

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 1, 2025

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

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

Council Members Absent: Mr. Hunt

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor began by congratulating the Rocky River High School Football Team on making the city proud with their accomplishments. The Mayor reached out to the Superintendent asking if there is a way the city could honor the football team for making it further than any other team in the 108-year history which is worthy of notice. The Mayor will let Council know when she hears back. A big congratulations to the Pirates.

The Mayor thanked everyone who came to the Senior Center's two ribbon cuttings and thanked Councilwoman Morris for attending. The Mayor encourages everyone to stop in at the Senior Center and see the new spaces being utilized as it makes the additions come to life. A big thank you to Director Huff and her staff and Millstone Construction who did a tremendous job. The Mayor has never seen a greater construction project and thanked Director Snyder for the weekly meetings, which was part of why it was a success.

The Mayor announced that there will be a Public Hearing on Monday, December 8th regarding the Budget. Director Thomas has published the notice in the local newspaper.

The Mayor congratulated Directors Kerber and Snyder for being awarded the Clean Ohio Trails Fund in the amount of a little over \$148,000 for the Senior Center Trail Project. This will extend the trail that is already around the Civic Center to continue around the Senior Center by the Community Garden and out to Wagar Road. This project will end up creating a large loop on City Hall Campus.

The Mayor thanked the twelve members of the Service Division who worked on Thanksgiving Day away from their families making sure the streets were kept safe by salting and plowing. The Mayor mentioned that when it continues to snow, salt is not laid down because it would just be plowed up. Hills, intersections and sometimes cul-de-sacs will be salted, but not on streets such as Hilliard Blvd. until the snow slows down. Sidewalks also need to be free and clear of snow and ice to the extent that it is possible. The city will be sending out a ReadyNotify to residents and business owner's responsibilities. Center Ridge is particularly difficult. The city is not responsible for clearing Center Ridge sidewalks but the city does many times. Unfortunately, companies are plowing large parking lots and plow the snow on to the sidewalks. Director Snyder and the Building Department are communicating with the larger commercial areas regarding snow removal on the sidewalks.

Leaf collection has been suspended a couple of days due to the snowfall. The city will resume leaf collection after the next round of snow that is in the forecast for tonight and tomorrow. The week of December 19th will be the final pass in the city for leaf collection. After that, residents should bag their leaves in brown paper bags to be picked up by the Refuse Department.

The Mayor shared the November Building Statistics: The city has about 90 less permits between residential and commercial but the added valuation is at \$72 million as compared to \$63 million at this time last year. The Mayor added that there are not projects of scale currently in the city as there were in the past budgets where the city hit some all-time highs.

The Mayor shared that the Heritage Home Loan Program sent their third quarter report stats. There have been several site visits. From January 2025 through September 2025 there were 537 contacts with homeowners. Thirty-six homeowners required or requested technical assistance and 120 site visits. Three loans have been signed and three are under review totaling close to a quarter of a million dollars. The Mayor mentioned a few weeks ago that the Heritage Home Loan Program is changing slightly as they lost their 2% loan partner Key Bank. There will be a new loan product that will be 3% below market interest rates which is a very competitive rate. The Mayor's recommendation would be to continue this program as the city has had great success with it. The participation fee will be \$14,550.00 for next year which is a slight increase because the number of 50+ year old houses eligible for the program will increase to 5,213. The Program charges \$2.19 per household. The city will initiate this program again and will send the contract to City Council for review. The Mayor said that it is ok if it is passed after the first of the year. The Mayor just received this on November 25th.

The Mayor announced that the Holiday Walk, Parade and Street Dance will be this Saturday. The Parade kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with many units participating. Santa will be stationed at Once Upon a Time Toy Store on Detroit Road. Santa will make his way down to the Street Dance around 3:30-4:00 p.m. on Old Detroit Road. There will be entertainment all day long on the stage on Old Detroit Road along with strolling musicians, carolers, jugglers, magicians and all kinds of entertainment. It is going to be a great day. A big thank you to everyone who has been a part of the planning including the Service Department, Directors Kerber, Snyder and Holub, the Chamber of Commerce, et cetera. It is one of those things that takes a village to accomplish. The administration is very excited for Saturday and hoping for good weather.

