CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

October 19, 2026

The Special Combined Legislative and Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Shipp, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Ms. Morris & Director Snyder

Administration: Mr. Lindow, Mr. O'Shea, Mayor Bobst

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the swearing in of two police officers.

Chief Lichman shared opening remarks and thanked everyone for coming this evening to show their support. He advised that both officers were coming to them from the Lorian Police department.

Mayor Bobst proceeded with the swearing in of Patrolman Kyle Shawver and Patrolman Mitchell Fadenholz.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Furry, seconded by Mr. Hunt, that the reading of the minutes for October 12, 2026, Legislative Meeting be waived and that the minutes be approved as presently constituted.

Vote:	Moran– aye	Gallagher – aye	Hunt- aye	Shipp-aye
	Havemann – aye	Furry- aye		
	6– ayes	0 – abstain	0 - nays	**PASSED**

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised that budget meetings will start with Directors tomorrow as they work to prioritize critical projects and programs as needed. She thanked Director Lindow for his dedication to this project, noting that he often works late hours and on weekends. She noted that Director Snyder has been working hard, despite being out after surgery, and he's been emailing and on director meeting. She appreciates his unwavering commitment.

She advised that the Goldwood stoplight, on Center Ridge, will be activated and flashing yellow starting Thursday. They still need to complete the striping in the pedestrian crossing, but in a couple weeks they believe it will be fully operationalized. The school is aware and will be communicating to their faculty, administration, and parents.

Mayor Bobst advised that there was a watermain break at Morley Park. They didn't think it would be able to be addressed until tomorrow, but Cleveland Water was able to get out there and find where the leak is which is fortunate as there were four homes that could have been without water. She hasn't gotten a report yet, but she hopes that it's been addressed.

She shared that Chief Lichman provided commendations to Patrolman Czaplicki and Lieutenant Blazer. At the end of September, they were out on the marine patrol boat, Argus, and responded to a call at Bradstreet

Landing. Two kayakers went overboard and were treading water trying to hold onto the kayaks in 3-4' waves with no life jackets. They successfully rescued both individuals, and we want to make sure that we publicly thank them for the good work that they do. She shared that the Chief Lichman has been appointed to the Ohio Police Chief's Association Education Committee. She advised that Chief Lichman teaches both at the Citizen's Police Academy and the Academy. Mayor Bobst noted that their Directors and leadership team are leaders among leaders, and she believes this is another illustration of that.

Mayor Bobst shared building department statistics for September's month end. She advised that they have almost 200 more residential permits, about 30 more commercial permits than last year at this time. We are at just under $76 million of added valuation, the second highest was $64 million in 2023. The investment that they're seeing in their community is incredible. Last year, at this time, they had $45 million worth of added valuation. It's a great sign to see people investing in their homes and businesses, moving their businesses here and expanding their businesses.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Magnificat Girls Golf team are the Division I State Champions. In the last four years they have enjoyed a lot of success on the golf course. The Rocky River Football team is undefeated this football season and she hopes they can continue that streak for the next few weeks. Friday morning the Marching Band will be playing at High School field at 6:45-7:00 am for Fox8 in the morning. The School District is letting the residents know and they do plan to send a ReadyNotify so that residents are aware the band will be playing at 7:00 am.

She shared that the Senior Center is having their first ever dance recital Thursday evening at 7 pm and Friday afternoon 1:30 pm. Five of the instructors will have their classes performing in the recital. She loves that this recital will help highlight all the work that has gone into the expansion of the Senior Center to include a dance studio.

Lastly, she advised that on Saturday from 9-11 am is the Community Shred Event. They ask residents to limit their shredding to two standard banker boxes.

LAW REPORT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PENDING BUSINESS:

<u>ORDINANCE NO. 52-25</u> **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Part Three - Traffic Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River to Prohibit the Operation of Low-Speed and Under-Speed Vehicles, as Further Described in Exhibit "A" (2nd Reading-On Hold)

Mr. Hunt advised there is no update and this item remains on hold. He would anticipate as they set up a safety committee meeting that they will discuss this issue as well.

