

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

November 15, 2021

The meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole was called to order by Mr. Moran, President, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Klym, Mr. Moran

Absent: Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Furry, Mrs. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor shared with Council that there are two new ordinances at their seats this evening. Ordinance No. 96-21 is the MacKay Engineering Contract and Ordinance No. 97-21 is for the purchase of three Hybrid Interceptors; two for the Police Department with POPAS Funds and one for the Safety Service Department. There will also be a new Resolution in packets this Friday regarding the NOACA EV Charging Station Grant that the city received for City Hall Campus.

The Mayor elaborated on Ordinance No. 96-21 stating that this is the same contract that the city has had with MacKay Engineering with the addition of a Division of Wallace & Pancher, Inc. partnership included. The contract does not change and the city has the same engineers. Nothing changes other than the addition of this additional engineering firm. The same clause is included regarding the city having a 30-day out clause, which the city has always had. This will be for 2022 and 2023.

- President Moran added that there is a small increase of 2.75% in the contract. MacKay Engineering is part of the administrative family and the Mayor appreciates that they follow the same increase for the city employees.

The Mayor also discussed further Ordinance No. 97-21 for the purchase of three hybrids. This has been reviewed by the Police Department and the mechanics. Two of the three vehicles will be paid for out of POPAS funds and the third will be for the Service Department at a reduced price of \$37,000. This will be discussed further at next week's meeting. Director Snyder is hopeful for passage by the end of the year to maintain this price. These vehicles are on the lot now and are 2021 vehicles. Mr. Snyder said that these cars will shut down while idling so there will be no fuel loss while idling and they have plenty of pick up. The City of Lakewood uses this type of vehicle significantly.

- Mr. Klym said it is in line with what he has mentioned in the past and thinks it will be great to get the idling time down.

These items will be on next week's agenda.

The Mayor said that MacKay Engineering worked on the ward boundaries in consideration of the results of the 2020 Census. Based on the 2020 population, the current wards are in good shape:

- The total population of the City of Rocky River is 21,755 residents, with a target population being 5,439 residents, which puts Ward 1 a little over 3% larger than the target population.
- Ward 2 is down 1.45%
- Ward 3 is down 2.31%
- Ward 4 is up .68%

The Wards are all within the 5% band so everything could stay the same and be well within the 5% band. If the city was to move one census track: Census Track No. 1812.01 Block 2,000 – which is the area across from the high school from I-90 to Detroit Rd. which encompasses the AT&T building, apartment buildings, a church on the corner with the church next to it and a residential development off of Detroit Rd. from Ward 1 to Ward 3, the Wards would be as follows:

- Ward 1 .85% over the target population per Ward
- Ward 2 down 1.45%
- Ward 3 down .09%
- Ward 4 is up .68%

With this move, the Wards would be a much closer band. The administration needs direction from Council. The Wards could stay the way they are, or one census track could shift. The city would need to communicate the shift with a description of the new Ward by MacKay Engineering and added to Council's agenda. Both options are good options.

The Mayor discussed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was passed by the Federal Government. Both Congresswoman Kaptur and Congressman Gonzalez have shared what is coming to the region: \$1 billion for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, \$9.2 billion for highways, \$483 million for bridges, \$1.2 million for public transportation, \$140 million for electric vehicle chargers, \$100 million for broadband for underserved broadband areas, \$1.4 billion for water infrastructure, and \$253 million for airports. Some of these are existing projects that will be expanded and others are new projects that show a high level of collaboration. The Mayor is hoping that the Bradstreet's Landing Project and the Sewer Project on Buckingham, Argyle and Arundel may receive some of these dollars.

The Morewood Parkway waterline work is completed along with the Division of Cleveland Water replacing lead lines that were found. These are typically the responsibility of the homeowner but were paid for by Cleveland Water. The sewer project will begin next.

