

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

September 21, 2026

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

Council Members' Present: President Shipp, Mr. Moran, Ms. Havemann, Ms. Morris, & Ms. Gallagher

Absent: Mr. Hunt & Mr. Furry,

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Law Director O'Shea Mr. Lindow, Mr. Snyder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised that it was great to be back in Council Chambers and introduced Jack Arra, whom she met with earlier, a Boy Scout working on a government badge. She also welcomed another student who was in attendance for his history class. She thanked both Chiefs for their work on the 25th 9/11 Anniversary. She saw photographs and noted that it was great to see so much of the community gathered on a beautiful morning. The Fall Arts festival was a success as was the Community Picnic held by the Historical Society. Many residents enjoyed a tour of City Hall and learning about the legislative process.

She advised that Director Snyder is going to send out a construction update later this week but wanted to provide a few highlights. First, she provided an update regarding Center Ridge. There is some striping, painting, and landscaping left to be completed, but for the most part they will be demobilizing. On behalf of the contractor and the administration, doing a large project like this one end to end, with that many lanes and all that was included from congestion mitigation and safety it's been a remarkable project that was done as swiftly as could be done. She knows it was frustrating at times and appreciates all the residents that took the extra time to find other ways to travel. With a project of this magnitude, she's always concerned that businesses may struggle, but she believes that residents were still able to find their way to those businesses to support them. The City had two streets awarded in the Waterline Rehabilitation Program with Cleveland Water a portion of Battersea and also a portion for Westmoor. The total for those two projects is about \$600,000. Only 11 projects across this whole region were funded and Rocky River received two of them. She congratulated Director Snyder and Kim Kerber for their hard work and shared that there were 70 applications totaling 47 million dollars that were considered and only 11 were funded, which shows the scope and need for waterline restoration. The EPA was in and conducted their comprehensive evaluation of The Wastewater Treatment Plant and its operations and on the first pass they received 100% compliance. She congratulated Superintendent Barille for the good work he does along with his staff. There were some good recommendations made, but overall, it was a great report.

Mayor Bobst shared some building department statistics through the end of August. 1353 permits have been pulled for a total valuation of \$57.8 million dollars in added valuation which includes commercial and residential. For comparison in August 2025 there were 1145 permits for a total valuation of \$37.8 million dollars – so currently the department is \$20 million above last year. Akron Children's Hospital is starting the interior demolition of the building on Center Ridge which is projected to be a \$40 million dollar investment in the City. They've been working on the development code which has been a long heavy lift headed up by Kathryn Kerber along with Bill Bishop, the head of the Planning Commission, Dylan Minek and Ray Reich. It is now going to Planning Commission for their final review, then it will come to Council, back to Planning Commission for formal recommendation, and lastly it will be up to Council to adopt that

as the new development code. It will be so much easier to utilize, it is consistent with the Master plan, and today's development needs.

Mayor Bobst provided an update on the Salt Contracts. They've already started ordering Salt for this winter and want to ensure their barn is full. Last year, they spent \$63.99 a ton, and it is going up to \$76.07 a ton. They will accommodate for that in the budget, but she wanted to make sure Council was aware. The Service Department is gearing up for fall leaf collection.

They are mobilizing on Rockcliff in the beginning of October. Traffic will be eastbound only to the Metroparks for the entire duration of the project.

Shoreland Park furniture was delivered today and will be installed soon. A few neighbors have expressed interest in a ribbon cutting ceremony so they will be making plans for that.

The Yacht Club is embarking on an \$8.5 million dollar refresh and renovation of their facilities and working closely with the building department.

She shared that Spencer Creek Rehabilitation Project will be mobilizing next week and that work should be completed by November 11.

