

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 17, 2021

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

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor introduced Madison MacArthur, the new WestLife Reporter for City Council. Madison recently moved to Lakewood and will be covering Rocky River, Bay Village and Fairview Park for the WestLife. Madison is a Kent State Journalism School Graduate. The Mayor welcomed Madison.

The CDC and the Governor's Office have lifted the Public Health Orders and Directives regarding mask wearing. The city's facilities are now opened for rentals and the Senior Center and Recreation Center are opening up more fully. Individuals are being asked to present their vaccination card and once it is recorded, does not need to be shown again and individuals may enter without a mask. All other visitors will be asked to wear a mask.

The City Boards and Commissions can now meet in person. Each Board, Commission and City Council will discuss if they will stay in virtual meeting mode until June or extend it until December 31st or possibly something permanent that will allow public bodies to meet virtually. There has been considerable discussion regarding that. The BZA will continue to meet remotely at least through the month of June. The emergency health orders are over June 30th. The Mayor will keep City Council informed.

The Fire Department has been administering vaccinations to residents that are homebound. If Council is aware of anyone homebound, have them contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Western Reserve Office on Aging or the Rocky River Senior Center, to get on a list. Cuyahoga County Health Commissioner, Terry Allan, called the Mayor thanking the city for what Chief Lenart did last week administering five doses of the vaccine. Some of the families had reached out to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health thanking them for this accommodation.

The Civil Service Commission will be holding an entry exam for Fire on Wednesday, June 23rd and Thursday, June 24th for Police. Registration is now open for these exams. The city hopes to have a number of individuals taking these tests. It is more and more difficult to find candidates who are interested in serving in law enforcement and to some extent fire. Information is being sent to the academies for possible candidates.

The Mayor announced that the City of Rocky River was asked to be the insert for the Rating the Suburbs Issue of Cleveland Magazine. The rankings will not be available for another two weeks. Thank you to Cleveland Magazine and all the advertisers for the insert. The theme is "Come to Rocky River to Find Really Great Food, Have a Picnic and Enjoy One of Our Parks". Thank you to everyone involved in this project.

Crack and Joint Sealing will be commencing beginning on Lake Road west to east then to Center Ridge followed by the other streets described in the ordinance.

The outdoor pool is being filled and will be ready the first day of summer vacation for students. The city is continuing to prepare the parks for summer use. The Chamber of Commerce Planting will be held this Saturday morning along with a beach cleanup at Rocky River Park from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Thank you to Bob Holub, Dave Arendec and Rich Snyder for working with the Chamber on plant material and design. There is also plenty of driftwood on the beach for anyone interested. Thank you to Ground Work Land Design and Odell Construction, Inc. that sponsored the Chamber of Commerce for this project.

The Mayor announced three retirements: Pam Rice is retiring from the Recreation Department after 47 years of serving the city; Mark Garst is retiring from Memorial Hall; and Jim Harrington who manages the Service Department by helping with the budget and payroll and taking calls from residents needing special assistance. Everyone will be missed.

The Mayor met today with the Rocky River Historical Society Leadership regarding a new home for this organization. For the last few years, the Society has looked from historic City Hall, the train depot, the farm on Center Ridge and a church on Wooster, but there has never been a suitable home. The suggestion was made that they build a building on City Hall Campus that will house their holdings and be a museum for the city. They would raise the funds to build it and also to operate it. In meeting with the Society tonight, the one location that may be viable is 1958 Wagar Road, where the home was raised working with Habitat for Humanity and a Piece of Cleveland to demo that home and build the museum there. It will be about 5100 square feet. It would meet all the setbacks, they would move all the utilities and the city would work with them on drainage issues. It is in very early stages and just finalizing a potential architect and what they would need in a building like this. The Society has raised a considerable amount of money already, but has a ways to go. The ingress and egress to the Community Garden would stay, the building would use the parking lot attached to the Senior Center. The Mayor has discussed with Law Director Bemer about a lease of that land to the Historical Society for an extended period of time, at a very low rate. It would allow them to build it and place their holdings in this building. It is time for them to have an appropriate home. If Council has any questions or concerns, please let the Mayor know.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Planning, Zoning and Economic Development - Mrs. Morris said there will be a Planning Commission Meeting tomorrow beginning at 6:00 p.m. On the agenda is a preliminary for the drive-thru for Panera Bread along with several pre-preliminaries including the apartment building on Hilliard. Mr. Bemer added that these are all pre-preliminaries. Of interest to Council will be the Hilliard Blvd. project will more than likely involve a rezoning request. Mr. Bemer understands that the single family home has been purchased and is already zoned R-6. The theory is to have a cascade process from east to west with the Hilroc an R-6, the next lot an R-4 and the next an R-5, which will give them another floor. The Mayor clarified that Panera Bread is a preliminary and the Radiant Bride, the Center Ridge and Hilliard Projects are all pre-preliminary. Radiant Bride may cause a recall for the current rezoning request, but there may be another rezoning request because of the Hilliard Rd. project. Mr. Bemer stated that the preliminary hearing is actually the Public Hearing for the drive-thru at Panera Bread and affected residents have been notified of the meeting where public comment will be allowed.

