update on the State budget. They are moving at an accelerated pace. Both the Senate and the House have their versions and this will go to Conference Committee. They will be in recess for a short time during the Easter and Passover holidays but they will be back to negotiate a final two-year budget.

Rich Snyder will be attending a deer management conference. The animal control officer has attended this in the past but he and the Mayor felt that it would be important for Rich to attend also and get some additional information on how we might be able to manage the deer population and some of the destruction that goes along with their co-existing with us.

On Friday, City Hall will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

The Mayor began speaking about consolidated dispatch. The Mayor wanted to share the most recent update. The Westshore Council of Governments met on Wednesday, and they had a good discussion. No final decision was made. The discussion was productive because everyone said what they felt about the decision that they are facing.

The Mayor gave a brief history. In 2006, Westcom, consolidated four fire departments, Rocky River, Fairview Park, Westlake, and Bay Village. St John Hospital has been the host for about 19 years and are a source of pride for everyone. The State of Ohio and the county had mandates regarding PSAPs (public safety answering points). The state said they wanted about 14 PSAPs instead of hundreds of them. Over the years there has been a fair amount of consolidation, such as CVD, (Chagrin Valley Dispatch). There are approximately more than 30 communities, mainly on the east side that have consolidated their dispatch function. The city did a study conducted by Emergency Services Consulting, Inc who looked at the full consolidation of several communities in the Westshore. One of the things they shared is the way we operated at the time was much like a fire district and that was what we were looking for to create some efficiencies, improve response times, etc. At that time, they gave us between 70 and 80 actionable items across every community. Today you see automatic and mutual aid through Westcom and it's an amazing thing. The Mayor said think about the fires that we have had, the one on Hillard actually melted a brand-new fire truck that Fairview Park brought to the scene. We've been very fortunate. Several years ago, when we opened Westcom, we thought it would be a few short years and we would be opening the police consolidated dispatch with Westcom. That has not happened for a variety of reasons. The discussions began again due to the cost of dispatching, ability to find dispatchers and several other issues. We revisited this looking for state and county dollars to assist us with that process. One community signed a contract, and one was close to signing to move their dispatch from the west side to the east side. We were not one of them and it created a lot of issues with the safety forces and dispatchers and most importantly the residents who said they didn't want it to happen. The Mayor offered to write a grant and to do an operational plan for consolidated police and fire. It was presented to the county, and they funded it in the amount of \$225,000.00. This wasn't a study; it was more about looking at four different potential sites along with CVD and find a way to have buying power together and share protocols. The four sites were Lakewood, St John Hospital, which is the current location of Westcom, North Olmsted and Westlake Community Center, which was the number one choice because it is a very large place and offers a lot of things.

In the past, you had a landline and when you would call 911 a name and address show up. Today, you use a cell phone and it is triangulated in the towers and goes to CECOMS which is the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System. They answer and say, "Where are you calling from?". But think about if you are traveling in this area or are a visitor to our community, people may not watch mile markers or know what community they are in. That becomes very difficult to dispatch. CECOMS must figure that out and in the meantime, seconds are ticking away. If a person says "Rocky River" the call comes right here, and they will go right out. They will also go to Westcom, EMS and/or police because often police are needed. As you can see, there is a step in there that everyone is trying to eliminate. The Mayor said we have great response times, about 4 minutes from the time they get the call to the time they leave the station. If a person looks at their cell phone bill, you will see a charge on the bill that is actually part of the State budget. It will be about \$.40 or \$.60, etc.

Next Generation 911 system requires the County to do GIS mapping of every address so when your phone hits a cell tower, they know exactly where it should go and will be routed to the closest consolidated dispatch. That is why this discussion is so important because that call quickly goes where it needs to go so safety forces can respond. The mapping is currently being completed.

We want dispatch for fire and police together. Often times it may be an EMS or fire call, but police officers are needed for many reasons, such as traffic control or they may be closest to the scene at the time of the call, etc. Having that coordinated system makes a lot of sense. Our police department is a 24/7 operation. This is not a cost saving of personnel because we still have to have personnel at our station. We have a jail, and we always want to be open should any resident need the police at any time. The Police Chief and Director Snyder share this opinion as well.

North Olmsted has needs. They had older equipment, had to buy new equipment, each dispatch console is around \$200,000.00. The technology in them is incredible and so they had to start building out their center. At the time they took on Fairview Park and housed their prisoners. They took on Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township, whom we do not have agreements with.