The Mayor thanked the residents and the Service Department on the tire recycling. The city was able to remove close to seven tons of debris from the waste stream by recycling these items. Rocky River was one of the communities with the highest rate of recycling. A big thank you to the community for partnering on this special district collection with the Solid Waste District.

Work on the poured in place rubber began today for the playground on City Hall Campus. The new track at the Recreation Center is complete. The Mayor and Director Holub extend thanks to the City of Fairview Park for accommodating Rocky River residents on their track while the indoor track was closed. There is a lot of good collaboration between the Cities of Rocky River, Fairview Park and Westlake.

The Bradstreet's Landing Project is waiting for the railing along with the electrical work for the lighting under the railing. The area has been secured by the contractor, as it is very dangerous with high winds and waves.

The Mayor discussed the Holiday Kick-Off on December 3rd and 4th. On December 3rd, the traditional tree lighting will be held in front of City Hall. All but one of the trees are sponsored by Chamber of Commerce members and Councilman Klym has been a big part of this project. The trees will be on the arch sidewalk from Wagar to Hilliard by the flag. Residents will be able to see them as they drive by. Everyone will then be invited

to an outdoor drive in movie showing “The Grinch”. On Saturday will be the traditional Holiday Walk on Detroit and Old Detroit Roads. A huge thank you to Richard Marquard, who he and his wife own Maison Maison on Old Detroit Road and are the former owners of Paysage, for all the work he is doing along with Bill Brink. There will be a holiday decorated car parade beginning at the Methodist Church, down Detroit to Old Detroit, the cars will disperse leaving Santa on the antique fire truck. Invitations have been extended to families, civic organizations, schools, business owners to decorate and register their cars for the parade. There is no charge to participate. After the parade, there will be a holiday street dance and a community sing along on Old Detroit Road. A DJ has been hired to lead the festivities along with Mrs. Claus, Santa and the elves, who will also be there. The entire community is invited. The Mayor extends a big appreciation to Director Snyder and Director Holub who have been very excited for all of this.

- Councilman Hunt asked how many lead lines were replaced on Morewood Parkway. Director Snyder said these were lines from the disconnect and the house and there were approximately 10 lines that were replaced so far. Mr. Snyder has a progress meeting with Fabrizi tomorrow and he will share an in depth update with Council.
- President Moran asked about the time frame for the railings and electric at Bradstreet’s Landing to be completed. Director Snyder stated that the materials have been sent to the fabricator and the fabrication is being worked on now. The fabricator had COVID shutdowns but Mr. Snyder understands that the rails will be installed by the end of this year.
- Councilman O’Donnell asked about the timing for the ward decision. The Board of Elections would like it by the beginning of December, but the census numbers were released late, so are understanding if communities cannot make that deadline. An ordinance will be necessary if the wards are realigned. The Board of Elections will then populate the map with the precincts. Councilman Klym’s first thought is to make the wards as close as possible, but will not be opposed to leaving the wards as is. Director Snyder will have MacKay Engineering write up the description for the new ward and then Council can discuss it further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Parks, Recreation and Health Committee: Councilman Klym stated that there was a Parks and Recreation meeting last Thursday morning. The committee discussed increasing fees, most of which will be approved by the committee. Council will receive legislation with an increase for outdoor pool fees, which has not been increased since 2019. Councilman Klym thanked the City of Fairview Park for the use of their track while Rocky River’s track was being installed. Fairview Park residents are using Rocky River facilities due to major issues with their pool and fitness center. The original time frame was six months, but it looks like that will be extended. There will be more discussion with the Directors regarding this. Director Holub stated that there have not been any issues currently.

- Mr. Moran mentioned the ordinance Mr. Klym sponsored regarding the Dectron Units. Fairview Park is in the middle of that now and has discovered more damage than they thought. Mr. Klym said it is good reason to keep the Dectron units in good working order.