The Mayor respectfully requests an Executive Session under Article 10, Section 6, Subsection 4 to discuss two union negotiation matters which are two collective bargaining matters.

- Councilwoman Morris commented that the new sign at the Senior Center is really lovely. She also asked about the deer culling. The Mayor said that she, Director Snyder and Councilman Hunt met with someone from ODNR. He was one of the most knowledgeable people the Mayor has met with regards to deer culling. There is a lot the city and community can do. The city is going to start with a community survey asking what sort of issues residents are experiencing in their yard and neighborhood. This includes everything from landscaping to car incursions. The survey will be launched after the first of the year. The city is looking for clusters of areas where the city could then initiate a program. There are a lot of different things they can do. The Mayor said that in January the MetroParks start their deer culling and continue through March. The MetroParks is highly effective with their culling that spans over several weeks. This would be an adjunct to the work the MetroParks is doing. The first thing will be public information regarding things residents should and should not do. The Federal Government can also come in and assist the city with this issue. Director Snyder intends to add a page on the website specifically for this. The nice thing is the survey can be done online. There will be a link for the survey and the ODNR will take the data, populate it and help the city determine a solid path forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: President Furry reminded City Council that there is a meeting this Friday, December 5th for the annual Budget Hearing at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Furry also reminded Council to meet with their Directors, complete their report and forward it to Clerk Pease.

MOTION:

President Furry moved for an Executive Session under Article 10, Section 6, Subsection 4 to discuss two CBA matters before the discussion of the two ordinances and the conclusion of this meeting, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher.

Vote: Mrs. Gallagher – aye	Mr. O’Boyle – aye	Mr. Shipp - aye	
Mrs. Morris – aye	Mr. Sindelar – aye	Mr. Furry – aye	
6 – ayes	0 – nays		PASSED

President Furry moved to wave the 72-Hour Notification Rule for Ordinance No. 100-25 and Ordinance No. 101-25, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher.

Vote: Mrs. Gallagher – aye	Mr. O’Boyle – aye	Mr. Shipp - aye	
Mrs. Morris – aye	Mr. Sindelar – aye	Mr. Furry – aye	
6 – ayes	0 – nays		PASSED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance Nos. 50-25, 51-25 and 52-25: Mr. Furry said that these are still a work in progress with some work being done with the administration and the WestShore Council of Governments.

Ordinance No. 54-25: Mr. Furry said that Councilman Hunt worked on some changes on this ordinance and he will discuss that more next week. Please review the bold version of the new exhibit.

Ordinance No. 84-25: Mr. Furry said that this is the next step requiring Council approval. Finance Manager Lindow and Finance Director Thomas have been actively working with the financing team consisting of Tim Reidy with Raymond James as underwriter, Blake Beachler with Calfee and Halter & Griswold as Bond Counsel and Matt Stuczynski with MAS Financial and AJ Allen with Davenport & Company. This ordinance is the trifecta of Council action of Ordinance 73-25 on the GMP Contract totaling \$14,448,336 and Ordinance 63-25 the Declaration of Intent and Reimbursement as well as the temporary design, housing and owners rep. This authorizes the planned note issuance not to exceed \$12.5 million which will take place in the first quarter of 2026 but would like to get this done in 2025. This is a maximum amount and may be less based on such factors as cash flow, budgeted capital, projects, current year end balances and interest rates. The BAN or Bond Anticipation Note will have a one-year maturity sometime in the first quarter of 2027 and can be extended for additional years. The City’s Finance team will continuously review market and financial conditions for the best long-term option. The city also has available a state program known as OMAP or Ohio Market Access Program which was initiated by the State of Ohio after the 2008 financial crisis and has the full faith and backing of the State of Ohio which adds additional credit enhancement to the city with potential reduction of issuance costs to the city. Council has heard from the municipal advisors MAS Financial and Davenport & Company earlier in the time frame and sequence of events and Mr. Furry has been discussing this for several weeks and obviously this is a component of the fire station piece that has been in the works and everyone has known about it. He will be looking for a final read and will seek passage at the Legislative Meeting on December 8th. This will not be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance Nos. 85-25 – 87-25: Mr. Sindelar said he would like to start a consent agenda with these three ordinances. These ordinances have been discussed for several weeks. These ordinances are to enter into an agreement with McGowan Insurance and underwritten by Munich RE. There has literally been no discussion. These agreements have very minimal increases and he has hammered the reason the city has not gone out to market. There have been no questions.

