

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 7, 2020

The meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole was called to order by Mr. Moran, President, immediately following the Public Hearing via Zoom.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Furry,
Mr. Klym, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Moran

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Thomas, Director Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor thanked everyone who was involved in the kick-off for the Holiday Season this weekend. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for all the trees that were decorated. In partnership with the Chamber, videographers came and filmed each tree. Everyday through the month of December there will be a new tree featured on the Chamber Facebook page. Please like the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and every day you will receive a little bit of holiday cheer. These 21 trees will then be planted throughout the city in the spring. Thank you to the Early Childhood PTA for sponsoring the Santa ride through the community on the antique fire truck on Saturday. The parade lasted 2 ½ hours with Santa, two special guests, Ralphie in his pink bunny suite and Olaf from the movie Frozen, along with two of Santa's elves with a police escort. Many, many families enjoyed waving to Santa on the fire truck, with a lot of positive comments. The two special guests in the bunny suite and Olaf were the city's two chiefs, Chief Lichman and Chief Lenart. Thank you to Mr. Balla, the recreation department, the police and fire department and the service department. Not the same type of kick-off to the holiday season as in past years, but a very memorable one. A huge thank you to Jim Toth for keeping the antique fire truck running.

The Mayor announced exciting news that the city was approved for an additional \$260,000 award from the County CARES Act to help cover COVID costs. These funds will be delivered quickly so the money can be put in place and documentation can be provide to the County. Last week and this week, the administration has been working with the Chamber of Commerce regarding several businesses in the community who were eligible for \$10,000 grants. The city submitted a letter of support for businesses to receive these dollars and the community. The city will hear soon about these grants. On Friday, another grant program was released for bars and restaurants in the amount of \$10,000 grants that do not need to be paid back. These are also CARES Act dollars. An application needs to be completed along with some criteria, but certainly criteria that all the businesses would meet. Very exciting to see this opportunity arrive in the city.

The Mayor mentioned on Friday and confirmed that the State Capital Budget will be introduced this week in Columbus. The City of Rocky River has a significant request as a part of that and the Mayor is feeling hopeful that the city will see some additional dollars for Bradstreet's Landing. The Mayor will let Council know as soon as she hears.

Today Director Snyder hit the send button for the Coastal Management Assistance Grant, which is also for Bradstreet's Landing boardwalk to the pedestrian bridge.

This Friday, the administration will be submitting the Community Development Block Grant for the Wooster/Shoreland Project.

The Mayor shared Building Department information through this November as compared to November 2019. The permits are lower by about 60 permits from last year. However, the estimated valuation is over \$59,000,000 as compared to about \$43,000,000 last year. That is significant. The Building Department had revenue this year of more than \$430,000 due to permit fees, registration, etc. The Building Department is doing a good job helping residents who are applicants and residents who are impacted by some of these projects. They have done a tremendous job and the Mayor believes that this is close to a record year for revenue for the Building Department.

The Mayor shared with Council that leaves and yard waste was being taken to Rustbelt Rider in Valleyview. The city can dump there for free with no tipping fees. The city has transported about 350 tons of materials as of November 25th. The cost savings is over \$16,000 in tipping fees for all of that material. Congratulations to Director Snyder and Dave Arendec who reached out to Rustbelt Riders. They are putting together another program for composting for the city. More information regarding that will be coming at the beginning of the year.

The Senior Center is closed but continues to do zoom programming. Volunteers have been working on a special project putting together gift packages for about 160 seniors. It is through Seniors Council and no taxpayer dollars were used. The generosity of some of the senior living facilities and others in the community enabled the Senior Center to do this. The administration is very appreciative of all the good work and the outreach that happens through the Senior Center and Social Services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee – Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Finance Committee met on Friday December 4th and had a productive meeting. Mr. Moran stated that it was a great meeting and thought it all went well with everyone. Thanks for everyone's time in preparing that information.

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Moran announced a piece of sad news. A long time resident of Rocky River, Mr. Tom Kennedy passed away. Mr. Kennedy and his wife Diane along with their son Michael, daughter and grandson Rory and Francie Kennedy lived in Rocky River for many years. Mr. Kennedy was very involved and very supportive of the city and its services. He will definitely be missed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 83-20: This is an annual ordinance setting the salaries and hourly rates for all the employees of the city including employees in the collective bargaining units. This has been discussed for over a month. It will be read for a third time at next week's meeting at which time Mr. O'Donnell attends to seek passage. He has not had any questions regarding this ordinance. Mr. Klym does not feel this should be on a consent agenda and should be voted individually regarding wages and salaries.