<u>AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 69-26</u> **BY: FURRY**

An Emergency 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 as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that amended ordinance 69-26 is an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations for the current expenses of the City of Rocky River for fiscal year 2026. They amended by substitution Exhibit

"A" dated 10-12-26 last week. Those changes included an adjustment for the Mayor's office and Law Department of a shared executive/legal assistant between the two departments. The Planning Commission had increase in 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 which was passed last week in 63-26. The new addition of street construction MNR is a wash due to personnel costs not to be used based on not using as many CDL part timers but offset by year end leaf season and higher costs for supplies. He advised that they are expecting one more supplemental per the Finance Director by year end for healthcare adjustments and perhaps other miscellaneous items.

Mr. Furry moved for passage of Amended Ordinance No. 69-26, seconded by Mr. Hunt.

Vote:	Moran– aye	Gallagher – aye	Hunt- aye	Shipp-aye
	Havemann – aye	Furry- aye		
	6– ayes	0 – abstain	0 – nays	**PASSED**

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 70-26 **BY: HAVEMANN**

An Ordinance Amending the Development Code Within the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, Specifically Section 1125.09 (B) Entitled Administrative Powers and Duties, Board of Zoning and Building Appeals, Organization, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Ms. Havemann advised that this ordinance would be revising Section 1125.09 for the Organization of the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals. Currently the board consists of five members, all of whom are residents and three are licensed professionals. This amendment would expand the allowed professionals so that it would include architects, design professionals, professional engineers, and land use planners. The goal is to find individuals who are willing to serve. It is going to require that the majority of the members, at least three, are residents, with three professionals and only two can be non-residents.

- Mr. Moran noted that there are many members who have been with them a long time and they don't have a plethora of people applying for this position. It is service to the City and it's a wonderful thing that people do this. Not only is it the meeting time, but it is the preparation for the meeting, and they are not doing it for the stipend that they receive. Some of the other communities around also have a group of people that are not specific engineers. He noted that they have both the Law Director and Building Commissioner present at the meeting in addition to the appointed members and they most often review variances. His thought, as putting this down as three engineers, is that it's closer to what should be done in Planning rather than BZA. The outline is good, but to put it as a requirement for three engineers he thinks it's constricting for the group.
    - Mayor Bobst shared that they do not have to be engineers specifically. The majority of the board is to be residents, but also they want the majority to have some credentialling and those may overlap. What changes this is that they can have individuals from outside the community because they do have such a difficult time filling these spots. The BZA went through all of this with Director Reich. There are currently no alternates because they cannot find individuals with these credentials to sit on the BZA. They put together everything from the surrounding communities about their BZA and they can be non-residents.
    - Mr. Moran advised that may be the case, but they do not have the requirement to be engineers.

- Mayor Bobst advised that their goal is to keep the board with as many residents as possible. It's just that when they want to have some expertise at the table, they may not be able to find all that expertise.
- Mr. Moran noted that he believes that the expertise is in the Law Director and Commissioner and what they need is people that are going to out to protect the residents and their interests about the variances that come before the board. His thought was to do something like what they have, but not to as specific. Perhaps these would be the credentials they would like but not be forced to have. His thought was to not be as specific and less constricting.
- Ms. Havemann commented that when you think of BZA you often think of many things as simple – like the setback for an air conditioner or generator. However, sometimes they are completely tearing down houses and putting up a new one and the board needs to look at detailed plans and determine if the setbacks or lot coverage is appropriate. She has noticed that BZA offers them suggestions on how they might meet the code and that expertise, and their suggestions of how to meet code, is helpful. If there were five non-technical members they wouldn't have anyone to give that input.
- Mr. Moran advised that if it was a brand-new building it would need to go through Planning.
- Mayor Bobst advised that Planning doesn't have those requirements. This change provides way more flexibility than they've had in the past because it lessens some of the requirements and it allows them to go outside the community. They have many architects, land use planners, engineers that are interacting with the building department that aren't from Rocky River but are involved.
- Ms. Havemann noted that if this still doesn't work it can be revised again. She was hoping to not lose the expertise and keep majority residents. It makes it easier to find those individuals by allowing them to go outside the City and expanding the type of professionals.