Mr. Klym also mentioned that the wood steps at Rocky River Park are being replaced along with a new retaining wall being added near the handicap accessible merry-go-round. The concrete steps are being replaced also by Fabrizi heading down to the beach area. The decking structure and steps on the other side of the park will be looked at also. Mr. Klym forwarded Director Holub’s monthly report to Council.

Finance Committee: Councilman O’Donnell reminded Council that the Finance Committee Meeting will be Friday, December 3rd beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. Please meet with your assigned Director prior to this meeting.

COMMUNICATION: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 71-21: President Moran said this has been referred to the Planning Commission for review regarding the driveway situation and is on hold.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-21: President Moran said this has been referred to the Planning Commission for review regarding the height of a garage. Law Director Bemer said the meeting that was held on October 27th was instructive for all concerned. The come away was that the BZA needs to reassess their positions on compromising and this fact seems to be the main reason garages have been proliferating. BZA needs to be more in tuned for what the ordinance provides as well as the questions raised by neighbors adjacent to these garages that are too big. The question is the city's ability to enforce and BZA needs to be more restrictive and follow code compliance. That is the policy that is being adopted. The County Planning Commission will review the entire Development Code, but there are already provisions regarding a garage potential being referred to the Architect Review Board as well as enforcing the 15 foot height limit. The decision is that these revisions are not necessary so Ordinance No. 73-21 will be postponed indefinitely.

ORDINANCE NO. 76-21: Mr. Moran stated that this is a two-year renewal with Hazen and Sawyer for professional consulting services at the WWTP in the amount of \$187,000. There has not been any questions regarding this ordinance and this will be placed on the consent agenda for next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 77-21: Mr. Moran said that this is for a one-year renewal with PVS Technologies Inc. for the purchase of ferric chloride at \$672 per dry ton. This has been read twice with no questions and will be placed on next week's consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 78-21: Mr. Moran said that this is also for a one- year renewal with PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of sodium bisulfite at \$1.62 a gallon, which is a small increase over last year. This was the best quote and there have not been any questions, this will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 79-21: Mr. Moran said that this is also for a one-year renewal with Bonded Chemicals Inc. for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite at \$1.30 a gallon. This has been read twice for the WWTP and will be added to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 80-21: Mr. Moran stated that this is a two-year agreement with Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the City of Rocky River for the Phase II Stormwater Services. This has been read twice and this will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 81-21: Mr. Moran said this is for the Kimball Company for the removal of digested sludgecake at \$46.47 during the winter months. This will also be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 82-21: Mr. Moran said this is for a one-year renewal of an agreement with James Diaz for the removal of digested sludgecake at a cost of \$30.50 a ton during the summer months. This has had two reads and is the best bid. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 83-21: Mr. Moran said that this is for a one-year renewal on an existing agreement with Kimble Company for the removal of grit and screenings from the WWTP at \$71.75 per ton. This has been read twice and is the best bid. This will also be placed on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-21: Mr. Moran said this resolution authorizes the city to participate in the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program to obtain prices with the advantage of having larger orders. There is no commitment to purchase. This has been read twice and will be placed on the consent agenda next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 85-21: Mr. Moran said that this is to purchase gasoline, fuel oil and allied products on the Open Market at the best prices possible. The city saved approximately 18 cents a gallon by obtaining bids on the Open Market. There have not been any questions on this and will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-21: Mr. Moran said that this is to purchase tires on the Open Market at the best prices possible. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 87-21: Mr. Moran said this resolution was read once. This is the application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Urban Canopy Restoration Grant Program for tree lawn tree planting. This will be read for a second time next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 88-21: Mr. O'Donnell stated that this is for appropriations for the current expenses of the City of Rocky River for the 2022 Budget. Council has received their Budget Books and the hearing on December 3rd will be an in depth meeting with all the Directors and Chiefs to be sure Council understands the budget.