ORDINANCE NO. 84-20: This is an annual ordinance to provide health benefits that are negotiated by the collective bargaining units for the organized employees and also to provide these benefits to the full-time employees. This was renewed at no additional contribution to the employees, but there is an increase of 2.8% for the city, which is the lowest increase in the Westshore communities. There are not any substantial design changes to the policy. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 85-20: This is an annual ordinance that fulfills the responsibility to the collective bargaining employees and to other full time employees for dental coverage. There is a zero increase in cost to the city and the employees. There are not any substantial design changes to the policy. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-20: This ordinance is for life insurance and is a negotiated benefit for the unions and full-time employees. This is a three-year contract at a .06% increase and is locked in for three years. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 88-20: This ordinance is for a one-year renewal of an agreement with James Diaz for the removal of digested sludgecake at a cost of \$30.50 per ton. This is a renewal of last year's contract at the same price for 2021. In 2019, two bids were received, one from James Diaz for \$30.50 a ton and one from Quasar Energy Group for \$49.33 a ton. This was an increase of \$8 a ton but is still the least costly alternative during the non-winter months. This will have three full reads and non-emergency language is being utilized. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-20: This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with Bonded Chemicals Inc. for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite at the current price of \$0.769 a gallon. Sodium hypochlorite is used in three different application points, effluent, pre-chlorination and primary sludge. The first stage is effluent or disinfection, the second or pre-chlorination is odor control and the third or primary sludge is a thickener to settle the sludge. It was bid last year with three bids within a range of \$.769 to \$1.255 a gallon. This is slated for three reads and we will not use emergency language. This is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-20: This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of sodium bisulfite. Sodium bisulfite is added to the final effluent and excess flow to remove chlorine in the plant effluent. This is a one-year renewal with the current provider PVS Chemical Solutions at the current rate of \$1.26 a gallon. The was last bid out in 2019 with four bids received with a range from \$1.26 to \$2.1273 a gallon with PVS Chemicals Solutions, Inc. being the lowest and best bid at \$1.26 a gallon. This is slated for three reads and also uses non-emergency language and is necessary to comply with our NPDES permit. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 91-20: This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with PVS Technologies Inc. for the purchase of ferric chloride. This product has had some volatility over the last five years with a low of \$336 and a high of \$578. Two bids were received with PVS Technology Inc., the current supplier, being the lowest and best bid at \$578 per dry ton, which reflects a price increase of a little over 3.5%. Operationally, they will continue to investigate ways to use their chemicals more efficiently and will see if there is a more appropriate chemical to use along with streamlining the ferric dosing strategy for phosphoric reduction. This is slated for three full reads, utilizes non-emergency language and is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit. This will be added to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 95-20: This is the 2021 Budget. Council discussed this for almost five hours on Friday covering all the detail. It will be read for a third time next Monday, and Mr. O'Donnell will move for passage at that time.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 96-20: This amended ordinance is set for a third read at next Monday's Legislative Meeting. This authorizes the administration to enter into an extended lease for another three years with the Cleveland Clinic. The Cleveland Clinic rents space next to the weight room of the Civic Center to provide rehabilitation services to children and they have been a good tenant. The lease is up at the end of this year. This ordinance authorizes a three-year extension with two one-year extension options thereafter. The base rate for the first year will remain flat to replicate the 2020 lease amount with approximately a 2.5% increase for each additional year beginning in 2022. This lease also generates revenue for the city. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 97-20: This is an amended appropriation to the 2020 Budget. The biggest change relates to the CARES Act. This exhibit will be amended for next week's meeting. Mr. O'Donnell has not had many questions regarding this ordinance and after amending the exhibit will seek passage at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 98-20: Mr. Klym stated that this ordinance has been discussed for the last few weeks. This ordinance is there to amend ordinance 954.01 in regards to fees at the Civic Center Recreation facilities. At the budget hearing on Friday, this was discussed with Director Holub. These fees were reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and recommended for approval. This is within the Codified Ordinances so it needs to be approved and adopted by City Council. Mr. Klym noted that this includes emergency language for implementation of this ordinance. These fees will need to be printed in program guides at the end of the year. Mr. Klym will seek passage at next week's meeting. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-20: This is affirming the application of funds in the amount of \$100,000 for a Coastal Management Assistance Grant for the boardwalk at Bradstreet's Landing to be placed between the new pier and the pedestrian bridge over Spencer Creek that the city also received a grant for. This does not cover any work on the shoreline. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 100-20: This ordinance is to enter into insurance coverage for the city's needs with McGowan Insurance Company as the agent. The city engaged Crain Langner to help with this process. Mr. Shepherd said they targeted nine different providers and ended up with six agents that thoroughly participated in the process and reviewed it and came down with the recommendation that the city take all the insurance needs for the city, WWTP and court and place it with McGowan to be underwritten by Zurich American Insurance Company. Attached to the ordinance is the report written by Crain Langner, along with an email containing documents involved in the process. Crain Langner estimated a savings, with terrorist coverage included, of decreases of 11% for the city, 5% for the WWTP and 38% for the court. The city has since decided terrorist coverage is not needed. Afterwards, they elected three enhancements and it still resulted in a decrease of \$30,000 or 9% over the current program, which is expiring. As Council recalls, McGowan currently is our agent, but last year the city insurance was underwritten by Travelers Indemnity Co., the WWTP was underwritten by Liberty Mutual and the Court was underwritten by Tokyo Marine HCC. Among the reasons of recommending McGowan with Zurich as the lead insurer, one of the things pointed out was abuse and molestation liability coverage is offered through the full excess limits and it has approved program structure with one carrier for all entities so the potential for finger pointing is reduced when claims are interrelated or connected. They also pointed out the insurers right to select defense council and a higher policy aggregate limit for certain casualty lines of coverage. Mr. Shepherd believes their proposal with Zurich was the most financially advantageous. The Mayor stated that Zurich was highly rated as an insurance carrier also. There was also a letter forwarded to Council from McGowan regarding going forward and having an opportunity to continue to serve the city. Mr. Shepherd said that the letter from McGowan used very strong words making their commitment to giving the city the best service they could and will have the city's interest come first. These insurance ordinances will be read three full times. The Mayor also stated that if there are questions, Crain Langner can be made available during a meeting or to reach out individually. The same for McGowan representatives.