There will be a couple nights of community conversation and public meetings to discuss the Recreation Strategic Plan. The first one is to be held tomorrow evening in the Ink Rink Pavillion beginning at 5:30 followed by a conversation specifically about youth sports. On Wednesday September 23rd there will be a couple of general conversations beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Senior Programming to be discussed between 2-3 pm. Anyone is welcome to weigh in on the strategic plan which is on the website.

She shared that Director Holub will be working with them for a few more days and has been a wonderful Rec Director. She's not surprised that the private sector wants him and all his expertise, but we will miss his budgeting expertise, team building expertise, his creativity and all he's done for recreation in the community.

Mayor Bobst provided an update regarding the Heritage Home Loan project. She advised that The Cleveland Restoration society's contract with Key Bank has run out, but they have a new lending partner - PNC. If your home is 50 years or older and you'd like to talk about renovations and access to a lower interest home equity loan, please contact the Cleveland Restoration Society.

The Charter amendments are on the website, in a couple locations, and they will be sending out a ReadyNotify so the residents are aware of the seven items that will be on their ballot.

Sunday is the Hilliard Hustle Run and all the information to sign up is on the website under the Rec Department.

Tomorrow is Kensington Schools 100th anniversary. They are having a celebration that begins around 5:00 pm with a short program beginning at 5:30 pm. Both her and the Superintendent will be speaking. She thanked Michelle Root who quickly got proclamations from the Governor, County Executive, State Rep, and State Senator and they all did a beautiful job. She advised that she will be presenting a proclamation from all of them. It will be a fun evening marking 100 years of educating children in the community.

Mayor Bobst advised that Friday is 9-2-5 Day which is a day honoring Dolly Parton. The Governor's wife was a good friend of Dolly Parton and was very supportive of her literacy efforts. In honor of that, the City is asking residents to deposit books at the Children's book bank at the Civic Center which is a big blue box

to the right of the doors outside at Memorial Hall. Or residents can drop off gently worn books to the library, and they will ensure they get to the book bank.

Lastly, she shared some sad news about the career of one of the most beloved members of the administration, Apollo the police canine dog whose partner was Nate Gonzalez. In August 2025, Apollo retired from service, and he passed away after battling a lengthy illness this August. Apollo was a great German shepherd who was certified in tracking, article searches, building and area searches, patrol work, apprehension, and narcotics detection. He was with the City for more than 11 years and served along Nate with loyalty, courage, and distinction before he retired. Apollo and Nate were an exceptional working team with a partnership built on years of training and a lot of trust. Their bond extended well beyond police work - Apollo was an important part of their family's life. Please keep Nate Gonzalez in your thoughts and prayers as he mourns his passing. They are grateful for Apollo's faithful service to the community, and he will be remembered fondly.

- Ms. Havemann inquired if Rockcliff would be closed to pedestrian and bike traffic during the renovations.
 - Director Snyder advised that access to the trail will still be open.
 - Ms. Morris inquired how the people that live on Rockcliff will be able to access their homes?
 - Director Snyder advised that their access will be limited at certain points of the project. They haven't finalized a parking plan, but they are looking to create opportunities on the street. Joe's parking lot is not the best place to try to add additional parking. The positive is that there are 11 properties on the street, so they are going to look at phasing, but homes on the dead are going to be the most difficult.
 - Mayor Bobst shared that Ferris Steakhouse parking lot may be a possibility.
 - Director Snyder advised that the total duration for the project is anticipated to be about a year, but that is final completion not substantial completion. There are phases so they won't be tearing everything up all at once.
- Ms. Morris inquired how the search was going for Director Holub's replacement was going?
 - Mayor Bobst advised that it is going well. They had 17 candidates and there are several in leadership positions. The first round of interviews are taking place this week and if they narrow it down to 2-3, she'll be interviewing them and spending time with them. She also plans to meet with the staff to see what their expectations are and what they appreciated in Director Holub's leadership, which she knows were many attributes. When they change director and leads she always wants to meet with the staff to find out what the need so they can be looking for what they need.
 - Ms. Morris shared that she thinks Director Holub is amazing and it's bittersweet to see him leave.
- Mr. Moran inquired when leaf pickup will start.
 - Director Snyder advised that typically it's the end of October, but it changes every year. There is not a set day they choose to monitor and determine when to start pickup.