- Mr. Klym asked about increased staffing for the new Police Department. The Mayor stated that Mr. Hunt will have all that information, but it does include jailers and a dispatcher.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-21: Mr. Moran said that this is for the insurance for the city through McGowan Insurance at \$247,966.00. This has been read once and Mr. Shepherd will discuss this further at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-21: Mr. Moran said this is for insurance for the Courts through McGowan Insurance at \$6,859. This will need to be amended due to a correction of the date in the title.

ORDINANCE NO. 91-21: Mr. Moran stated that this is for the insurance for the WWTP and has been read once in the amount of \$90,093 with McGowan Insurance Company. This will need to be amended due to a correction of the date in the title. This will be discussed further at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 92-21: Mr. O'Donnell stated this is the ordinance for the salaries and wage increases for 2022. Below is part of what is reflected in the ordinance.

- The minimum wage increased to \$9.30 (State of Ohio)
- Fire and Wastewater employees saw a contractual agreement increase of 2.75%
- An Assistant Finance Director was added the Finance Department
- Police and Service employees are still negotiating their contracts

If Council has any questions, please let Mr. O'Donnell know. Council discussed a few weeks ago the Boards and Commissions and Council is satisfied that the city is aligned with other Westshore Communities.

ORDINANCE NO. 93-21: Mr. Moran said this has been read once and is the Health Insurance coverage for full time employees. The administrative fees or the deposit liability fees for 2022 will not be increased. The only increase will be in the individual stop loss rate, which translates to an average increase of \$18.72 per plan and will not be passed on to the employee. The stop loss level for 2022 will remain the same and will not be increased due to a positive claims experience. Mr. Shepherd will discuss this further next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 94-21: Mr. Moran said this has been read once for Delta Dental for dental coverage for full-time employees. The dental renewals have only a 1.5% increase for 2022, which includes just a few cents to each plan level. Mr. Shepherd will discuss this further next week.

- The Mayor added that there are no plan design change. Health Care is significant during Collective Bargaining and the administration is very pleased to present this renewal. The city employees use their healthcare appropriately. 100% of prevention is covered in these plans for employees. Vision is not

provided, but the administration negotiates with the insurance company on behalf of the employees and coverage is extended to them and they pay the entire premium if they choose vision coverage.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 95-21: Mr. Hunt stated that this is an ordinance authorizing the purchase of twenty-five self-contained breathing apparatus units for the Fire Department. Last year at the Budget Hearing, Chief Lenart spoke about the mutual operability of SCBA units and that Rocky River's do not interact with the rest of the suburbs for mutual aid. Chief Lenart and Captain Kevin Bednarski applied for a FEMA Grant and were awarded about \$7,000 per unit with four extra face pieces. The total grant is \$175,686.35 from FEMA with a purchase price of \$198,225.00, which leaves the city portion at \$22,538.65. The appropriation was not made specifically for these air tanks in the 2021 Budget, but there is the ability to move funding around to cover this purchase. The grants are very competitive. The SCBA units include a harness, a regulator, a face piece and two air bottles plus the four additional face pieces for the remainder of the four individuals potentially using the air tanks. The funding does not have to be spent, but the opportunity to purchase this year arose because prices will be increased shortly. The price has been set and will be held until November 28th, which also included an extra air tank at the value of \$1,200. The old air tanks and bottles were purchased in 2010 and have had significant usage. It will be another 10-12 years before this purchase will be necessary again. Mr. Hunt will be asking for a Rules Suspension next week so the order could possibly be done by the 28th. Chief Lenart has offered to speak to Council, if necessary.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Councilman Hunt congratulated Magnificat High School for winning the State Volleyball Championship this weekend. Mr. Moran congratulated St. Ignatius High School, who also won the State Soccer Championship. Mr. Moran said Council is very proud of the RRHS Varsity Football Team that did a great job getting as far as they did and brought home a lot of pride. Mr. Klym said the RRHS Girls' Soccer Team also made it to the semifinals. Congratulations to all the athletes.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 22nd in Council Chambers.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council