Amended Ordinance No. 88-25: Mr. Sindelar said this is the contract to enter with Perk Company for the Center Ridge Gateway Improvement Project. He has discussed this for a while. This has been a piece-by-piece project and for specifics there has not been much discussion or questions. He would like to add this to the consent agenda also.

Ordinance No. 89-25: Mr. Sindelar said that Director Greco said there were only minimal changes in the contract as far as cost. Mr. Sindelar said this will be added to the consent agenda as these were not large expenditure increases.

Ordinance No. 90-25: President Furry said this is the annual wage ordinance for 2026. Some general items are the state minimum wage increases to \$11.00 an hour. The secretary position was added for the Charter Review Commission which is done every six years with the same salary as 2020. The Civil Service Commission Member rate increased to \$50.00 a month from \$30.00 a month where it had been for quite a while. The title of Assistant Senior Center Director was added in expectation of the Director's retirement. Police and Service received a 3.5% bump per their contracts and accordingly exempts saw the same as they follow what CBAs receive. Mr. Furry expects this will need to be amended at some point as Fire and WWTP are still in negotiations for their 2026-2028 contracts. This will probably be amended by substitution.

Ordinance No. 91-25: Mrs. Morris said this is legislation for the purchase of a Ford F250 Standard Cab Pick-up Truck with a plow connection. It is replacing a 2008 Chevy pick-up truck which is extremely broken down as seen in the pictures forwarded to Council. This is for the WWTP so they can keep their pathways safe. Superintendent Barille had planned on purchasing this next year, which is in his budget for next year, but has money left in this year's budget and would like to purchase it now as the price is right. Mrs. Morris has had no discussion or questions on this ordinance and would like this on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 92-25: President Furry said this is the second read on the proposed 2026 Budget that was presented to Council on November 17th. Mr. Furry stated earlier that the operating portion of the budget is basically cost of living adjustments while the capital side is a little more intensive. This will be delved into more at the Budget Hearing this Friday morning. Mr. Furry asks that all Council Members meet with their respective directors. Mr. Furry said that the budget is aggressive but this body can make changes if necessary as was done during the great recession in 2008 when changes were made when necessary. The city needed to cut corners on street repairs then so Council and the administration have always been reactive if need be to the market conditions.

Ordinance Nos. 93 - 94-25: Mrs. Gallagher said these ordinances are yearly ordinances. 93-25 requests authorization to purchase fuel on the Open Market for the 2026 calendar year. As with past years, we compare pricing between vendors and the state bid prices to obtain the best price. Mrs. Gallagher will forward a list of bid prices to Council. Mrs. Gallagher said 94-25 is similar in that it allows Frank Sinito, the lead mechanic, to shop prices for tires for the 2026 calendar year before making a purchase. He obtains three estimates for the same or comparable tire and makes the purchase based on the best price.

- Mrs. Morris asked if the mechanics could replace tires at the shop along with balancing them. The

Mayor said yes and they do a really good job.