LAW DEPARTMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 52-25: Mr. Shipp advised that there is no new information on 52-25 and it remains on hold.

- Ms. Gallagher inquired if they should call a safety meeting to discuss this topic.
- Mayor Bobst advised that she's asked the Chief to put together legislation for Council's review

regarding this and eBikes and scooters and that should be forthcoming which may cause this item to be postponed indefinitely.

- Ms. Morris advised that she and Ms. Havemann put together an excel sheet showing what communities had recently passed legislation and she will forward it along to the Chief.

Ordinance No. 59-26: President Shipp advised that this an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Safety-Service to enter into a contract with Logicalis for the City of Rocky River Meraki Network licensing for five years at a total cost not to exceed \$150,000.00. He shared that Richard Bycoskie Jr. advised that the co-termination licensing for all of the City's Meraki network devices, including firewalls, switches, wireless access points, security cameras, etc., which has been active since 2019, expires on September 7, 2026. We have a grace period of 30 days from the expiration date before network devices cease to function. Mr. Bycoskie has requested a quote for a term start date of September 28, 2026, and is recommending renewing this licensing for 5 years, paid annually. In this new licensing model, adding new devices will have no subscription cost in the year they are added, but the subscription cost for that device will be added to the annual payment for the next year. Signing a 5-year agreement would save the City around \$10,000 per year over having a yearly subscription.

Ordinance No. 60-26: Ms. Havemann advised that this is an ordinance amending Section 1153.15(g) accessory uses and structures - specifically it will address basketball courts in the rear yard. This is in response to a Planning Commission meeting where an applicant requested a basketball court in their backyard which, when granted, set a precedent. These courts can only be placed in a rear yard, are required to have an 8' setback from the property line and must have a 6' tall fence to prevent any stray balls from entering neighboring properties. Lighting is allowed but must comply with the requirements outlined in Section 1181.13. They will need to follow the lot coverage requirements outlined in Section 1156.05. This does not include basketball courts on driveways.

Ordinance No. 61-26: President Shipp advised, on behalf of Mr. Furry, that this is an ordinance designating the public depositories for the active, and interim and/or inactive funds of The City of Rocky River for the period beginning November 1, 2026, and ending October 31, 2031. He summarized that this is a way for banks or depositories, that want to do work with the City of Rocky River, to submit their credentials.

- Director Lindow advised that this is detailed in the revised code for counties and cities and the City follows this process. Every five years they ask banks to apply to do business with the City over the course of the following five years. Most, not all, do apply and to legislate this process they need to put it on an ordinance for the term.
- President Shipp advised that the ordinance lists the banks that responded which are Citizens Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, Key Bank, Dollar Bank, First Federal Lakewood, JP Morgan Chase Bank, and PNC Bank. In addition to the requirement for application of public depositories for the City by the banks director Lindow also requested proposals on overall treasury services, fee structure, interest and earning rates, credit card, collateral, and government references.
- Director Lindow advised these accounts can be anything from active daily accounts to retainage of third parties funds to short-term and long-term investment accounts.

Ordinance No. 62-26: Mr. Moran advised that this ordinance is for the purchase of electrical equipment for repair of the automatic primary source and alternate source down at The Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sometimes these switches may last 30-50 years and this one lasted 44 years before failing. This presents a situation where there is a power failure and it goes from the primary source to the secondary source, in another city, which is why this switch is very important. WWTP Superintendent Barille put out a bid to Herbst Electric and Lake Erie Electric, they're looking at the lowest bid. Once they accept this it will take 4-6 weeks to order the materials. While this is very important to get fixed, he believes they can allow for all three reads.