The County offered us \$3M and said if you could get five communities to fully consolidate you will get the money to help with the process. We have not accomplished that. Then they said a few months ago, they would modify the requirements to four communities. We already had four communities with fire but now needed four on the police side. We are still not there because Fairview Park has a contract with North Olmsted. Currently we are looking at two things. Westlake has a plan and presented it to all the mayors last Wednesday at the COG meeting. We are waiting for a decision from the County if they will extend the deadline. We have been working with our county councilman who has been listening to all our concerns and perspectives. We want to get this right. The Mayor would like it located in Westlake. The building has technology and a large parking lot. Her vision is greater than just a dispatch center. Her vision is also a safety center that houses the fire and police dispatch with highly trained individuals and then put the Westshore Enforcement Bureau there. They work with the FBI and the ATF and their presence makes a lot of sense. We are keeping everyone in the loop as to updates. The Mayor thanked everyone for listening and stressed the importance of this transition. She thinks there may be state money if they are able to secure the \$3M, then leverage that for some additional dollars.

- Mr. O'Boyle asked the Mayor if she said that we have 4 communities or are we working towards the four. She responded that we have four committed on the fire side because we are all a part of Westcom but need to get four on the police side. In regards to her mayor colleagues, she believes they are all trying to do what is best, with council's consultation, for our communities and with communicating to our residents what is best for our community. It may not be the same in another community and we have to be accepting of that but still look at what the opportunities are for us. The Mayor feels they have a study that points to Westlake, we know the path forward and can create a safety center for training and asset storage, etc.
- Mrs. Morris asked the Mayor how long the Fairview Contract is for and the Mayor stated that it is a three-year contract but has an out clause. Mrs. Morris then asked if there is push back about Westlake being the place. The Mayor stated no but she thinks it would be fair to say that North Olmsted would like to see their space filled to capacity. North Olmsted has not been a part of Westcom. There was a provision in the Westcom agreement back in 2005 and 2006, among all the communities that if they wanted to join, they certainly could. Berea may be interested in joining North Olmsted. We have different protocols that can be traversed.
- Mr. Furry asked if we had any kind of drop-dead date. The Mayor stated that Chris Alvarado, with the county, was with them on Wednesday and said he would work with the County Executive and County Council to see if we could modify that date given that this plan from Westlake was just being presented. The purpose of last Monday's meeting, in North Olmsted was to ask them about a transition plan for Westcom for the fire component and they said they had a plan and the Mayor asked them to present it. She had hoped the presentation would be a plug and play with all the staffing and protocols they worked on. The fire chiefs and the fire departments have done such a tremendous job in working on the standard operating procedures that making modifications to that could be challenging. The Mayor said her door is always open.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

The Mayor stated that if you were here last week, you met Michelle Root who was sitting in the audience. She is the new Executive Assistant in the Mayor’s Office and has already very quickly become my left and right hand. She is tremendous and is filling in for Sue. This is her very first council meeting sitting in as the Council Clerk.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-25 BY: DAVID W. FURRY
AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND TO AMEND AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 88-24
(3rd READING)**

Mr. Furry stated that Ordinance 14-25 changes relate to all changes to wages and benefits. First is appropriations for severance payments for the Mayor’s office and Judges. Also to move the budget for the Planning and Community Development Administration position out of the Building Department budget to the Planning and Community Development Department. The offset between the two departments is not one-to-one as an additional adjustment for the Planning and Community Development Director was needed. Director Holub and Finance Director Thomas looked at the Recreation Department original appropriations and found the projection for full-time staff to be insufficient, it was a budgeting issue and not related to a new position.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if it was a new position, and why would there be fringe benefits. Mr. Furry stated he thinks that they may not have put in enough for either part-time positions, asked if that was what Director Holub said. Mr. Thomas said that the fringe benefits are the pension and PERS that are linked to the wage change that was needed. The Mayor stated they are listed separately and if you look at the budget you will see wages, but all of the fringe benefits are listed as well. Mr. Furry said that is the way the private sector also have to contribute.

Mr. Furry made a motion to seek passage of Ordinance 14-25. Ms. Morris seconded the motion.

Vote: Hunt – aye Gallagher – aye Shipp – aye O’Boyle – aye
Morris – aye Sindelar – aye Furry – aye
7 – ayes 0 - nays **PASSED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-25 BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RMH CONCRETE AND FOUNDATIONS, INC. FOR THE ROCKY RIVER PARK STORM SEWER AND SIDEWALK PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$82,545.95, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”
(3rd READING)**

Mr. Sindelar has talked about this for several weeks and really honed in on the effect to the slope of the hill and saving it from washing away or heaving out. One thing he hadn’t discussed and left out is that the completion of this is that we are going to have new sidewalks over there atop of the wall and an ADA compliant curb ramp installed at the north end of the sidewalk. The other thing is that the Recreation Department is replacing the fencing over there to match the new stairs which, if anyone has not seen them, are beautiful. It makes it stand out, clean, nice and not rickety. We will keep in the theme of the new steps and have a fence over there. That is not only important to its functionality but the practicality of this project and its investments in keeping our parks beautiful and strong. He thinks we do a good job of that by seeing the number of parks we have.

