CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

October 5, 2026

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by President Shipp beginning at 7:05 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Ms. Morris

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised that Linden park playground is finished apart from some minor improvements and the playground will be open. She added that trail lighting, a resident suggested, has been completed. Tri-City Park tennis and pickleball courts are being resurfaced, and the winter nets will soon be installed. Additionally, they are replacing signage in each park, most notably Bradstreet Landing, which indicates no motorized vehicles, bikes or scooters citing the ordinance.

Late last week, they completed their first review of the budget. There are many capital projects they are working on prioritizing which takes quite a bit of planning. They plan to have the budget to Council by the beginning of November for their first legislative meeting following meetings with the Directors.

Mayor Bobst shared that they've had two rounds of interviews for the Director of Recreation position. They had 17 interested candidates, several individuals were interviewed, and three rose to the top which she interviewed last week. She hopes by the end of this week to have their candidate appointed. Currently Krissie Miller is serving as interim director. Lastly, the Mayor shared that Community Shred day is scheduled for October 24th.

LAW DEPARTMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 52-25: Mr. Hunt advised that he has nothing new to add other than to say that as they discuss eBikes he hopes discuss this as well in committee.

Ordinance No. 61-26: Mr. Furry advised that Ordinance 61-26 designates safe keeping of public funds of the City of Rocky River. This surfaces every five years and casts a wide net if you look at the number of depositories. Most they have worked with and some they have not, but they are choosing to add all in case it's favorable to have deposits with them. He requested this item be added to the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 62-26: Mr. Moran advised that this ordinance is for the purchase of electrical equipment for the repair of the automatic primary source and alternate source down at The Wastewater Treatment Plant which failed this summer. He noted that this switch keeps things moving in case there is a power outage from the primary the secondary source. The request is for $60,000 and the request was sent to two companies who have been doing work at the WWTP. He requested this item be placed on the consent

agenda.

Resolution No. 63-26: Mr. Furry advised when Council 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 the Finance Director felt it would be prudent to establish a special fund for each class of revenues derived from a source other than general property tax which the law requires to be used for a particular purpose. He noted that the city is just the conduit for these assessments and providing its own distinguishable fund to improve the city's audited financial statements and hopefully lessen any future confusion with other city related debts and balances. He requested this item be added to the consent agenda.

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 pipes 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. 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. He advised that this item would remain off the consent agenda given the size of the contract.

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. 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 requested this item be added to the consent agenda.

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. They are expecting to award the project in late fall of '27 and potentially commence construction in late '27 or early '28. He requested this item be added to the consent agenda.

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. 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. He requested that this item be added to the consent agenda.

- Ms. Havemann advised that she would be abstaining from Ordinance No. 67-26.
- As a result of that abstention Ordinance No. 67-26 will not be added to the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 69-26: Mr. Furry advised that this is an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations for the current expenses of the City of Rocky River, Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, and to amend amended ordinance No. 92-25, more commonly known as the budget. The Mayor's department had a slight increase for salary and fringe benefit costs above original estimate. The Planning Commission had increase for postage and communication costs above original estimate. Finance had an increase for RITA income tax collection fees and Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office property tax fees. The Fire Division reduced fringe benefit category and increased the Westshore Enforcement Bureau costs above original estimates. Planning & Community Development increase for fringe benefit costs above original estimates. The 315 is the PACE Special Assessment creation, assuming the passage of 63-26. Per the Finance Director, there may be a minor tweak on this so he may be amending by substitution, and he anticipates a second read next week.

Ordinance No. 70-26: Ms. Havemann advised that this ordinance amends the development code Section 1125.09(b) for the Administrative Powers and Duties of the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Organization. Currently the board consists of five residents with three of them being licensed professionals. The new ordinance would require three residents and two professionals which could be non-residents. There are also some changes to which professionals would qualify. Previously it was just engineers and architects, but the revision would include land use planners and design professionals. She believes they should consider keeping it three professionals but allowing two professionals to be non-residents to ensure they have three professionals. Ideally, she'd like to see three residents and three professionals still totalling five people.

- Mayor Bobst advised that it's her believe that what Ms. Havemann is suggesting is what would happen. They would always prefer residents to serve on the board if they are qualified. Their issue is finding alternates and making sure that the alternates can serve with the rest of the body of the board. She believes there would always be more residents than fewer residents.

- Ms. Havemann reiterated that she is suggesting keeping the number of professionals at three but allowing two of them to non-residents. She noted that next week she'll be amending by substitution because there were some errors in the title of the sections, nothing substantive.

