

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 1, 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, Director Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that Governor DeWine released the State Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The highlights are \$460,000,000 in support for small businesses; \$450,000,000 for communities to be used for broadband deployment and infrastructure projects; \$70,000,000 for growing Ohio Skilled Workforce with additional credentialing added in the technology arena; \$240,000,000 of continued investment in H₂O Ohio including the Ohio EPA and the Department of Agriculture programs. The breakdown of the \$460,000,000 for small businesses includes: \$200,000,000 grant program for bars and restaurants; \$150,000,000 in small business relief for those that previously applied and continue to qualify; \$50,000,000 for lodging industry; \$40,000,000 for indoor entertainment venues; \$20,000,000 new businesses and startups. House lawmakers will consider the plan first and produce their own proposal. The Senate is next and a final plan approved by House, Senate and Governor DeWine by June. The Mayor publicly thanked Angela Barth and the Board of the Chamber of Commerce for all the ways they have communicated with businesses during the pandemic and pushing out good information.

Last week, the Service Department began work on drainage issues on the baseball fields at Elmwood Park. There has been good progress.

Mr. Terry Allen, the head of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health shared information with the Mayors regarding COVID-19 in the county. Positive cases are declining throughout the state, but variant strains are being seen. The county is still at five times the CDC threshold of where the cases should be. There has been an increase in testing and Cuyahoga County is at a 24% positivity rate. County Councilwoman Nan Baker forwarded vaccine information and 91,000 individuals have been vaccinated which is 7.3% of the entire population in Cuyahoga County. The Rocky River City School staff will be vaccinated beginning February 8th, as well as Magnificat along with other schools in the city.

Residents in Rocky River received phone calls to their homes over the weekend regarding an Amber Alert. Amber Alerts are extremely important and the city does not control them. The Mayor said there was a press release from the County Emergency Management that they will discontinue calls to private homes, but text messages will still be received. If residents are on ReadyNotify, residents can manage how many calls received and how you receive them.

The Lakefront Access Plan Public Meeting was held last Thursday with about 300 individuals listening to the presentation. About 8% of that group was from Rocky River. The Lakefront Access Plan can be viewed at the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission website. The website has a lot of good information and will be updated on a regular basis.

The Mayor updated Council on the NOACA Hyperloop Project. The Hyperloop is high-speed trains in tubes either above or underground. It would be about a 35-minute ride to Chicago. A study was completed at the end of 2019 involving Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Chicago and the feasibility of the Hyperloop was very highly regarded. Not only was it feasible but also it would create economic development and thousands of new jobs. At the end of 2020, the US Department of Transportation published a document called “Pathways to the Future of Transportation” and in that talked a lot about Hyperloop and emerging technologies. This has excitement and possibilities surrounding it. NOACA has information with videos regarding the Hyperloop on its website. In addition, NOACA also developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan for the county. Director Snyder has been in on the discussions regarding this plan and there are some identified in the City of Rocky River. These will be Level 2 and Level 3 stations. The Mayor also announced that she has been appointed Chair of Planning and Programming for NOACA with its six sub-committees and advisory boards.

The Mayor announced that Sylvestro DiPietro, who worked for the city for 40 years in the Service Department and most recently as a school crossing guard passed away. Sylvestro was a great ambassador for the city. The Mayor extends her condolences to the DiPietro family.

The Mayor also announced that Hugh Goldie passed away. Hugh was very involved in youth sports, little league and was the voice of Pirate Hockey. He would see things around the city that could be improved and he always engaged with the city to help the city improve that area. Mr. Goldie was known as the “Mayor of Cornwall”. The Mayor extends condolences to the Goldie family.

- Councilwoman Morris congratulated the Mayor on her new appointment with NOACA. The Mayor said there will be a lot of opportunity for her to see what is happening across the region. Rocky River has benefitted by many things through Planning and Programming. The Mayor is also on the Policy Committee and is very proud of the new Equity Policy. She appreciates the appointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE.

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 1-21: Mr. Furry said that this is a renewal of an ordinance that has been in effect for numerous years and is a joint cooperation with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the City but this ordinance is for PIPE or Public Information and Public Education, more specifically the education and stewardship for the conservation of soil and water resources. This ordinance does have an increase of \$500 annually totaling \$6,000. It is not a major line item in the budget but it was in the budget and since it is a fellow governmental entity, we are providing full disclosure. This MOU can be renewed solely at the City’s discretion after the 12-month period. It also may be amended or terminated at any time via mutual consent of both parties. This has been read twice and will have three full reads. This will be added to next week’s consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 2-21: Mr. Furry said that this is a companion piece with Ordinance 1-21 and has been in effect for numerous years and is also a joint cooperation with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the City and is related to our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) EPA Permit and is for minimal control measures 4 and 5. The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District shall provide technical assistance to the city. Cuyahoga Soil and Water held the price the same at \$11,330. This is not a major line item in the budget but it was in the budget and since it is a fellow governmental entity, we are providing full disclosure. This MOU can be renewed solely at the City’s discretion after the 12-month period. It also may be amended or terminated at any time via mutual consent of both parties. This has been read twice and will have three full reads. This will be added to next week’s consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 3-21: Mr. O'Donnell stated that this has been discussed for four or five weeks and will be up for a third read next week. This is an annual ordinance that authorizes the City of Rocky River to pay the difference to the City of Lakewood for the approximate number of 110 homes in the Valley View neighborhood that use Lakewood's treatment plant. These residents are charged a higher rate from Lakewood, and the City covers the difference. This will be added to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-21: Mr. Moran said that this ordinance has been read twice and will be read for the third time next week. This is to purchase one 75 cubic yard transfer trailer for the Service Division at a cost not to exceed \$81,100, which came in under the estimate of over \$100,000. Mr. Moran thanked Director Snyder for the pictures showing the refuse transfer trailer that is in poor condition and in need of being replaced. This will be added to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-21: Mr. Shepherd said that this ordinance could be added to the consent agenda. This authorizes a two-year agreement with Metropolitan Vending Company for the vending machines in the Recreation Center and Hockey Rink. Metropolitan Vending Company currently operates these machines and this renews that agreement at the same commission rates and basically the same terms and conditions. This was put out to bid but Metropolitan was the only response. Research was conducted and their rates are comparable market rates and comparable to what the other cities pay.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-21: Mr. Moran stated that this is the ordinance to sell used vehicles that consisted of six cars, trucks, an airstream trailer, a backhoe and an ambulance chassis for the amount of \$26,053.03. This has been read twice and will be put on the consent agenda for next week's meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-21: Mrs. Morris said that this has been discussed for a couple of weeks and is an erosion control revetment at 21468 Avalon Drive. The ODNR requires that the City of Rocky River support the placement of this proposed shore structure within Lake Erie submerged lands adjacent to this property.

ORDINANCE NO. 9-21: Mr. Hunt said this will be read for a second time next week. This authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Brookside Construction Services for the landscaping at the new police station. The contract amount is for \$106,710.00. There has not been any questions or discussion regarding this and is the second to the last of bid packages for the Police Station. There were four total bids and Brookside was the lowest and best bidder and recommended by Bowen.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Mr. Moran thanked Director Snyder for the super job of plowing the streets and asked him to pass along to the Service Department Council's thanks for all their hard work.

Next week's meeting will be via zoom.

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