Mr. Sindelar made a motion to seek passage of Ordinance 15-25. Ms. Morris seconded the motion.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 16-25

BY: MICHAEL J. O’BOYLE

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF A PROPOSED SHORE STRUCTURE AND APPROVAL OF A LAKE ERIE SUBMERGED LAND LEASE FROM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR) ADJACENT TO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 301-01-004, 301-01-003 AT 365 WAGAR RD, ROCKY RIVER, OHIO
(2nd READING)**

Mr. O’Boyle said this was discussed last time and he was going to simply read what he said at that time. He said this is a request for a council resolution which will verify that the area of the submerged land lease is not needed by the city. The proposed activity is an armor stone revetment along the length of the property shoreline and an existing revetment crossing the property line from the eastern adjoining property. This is simply a resolution on our part that we do not have any immediate need for this submerged land. Will save for next meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 436 REPRESENTING CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE ROCKY RIVER SERVICE DIVISION, AND CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”
(2nd READING)**

Mr. Furry stated this is for a three-year agreement retroactive from 1/1/25 to 12/31/27 with Teamsters Local 436 representing certain employees of the Service Division and certain employees of the Rec Department. We do have time constraints on this so if we do not move for passage within thirty days it automatically goes into effect. All of you received the red line version on Tuesday and then an updated red lined version from Michelle with a couple of changes that were missed. The first was on the probation where it went from ninety (90) days to one hundred twenty (120) days. The Mayor clarified that it did say 120 but it was just not spelled out. The other change was with the longevity. It referenced either percentage, whichever one was higher and is reflected in the wage ordinance. It also clarified overtime definitions and pay increases for the various service grades, general laborer grades and recreation grades of 3.0% for 2025, 3.5% for 2026 and 4.0% for 2027. It also set caps of 15% employee contribution for Plan A health benefits for medical, prescription drug and dental premiums. It also addressed vacation pay for various tenure anniversaries. Mr. Furry stated that he will need to make an amendment by substitution to reflect the probationary typo and the longevity.

Mr. Furry stated that he wanted to make a motion to amend by substitution the red-lined version reflecting the changes, seconded by Mr. Sindelar.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

Mr. Furry made a motion to amend by substitution to reflect probationary typo, seconded by Mr. Sindelar.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

Mr. Furry made a motion to read a second time by title only Amended Ordinance 17-25. Mrs. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 20-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING AMENDED ORDINANCE 76-24, FOR POSITIONS AND FIXING OR ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND HOURLY RATES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025, FOR THE APPOINTED EMPLOYEES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

(2nd Reading)

We are amending amended Ordinance 76-24 for positions and fixing or establishing annual salaries and hourly rates commencing January 1, 2025, for the appointed employees in the several divisions and departments of the City of Rocky River. That was a long-winded version of what is commonly known as our wage ordinance. This is a direct result of 17-25 whereas when we initially amended ordinance 76-24 the collective bargaining agreement with certain employees of the service division as well as certain employees of the rec department was not finalized. Everyone received the red line version which showed the laddered retro 3% for 2025, 3.5% for 2026 and 4.0% for 2027. And then with the redder version that we received we will need to amend by substitution which everyone also received via email. This is similar to what happened with Ord 17-25.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if this was for everyone who didn't get the 3% last year. Mr. Furry stated that they are getting it retroactively. The Mayor stated that everyone receives the same increases and that they have standardized that with five bargaining units. This Teamsters contract covers part of Recreation but all of Service. We will negotiate another Teamsters contract just for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They are a separate bargaining unit. There are two bargaining units in Police and then Fire is one whole contract.

Mr. Furry stated he would like to amend by substitution the most recent red line version to Ordinance 20-25. Mrs. Morris seconded the motion which is the 4/11/25 exhibit.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 20-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING AMENDED ORDINANCE 76-24, FOR POSITIONS AND FIXING OR ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND HOURLY RATES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025, FOR THE APPOINTED EMPLOYEES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

(2nd Reading)

Next, Mr. Furry made a motion to suspend the three-read rule on Ordinance 20-25, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

Mr. Furry made a motion for passage of Amended Ordinance 20-25. Mr. Sindelar seconded the motion.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 21-25

BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED IN 2025.