Ordinance No. 95-25: Mr. Furry said this ordinance is to make the supplemental appropriations for the current expenses as the supplemental always need to be tweaked and it might need to be amended by substitution by year end. The General Fund is requiring an additional transfer to debt service fund, a correction to engineer categories from prior 58-25 and adjusted IT for a new staff health insurance. Capital Improvement and Sewer Rehab was budget compliance of available resources, projects not done in 2025, estimated revenues reduced due to less than original budget. The Health Insurance Reserve was adjusted to year end estimated claims.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 96-25: Mr. Sindelar said that this ordinance requests the authorization to enter into a contract with DiGioia-Suburban Excavating for Westmoor, Glendale and Orchard Gove. It will be sewer, water main and pavement replacement. The project will not exceed \$4,919,685.00. The city received five bids and DiGioia was \$168,000 less than the next bid from Fabrizi. Also to note, the city was awarded \$650,000 from Cleveland Water as part of the Suburban Water Main Renewal Program. This is an agreement entered into early on so the city receives reimbursement of all the water mains which has been a good cost savings for the city. DiGioia does have the necessary experience for this project and has done this type of work in Rocky River about a decade ago on Frazier. There are no unresolved findings on the Auditor of State database. DiGioia is also recommended by the cities of Strongsville and South Euclid. This will have three full reads on this.

- President Furry noted that Section 3 on the legislation includes the reimbursement amount from Cleveland Water.

Ordinance No. 97-25: This is an agreement to enter into contracts with Medical Mutual to provide Healthcare, Prescription and Vision Insurance coverage. These are standard insurance coverages for employees. There have been minimal changes in each one. The Mayor added that Vision coverage is optional for employees. The city bids it out so the employees can take advantage but there is no city contribution or match to this benefit.

Resolution No. 98-25: Mr. Sindelar said this is a resolution to participate in the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program for the years 2026 through 2027. This is something the city has used and the city does not always have to stay within it but it has been beneficial to purchase a variety of items. This is a good program to be a part of. This program was used to purchase titanium dioxide ordered for Center Ridge Road from Spencer Road to the City of Westlake. Mr. Snyder said this is the asphalt rejuvenate that captures ozone, reflects the sunlight and helps reduce pavement temperatures. It also prolongs the life of the pavement.

- Mrs. Morris asked how many times the city has used this program this year. Mr. Snyder said at least 8-10 items. Vehicles and salt is under ODOT Cooperative Purchasing. The Mayor added that Councilwoman Gallagher's two ordinances are so the city can complement this program. Gasoline, tires are looking at the Open Market but then is compared to the state bid price. If the city can do better, the city is going to do better rather than always use the state bid price. The state bid price is helpful to the city as their bidding requirements are the same as the city's by Charter. Mr. Snyder said that the Sourcewell Contracts have also become a prevalent use for the city to help expedite the process while still adhering to the Charter requirements for bidding. It gives the city more buying power.

Ordinance No. 99-25: Mr. Sindelar said that this ordinance requests authorization to enter a contract with Quality Control Inspection Inc. who the city has used before for construction management and administration services. This is specifically for the Center Ridge Gateway Project which has been discussed in several iterations of different ordinances leading up to the culmination of the entire project. The city sent out a request for proposals with qualifications and received four responses from firms. They were reviewed by the Safety Service personnel and American Structurepoint, Inc. The proposal from Quality Control Inspection, Inc. was chosen to be the most comprehensive and their staff most suited to provide the best inspection and project administration services. They have a good record with contract administration and the city has used them before. They provide excellent services and communication and have worked on Wooster Road and Center Ridge Road between Spencer and Westlake two years ago.

- President Furry said that regarding the four new business legislation items, his goal is to have the Legislative Meeting next week and a Special Meeting and Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on the 15th and then possibly be done for the year. Some of the legislation may have only two reads. Mr. Snyder stated that his ordinances are ok to roll into 2026 if Council would prefer to have three reads.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry that City Council will meet in Executive Session this evening under Article 10, Section 6, Subsection 4 to discuss two union negotiation matters which are two collective bargaining matters at 7:42 p.m.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. As discussed earlier, Mr. Furry moved to wave the 72-Hour Notification Rule for Ordinance No. 100-25 and Ordinance No. 101-25 and have both ordinances added to this evening's agenda.

As there was no further business, President Furry adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting will be a Public Hearing and a Legislative Meeting on December 8th.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council