- Mr. Klym asked about the statement "Special Relationship" and how McGowan is entering into a "Special Relationship" with the city in paragraph 5. Can Crain Langner explain what that "special relationship" is, or can the administration find out what that means and if there is some additional significance within the insurance industry, legal significance or something like that. Director Snyder will have all that information available.

ORDINANCE NO. 101-20: This ordinance is to enter into insurance coverage for WWTP with McGowan Insurance Company as the agent. See explanation above for Ordinance No. 100-20.

ORDINANCE NO. 102-20: This ordinance is for the insurance coverage for the Municipal Court with McGowan Insurance Company as the agent. See explanation above for Ordinance No. 100-20.

ORDINANCE NO. 103-20: This is for the removal of digested sludgecake for the WWTP to a landfill. Two bids were received, one from Kimble Company for \$46.47 a ton and one from The Pen Ohio Corp for \$67.50 a

ton. This represents a slight increase from the current provider Rumpke of Northern Ohio whose contract is expiring at \$42.87 a ton. This is for the months when the city cannot send it to Mr. Diaz along with Ordinance 88-20 due to regulations set by the EPA for the renewal of our NPDES permit. This is slated for three reads and emergency language will be used and is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit.

ORDINANCE NO. 104-20: This ordinance is for the removal of grit and screenings from the WWTP. Grit is removed by the grit tanks by the screening building and screenings are separated by the bar screens at the Headworks building and are removed by mechanical means and must be sent to landfill. Three bids were received with a range of \$71.75 to \$94 a ton with Kimble Company being the lowest and best bid. This is slated for three reads and should be noted that emergency language is being utilized and it is necessary for compliance with the NPDES permit.

- The Mayor asked if this means a Special Meeting will be held on December 21st? Mr. Moran said yes, but he is waiting to hear back from all of Council. The slated idea is that next week will be a Legislative Meeting and the meeting on the 21st will be a Special Meeting and a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting so that all legislation could be passed this year. All of Council confirmed that the above schedule would be fine.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Mr. Moran thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting. He looks forward to seeing everyone next week on December 14th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council