(1st READING)

Mr. Sindelar stated that this is an annual ordinance, salt bid from ODOT but it allows cost to be driven down by the amount of municipalities that sign this contract. Attached is pricing from previous years per tonnage. There were increases around 2020 due to supply chain issues but thankfully it stabilized in 2024. We do not know the 2025 price

yet because they have not bid the contract until everyone gets their signed agreements in. The city received this on April 3rd and need it back by May 1st. Mr. Sindelar proposed that it be read one more time at the next legislative meeting. They are giving us a good price, but they need it back sooner than later.

- Mr. Furry stated that is fine and that it has been done annually but would like to get two reads in.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Furry stated that City Council will not meet next Monday due to Easter break.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Andrea Mediate 21246 Maplewood Ave, Rocky River. Ms. Mediate is the President of the Rocky River Green Team and a resident. She has been following progress of Lake/Clifton Rd project since 2021. She thought it would be helpful to view the project up close and personal. Met this past weekend with some others at the end of Battersea to walk the proposed trail. Shortly after pulling out the plans, a woman approached with her two sons. She has a front row view of all the traffic over the bridge. The bridge is an eye sore and is noisy. She is eager to share this project with her Battersea neighbors. The woman said it was the first time she had heard about the project. While walking the trail there were a couple of things they were happy to see. First, coming off the bridge towards Rocky River, the trail tucks neatly behind the Marion ramp and immediately becomes a much quieter neighborhood experience for anyone using the trail. Also liked that as you drive over the bridge into Lakewood, the bike lane to nowhere on the Southside is going to be removed and replaced by Eastbound traffic. Ms. Mediate's interaction with the Battersea resident brought a couple things to light. First, many things are going on in the city that residents aren't aware of. She'd like improved communication on city matters. She liked the library conversation with Mr. Furry and Mrs. Morris. Second, lots of younger families would benefit from this project. Happy with comments from last week about it being a jewel but there were more questions and concerns. She is encouraging council to ask questions to make the most informed decision as soon as possible. Asked how the legislation will be brought to council and when this will occur.

Mr. Furry responded that they have been discussing it. The Mayor stated that Law Director O'Shea is going to be modifying the agreement, but Lakewood has already signed. We are going to modify it to have financial protections in it, and it will be reviewed by the County. If it is approved, it will come back here and start the process of going through Council.

Patricia Sharkey 3420 Wooster Rd, Rocky River. Wants to talk about the Clifton / Lake Rd Green Space Enhancement. She was involved with a Westlake family who had to deal with the North Olmsted fiasco over Crocker Bassett and every time they postponed it, it cost the taxpayers more money because it went on for years. She feels the same thing is going to happen with this one if we don't get it in now while we have the money and it will just cost more in the future.

Tim Piai 20303 Westhaven, Rocky River. Hasn't spoken at council for almost 20 years. Said thank you for the Linden tennis courts, and the safety director for many improvements over the years. The Safety Director and the service people are great. The police are wonderful. The Building Department is great since they have a neighbor feeding the deer Wonder Bread. The Mayors' Office is great and there is a great culture in council by maintaining decency. He hears many compliments about the Mayor and council. Someone told him he could speak about the bike project. He stated that people around town had a lot of compliments about this project and like that the Mayor is open minded but likes to do things the right way and find grants and not just rush into it. People have heard that council is very open-minded too. He rides his bike around the city a lot and meets people around town. Thinks the bike project is important for families and the bicycle culture. Feels no bridge is adequate for bikers. Too many distracted drivers and speed. Says many people he has spoken to say Lake Road makes them the most uncomfortable. Sidewalks are raised and terrifying when another biker is coming the other direction. Many experienced bikers will simply ride down the middle of the car lane as they are permitted to do, but most admitted they feel unsafe. This maneuver is difficult for experienced riders as well as families with children or elderly bikers. This pushes most bikers

up to Detroit Road but that has much heavier traffic. He believes in the bike trail lifestyle and feels there is great value in this project and hopes you consider this a priority.

Mr. Furry asked Mr. Piai to email that document. Mr. Piai said he would email it to the council clerk or the Mayor. Council said it was one of the greatest speeches that was ever told at council. It was very feel good. Mr. Piai says that council shares humanity and practicality.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the Legislative Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. There will be a meeting on April 28, 2025.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Michelle Root
Acting Clerk of Council