Resolution No. 63-26: President Shipp advised that this is a resolution authorizing the establishment of a fund entitled “PACE Special Assessment Fund”, Fund Number 223, to account for the activities of project sites participating in the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District PACE Program. Per best practices, our Finance Director is looking to establish a special fund for the PACE Project. They passed Amended Resolution 54-26, Ordinance 55-26, and Amended Ordinance 56-26 this summer which they will refer to as the Normandy PACE Project. This fund would be for that project or future PACE projects.

Ordinance No. 64-26: President Shipp advised that this is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to enter into a contract with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving Company, Inc., for The Lake Road Improvement Project at a Cost Not to Exceed \$10,945,027.58. He advised that the City received two bids on July 24th. Fabrizi Trucking and Paving Company, Inc. and DiGioia Suburban Excavating, LLC. Both submitted a base bid and an alternate bid. A memo from our City Engineer, Kim Kerber, is recommending the alternate bids be accepted because it includes the use of Thermoplastic pavement markings instead of Aexcel pavement markings on Lake Rd. Thermoplastic pavement marking are more visible, durable, and last longer than Aexcel pavement markings and the alternate bid is lower.

Fabrizi was determined to be the lowest and best bidder. Its bid, including the alternate, is \$945,027.58 above the engineer’s estimate of \$10 million but remains within the allowable threshold for awarding the contract. The engineer’s review found that the difference was primarily attributable to higher-than-anticipated costs for sewer pipe and structures. Project costs have also continued to increase due, in part to rising fuel prices.

Fabrizi has demonstrated its ability to complete City projects on schedule and within budget, most recently through its work on the Buckingham, Arundel and Argyle Oval Improvement Project. A search of the Auditor of State’s Findings for Recovery Database returned no findings involving the company. The Improvement Project includes the replacement of aging inverted sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure along Lake Road in two areas: from the Service Garage entrance to Parklawn Drive and from 22720 Lake Road, also known as 700 Lake, to the Bay Village corporation line. The project also includes new water mains and service connections throughout the project limits. Additional improvements include:

- New pavement, curbs and driveway aprons;
- ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks;
- Approximately two-thirds of a mile of off-street, multi-use trail extending from the Bay Village corporation line to Parklawn Drive;
- An auxiliary parking lot for Bradstreet’s Landing on the south side of Lake Road; and
- Two pedestrian crossings equipped with rectangular rapid flashing beacons.

To accommodate the multi-use trail along the north side of Lake Road, the roadway will be narrowed from 40 feet to 34 feet. The Bradstreet’s Landing improvements will provide 21 standard parking spaces and one vehicle-and-trailer space within the new lot, along with six parallel parking spaces on the north side of Lake Road in front of the park. The roadway will also be narrowed in this area to improve pedestrian safety.

Project details were presented to the community during a public information meeting held on May 19, 2026. If authorized, construction is expected to begin in November 2026, with substantial completion anticipated in late fall 2027 or early spring 2028. Approximately \$1,145,000 in outside funding from the Cleveland Division of Water’s Suburban Water Main Renewal Program will be applied toward the project.

Resolution No. 65-26: President Shipp advised that this is a resolution authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works

Commission State Capitol Improvement and Local Transportation Improvement Program for The Beaconsfield Boulevard Sewer Reconstruction Project and to execute the contracts as required. He advised that this would authorize the City to apply for, accept, and administer financial assistance through the Ohio Public Works Commission's State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program for the Beaconsfield Boulevard Sewer Reconstruction Project. The project, located along Beaconsfield Boulevard from Wagar Road to Morewood Parkway, will replace aging sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure, eliminate the existing over/under sewer configuration, replace the water main and related appurtenances, and provide full roadway reconstruction, including pavement, curbs, sidewalks, driveway aprons, and restoration. The total estimated project cost is \$5,142,044, with the City requesting \$500,000 in grant funding and a \$1,500,000, 30-year loan from the OPWC and providing \$3,142,044 in local funding. This improvement are intended to reduce inflow and infiltration, address recurring basement backups and street flooding, improve system reliability, and provide long-term utility and roadway improvements for the surrounding neighborhood. He advised that he anticipates more readings for this legislation.