President Moran stated that the last zoom meeting for City Council will be next week. As of June 7th, City Council will meet in person in Council Chambers at City Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 23-21: This ordinance has been referred to the Planning Commission for further review and possibly pulled after tomorrow evening's Planning Commission Meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-21: Mrs. Morris said that this ordinance amends some of the Building Codes and fees. Some of the language on Exhibit A was clarified by Mr. Reich and Mr. Bemer per Mr. Furry's request prior to the first reading of the ordinance. This will be read for a third time next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-21: Mr. Klym stated that this ordinance deals with a contract to replace the indoor track surface at the Civic Center. This has been discussed several times including questions being answered after the first reading. The current track is as old as the building, going on 18-20 years. The rubber surface becomes less resilient and begins to wear out. The cost is less than what was budgeted, coming in at \$75,760. The city received several bids for this and this was the lowest and best bid.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-21: Mr. Shepherd said this ordinance authorizes a contract with Fabrizi Trucking to do the Morewood Parkway Storm and Sanitary Sewer Project. Mr. Shepherd said the sewer rehabilitation program began 12-15 years ago and the city has spent millions. The city is seeing results with less pollution to Lake Erie, the flow studies at the WWTP show that the sewers are working better and have less infiltration of storm water into the sanitary sewer and less overflow into the lake. Critically for Councilman Shepherd as a Ward Councilman, it has resulted in a great decrease in basement flooding. This is a major contract in the amount of \$4,000,000. Under the Mayor's leadership, Council had the courage to take this project on over the years totaling almost \$56,000,000. The Mayor added that a lot of this money was through grants and zero interest loans and not directly out of the revenue streams; but leveraged the revenue streams to secure outside dollars. The partnership with Cleveland Water has helped a lot as the city does projects in concert with them that helps to reduce costs and get to difficult areas. Mr. Snyder stated that just in OPWC Funding since 2015 the total is almost \$22,000,000. The Mayor stated that she is going back to 2006-2007 when the first sewer maintenance and rehabilitation plan began and it has been completed. The city's work with the EPA has been very helpful in breaking down the sewer sheds. The most important work to come will be with the residents in infiltration from down spouts. This will be an important discussion with residents. Cleveland Water is paying \$678,542 towards this project and Ohio Public Works is making a \$3.414 million dollar loan.

- Mrs. Morris asked what the comparison is to the other cities surrounding us. Mr. Shepherd said that most of this is EPA mandated and Rocky River is ahead of the curve. The Mayor said that not all of this is EPA mandated, but the City of Rocky River is well on the way. The City of Lakewood has combined sewers and is a different process. The City of Rocky River has inverted sewers, which need to be separated. The telling part of this is what ends up at the WWTP and the City of Rocky River's portion has gone down at each evaluation. All the work has been highly effective and successful. The Mayor said this is the administration's life and it is important to them. Every Council member has been shoulder to shoulder in making sure funds were being applied for and making sure they were used effectively. The Mayor thanked Council for their ongoing support. The Mayor stated that it is not the most visible thing to do, but it is the right thing to do.
- President Moran said residents around the library area may miss the sandbags that were on the sewer grates. Everyone has done a great job in getting this done.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 34-21: This ordinance is for the compensation of City Council members for the 2022-2023 term. This is a zero percent increase and it will keep the pay scale at the same rate as of today. Mr. Moran will have a complete outline of increases for all these ordinances at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 35-21: This ordinance is for the compensation for the President of City Council for the 2022-2023 term. This also is a zero percent increase and will keep the pay scale at the same rate as of today.

ORDINANCE NO. 36-21: This ordinance is for the compensation for the position of Mayor for the 2022-2023 term. The compensation has been set at \$114,000 and is a very slight increase over the directors.

ORDINANCE NO. 37-21: This ordinance is for the compensation for the position of Law Director for the 2022-2023 term. It is currently at \$59,500 and this would increase the salary to \$62,000. It also includes an hourly rate of \$100.00 per hour and is an increase of 4%. Law Director Bemer put together an outline for other Law Directors in other communities to see where the City of Rocky River falls. This will be discussed further at next week's meeting.

- Mrs. Morris asked about Ordinance No. 35-21 and if it needs to be submitted on an ethics form for him as President. The Mayor stated that it is for the position, not for an individual. This position has not been appointed yet. Mr. Moran stated that once everyone is elected, the position of President is appointed by the rest of Council after the election.
- Mr. Moran stated that these ordinances are all for the position and not for the person, since these are all elected positions and the people have not been elected yet.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council