Ordinance No. 71-26: President Shipp advised that this is an ordinance authorizing a contract with Schirmer Construction, LLC for the Story Road Culvert replacement project not to exceed $421,859. This would replace a concrete culvert with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and an associated headwall between Eldorado Drive in Rocky River and North Valley Drive in Fairview Park. The displaced concrete pipe has caused significant erosion on adjacent properties. The work will include hillside restoration and erosion protection. Because the infrastructure is located in both municipalities and affects residents of both communities, Fairview Park will contribute $120,000—the amount approved and appropriated in its 2026 budget.

The City received four bids on September 4. Schirmer's bid was $34,021 lower than the second-lowest bid and $21,859 above the engineer's estimate of $400,000, but within the allowable threshold for award. The project was initially bid in May. Both bids received at that time exceeded the 20% threshold, so the City worked with its consulting engineers to evaluate the project and revise its scope before rebidding.

Schirmer Construction, LLC has successfully completed projects for the City of Rocky River and has been recommended by the cities of Bay Village, Willoughby Hills, and Sandusky. A search of the Ohio Auditor of State's Findings for Recovery Database returned no results. There is a memo attached to the legislation from Kim Kerber with a little more detail on the bids.

- Mr. Hunt advised that he would be abstaining from Ordinance No. 71-26 for personal reasons.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 72-26: Mr. Hunt thanked Chief Lichman for all his hard work and diligence that he put into creating this eBike legislation that was thoughtfully designed. He hopes that everyone has had an opportunity to go through the legislation as it has a lot of materials. He isn't sure if it's best to dive into it in depth this evening as he wants to allow everyone ample time to review the documentation, but he'd love to hear everyone's initial reaction to the ordinance.

- Ms. Havemann inquired why Lake Rd. is singled out as bikers being single file as opposed to Center Ridge.
- Chief Lichman advised that he is not aware, but it's been that way for the 28 years that he's been here.
- Mr. Moran shared that Lake Rd. was, at one time, the only way to get downtown prior to I-90 and it was a four-lane highway at the time.
- Mayor Bobst advised that they can research the genesis of that and determine if it still makes sense.
- Mr. Hunt advised that he thinks the summary is really well done.
- Chief Litchman shared a few things that he thinks are important to mention. He requested that everyone please review his work carefully as redoing the entire chapter was an effort. On page 5 of the summary, he listed five bullet points he thinks it's worth asking them to consider:
    - Prohibiting all motors, electric or not, on a sidewalk. The way it's drafted prohibits motors engaged on class 1,2,3 eBikes and segways, but it does not prohibit micromobility devices which is what a lot of the kids use to get to and from school. He left it to not include those, but he thinks it's a fair topic of discussion.
    - Years ago, it was contrary to ordinance to ride a bike across the street and that changed so bicyclists must make sure it's safe to enter the crosswalk, but they removed the requirement to dismount the bike while crossing the crosswalk. Given the speed it may be worth considering a dismount or a stop prior to entering provision.