- Ms. Morris inquired if the green space between the roads was owned by the City.
- Mayor Bobst advised that it's privately owned by the HOA.

Resolution No. 66-26: President Shipp advised that this is a resolution authorizing preliminary consent legislation for the repair of the bridge included in PID 115896 in the City of Rocky River. This resolution would consent to the Ohio Department of Transportation's Repair Project which includes the structural lining of the existing box culvert and steel pipe culvert carrying U.S. Route 6 (Lake Road) over Spencer Creek, across from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Both culverts will be slip-lined with steel-reinforced polyethylene pipe, with miscellaneous concrete repairs performed at the outlet box. The legislation will authorize ODOT to complete the portion of the project located within the City of Rocky River and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute any necessary project agreements. The State will bear 100% of the project costs, except for any additional features requested by the City that ODOT or the Federal Highway Administration determines are unnecessary. ODOT is requesting the legislation be returned to ODOT by November 16, 2026. This project is still in the design stage, and we have been working with ODOT. It is expected to commence after the Lake Road Project and any additional requests by the City should be minimal. He anticipates two more readings for this legislation.

- Director Snyder advised that there is a manhole structure that associated with the project and they're looking to see if they need to include that as part of the project. It would be a minimal change if there were any.

Ordinance No. 67-26: President Shipp advised that this is an ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety Service to purchase parts and services as needed from OHIO CAT, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. He advised that this is to expend an additional \$60,000 beyond the City's vendor limit with no request for additional appropriations. Ohio Cat provides specialized parts, maintenance, and repair services for the City's backup facility generators and much of the large construction equipment at the Service Department. A search of the Auditor of State's Findings for Recovery Database demonstrated no results. He anticipates two more reads for this. He shared that previously Director Snyder has shared that quite a bit of the City's equipment are CAT products, so this is keeping up with maintenance. The City Hall generator had a maintenance issue that needed to be addressed this year, which is why they approached the vendor limit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President Shipp advised that the rules have been changed for the homecoming parade. You're no longer permitted to sit in a car and throw candy. They have all experienced children approaching cars while the

candy is being distributed and it's unsafe, so he believes that this is a good change. Council discussed their preference would be to walk and throw candy, but that they have at least one car to carry candy, and whoever needs could take a break.

President Shipp discussed upcoming dates for meetings and clarified that Columbus Day/Indigenous People day is not a holiday where City Hall is closed so Council will be able to hold their Legislative meeting that day. He advised that they would have a Combined Special Committee of the Whole/Legislative meeting in November and requested that if people are making travel plans are the holidays to let him know.

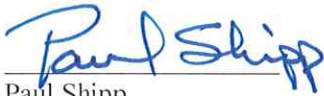
Mayor Bobst advised departmental budgets are due this Friday from the Directors.

Ms. Havemann inquired whether or not they were permitted to put up signage in the parks regarding eBikes prior to the legislation being passed. Council members advised that no signage would be permitted until ordinances have been passed, but that motorized vehicles are not permitted in the parks at this time. From an enforcement perspective a resident can contact the police. The Mayor suggested that Council to hold their comments regarding eBikes until legislation has been drafted.

Ms. Gallagher advised that she hopes they have a public meeting regarding the traffic calming soon.

- Director Snyder advised that he was going to propose scheduling a meeting in October, prior to a council meeting, at 6:00 pm. and suggested October 5th or October 12th. The group discussed and determined that October 5th would work best.

President Shipp advised that next week's meeting Monday September 28 will be a Legislative Meeting. As there was no further business, President Shipp adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.



Paul Shipp
President of Council



Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council