Ms. Havemann moved for passage of Amended Ordinance No. 70-26, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Moran– aye	Gallagher – aye	Hunt- aye	Shipp-aye
	Havemann – aye	Furry- aye		
	6– ayes	0 – abstain	0 – nays	**PASSED**

ORDINANCE NO. 71-26 **BY: SHIPP**

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to Enter into a Contract with Schirmer Construction, LLC, for The Story Road Culvert Replacement Project at a Cost not to Exceed $421,859.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A"(3rd Reading)

President Shipp advised that the project 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 therefore 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.

President Shipp moved for passage of Ordinance No. 71-26, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Moran– aye	Gallagher – aye	Hunt- abstain	Shipp-aye
	Havemann – aye	Furry- aye		
	5– ayes	1 – abstain	0 – nays	**PASSED**

ORDINANCE NO. 72-26 **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Chapter 373 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River; Amending Section 301.04 to Update Definitions Relating to Bicycles and Micromobility Devices; Amending Section 301.51 to Update the Definition of Vehicle; Amending Section 331.37 to Address the Operation of Electric Bicycles on Sidewalks, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibits "A,B,C, & D" (2nd Reading – On Hold)

Mr. Hunt advised that Chief Lichman is available to meet with them on November 2nd for a Safety Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm prior to their Committee Meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-26 **BY: SHIPP**

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Safety-Service to Enter into a Contract with OHM Advisors for Survey and Flow Monitoring for the Beaconsfield Boulevard Sewer Rehabilitation and Roadway Reconstruction Project in an Amount Not to Exceed $60,750.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A"(2nd Reading)

President Shipp shared that this a proposal for services from OHM Advisors who is doing a 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 which is the Ohio Public works Commission application for the Beaconsfield Blvd Project. He advised that this is the first phase of the design and engineering for that sewer rehab project.

ORDINANCE NO. 74-26 **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to Purchase One (1) 2026 Ford Explorer From Statewide Ford For the Fire Department Under the State Cooperative Purchasing Act from Statewide Ford, at a Cost Not to Exceed $58,871.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (2nd Reading)

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 that will be in an amount not to exceed $58,871. The replacement vehicle is currently available through Statewide Ford and delivery, if passed, would be expected later this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 76-26 **BY: MORAN**

Emergency Resolution Authorizing the City of Rocky River to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and to Execute Contracts as Required for the Funding of the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant Auxiliary Clarifier Rehabilitation and Improvements Project (1st Reading)

Mr. Moran advised that this application has been submitted before, but they were not successful. They are now resubmitting and their hope is that they will get a better term this time to get some assistance for the auxiliary clarifier and rehabilitation improvement. He spoke with Mr. Barille via email, and he will have some more statistics at the next committee of the whole.

ORDINANCE NO. 77-26 **BY: FURRY**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Law Director to Obtain Services as Needed From Roetzel, in an Amount Not to Exceed $25,000.00, as Further Described in Exhibit "A"(1st Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that this ordinance for the law director to obtain outside counsel services as needed from Roetzel for the ongoing police department personnel project. It outlines the hourly rates for partner, associates, and paralegal services billing. He expects three full reads, and emergency language is not being utilized.

ORDINANCE NO. 78-26 **BY: FURRY**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Law Director to Obtain Services as Needed From Western Hurd, in an Amount Not to Exceed $90,000.00, as Further Described in Exhibit "A"(1st Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that this is an ordinance authorizing the Law Director to also employee specialized outside counsel from Western Hurd and similar to 77-26 it stipulates hourly billing for partner, associates, and paralegals. He expects three full reads, and emergency language is not being utilized.

MISCELLANOUS BUSINESS: President Shipp noted that they still have the liquor license pending, but it doesn't sound like anyone has any objections. He advised that if the clerk hears none, she is free to reach out to Liquor Control and they can proceed. He advised their Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for November 2nd at 6:00 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Furry advised that they would hold their Budget Meeting December 4th 8:30- 12:30 pm in council chambers.

Ms. Havemann advised that the Planning Commission met to discuss their development code last week. They were very productive and they are having another special meeting next week to discuss – anyone is welcome to join.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

President Shipp reminded the group that they will not be meeting next week October 26th, and that their next meeting will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting Monday November 2nd at 7:00 pm with the Safety

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PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

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Paul Shipp
President of Council

Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council