    - He suggested either removing the two abreast on Lake requirement or requiring it on all streets. From a safety perspective he would prefer to require it on all streets, but something contrary to what might be typical is something more important which they need to choose.
    - He noted the helmet requirement is worthy of a discussion as to who and when helmets are required. They all want everyone to wear a helmet, especially children, but legislating that for certain devices might be something worth discussing.
    - Narrowing the exemption in 373.20(b) – he has it where law enforcement is excluded from most of the ordinance and that can be restricted further so they could be required only from certain or parts. It's a broad exemption right now and they may want to narrow that.
- Mr. Moran noted that he's seen locations where there are two sidewalks throughout communities, but obviously they cannot do that. He acknowledged how difficult it will be to enforce this ordinance for law enforcement.
- Chief Lichman advised that he has raised that concern frequently with the Mayor and Councilmembers. He doesn't want this to become a tool where police are chasing kids around. He noted that they did that in late 90's and early 2000's and it felt like they were chasing kids on BMX bikes and skateboards and he feels that it damaged their relationship with the youth in the community especially given that one side of the argument is that kids are doing what they are supposed to do – playing and getting around the community independently on bikes. He doesn't want this to turn into a lot of phone calls where they are chasing down kids without helmets or taking away kid's devices. He thinks these are all legitimate concerns about using police in this fashion. Right now, it's included, that they use this as tool to deal with significant problems as they arise as opposed to a tool to build tension. The community may expect heavy enforcement at first, and he's concerned about how that could impact the relationship with youth in the community.
- Mayor Bobst advised that it's a foundational and educational tool. Less about enforcement, although there is a key enforcement piece, but rather a way to educate the community about what the expectation is so that parents understand as do the kids.
- Chief Lichman advised that he has spoken with the Superintendent and he is very eager to see what their considerations are, and he is eager to add to that conversation. He is waiting until this gets worked on before clarifying school policy about these devices on or adjacent to school property with their students.
- Mr. Moran noted that education with the Principals and Superintendent are key to making sure that they are helping enforce, educate, and let everyone know what this has caused. They have a lot of students and elderly people in the community and they need to make sure that the respect for the sidewalks is there.
- Ms. Havemann shared that her feedback has been that most residents have reasonable expectations about what enforcement limitations there are. By having something place it empowers community members to help with that enforcement on their own.
- Chief Lichman suggested that perhaps they could add something to the legislation that stated a helmet offense, or some of these offenses, would not be primary violations that they would stop them on soley. That way they're not chasing down children based on a helmet complaint alone.
    - Mayor Bobst suggested they could give Mitchell's coupons to those wearing helmets.
- Ms. Havemann inquired if micromobility devices were scooters?
    - Chief Lichman advised that micromobility devices are scooters that they stand on or the electric skateboards. The low speed micromobility devices would be a segway.
    - President Shipp advised that he sent a memo with a breakdown of the devices and that if you google you can find images/references for all the terms in the ordinance.
    - Mr. Hunt noted that he thinks that electric scooters are a lot of the complaints that they're getting. Perhaps they should make the language clearer in the ordinance to ensure they understand what devices they're referencing.
- President Shipp summarized that he doesn't believe that anyone has the expectation that the police

are going to be chasing down the youth for every violation, but what it does do is give the whole community momentum and an event around which the schools, city, police, and citizens can look to as a reference. He does find the various charts out there helpful. He recently found out that there isn't much difference between class 3 electric bikes and what they consider mopeds and motorcycles which have much more licensing requirements and age restrictions and noted that he's always learning about new devices. He thinks that educating the community about what these things are and what the expectations are is critical. He believes that the Safety Resource Officers can play a big part in getting both the parents and kids on the same page.

- Mr. Hunt noted that he thinks that the parents need to know what they're purchasing for their children.
- Ms. Havemann thanked the Mayor and Director Snyder for putting signs in the park. She believes that a lot of people are not aware that motored devices are not permitted in the parks.
- Mayor Bobst suggested that they work on a short bulleted list to hit the highlights of what is changing that they can push out to parents and the community.

Ordinance No. 73-26: President Shipp shared that this ordinance is to enter into a contract with OHM Advisors for Survey and Flow Monitoring for The Beaconsfield Boulevard Sewer and Rehabilitation and Roadway Reconstruction Project in an amount not to exceed $60,750. There is a proposal for services attached to the ordinance that they received from OHM and it looks like they're doing topographic survey, collecting data on existing utilities, sanitary and storm sewers, rim and pipe elevations and structures, pavement contour elevation, coordinating letters with city staff and residents, and flow monitoring.

- Director Snyder advised that this builds on the piece of legislation 65-26 OPWC application for Beaconsfield Blvd. This is the first phase of design and engineering for that sewer rehab project. They went through a selection process, and this portion is the preliminary to the actual engineering that will take place in '27. They are getting some of the existing conditions and will help with design in 2027. This is phase I to keep things moving so they can hop into design in '27 for design in '28.
- Mr. Furry confirmed that this is for both sides of Beaconsfield.

Ordinance No. 74-26: Mr. Hunt shared that this ordinance proposes the purchase of a 2026 Ford Explorer from Statewide Ford for the Chief of Fire Department for an amount not to exceed $58,871. In August of this year, the Chief was driving on I-90 and his truck was hit. Insurance determined the driver of the other vehicle to be at fault, resulting in a $23,320 total loss settlement for the vehicle that will go towards the purchase of a replacement vehicle. He expects a full three reads.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Shipp asked Director Snyder for an update about the legislation that they passed regarding the survey of all the manholes.

- Director Snyder advised that they have moved through approximately 2/3rd of all the structures they intend to do this year. They are to a point whereby the end of November they will start compiling the data in a report so he should have more information for council soon on the results.
- Mayor Bobst shared that next week is likely Director Snyder's last Council meeting for a couple weeks. Everyone will continue working with him as he works remotely, but he won't physically be here for a while.
    - Director Snyder advised that he will still be available and handling emails, but he likely will take a couple days off from work.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

President Shipp advised that next week's meeting Monday October 12th 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