

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

March 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 Thomas, Director Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

The meeting was open with a Pledge of Allegiance.

President Moran introduced Ohio House Representative Monique Smith, who is a special guest at this evening's meeting. President Moran introduced City Council and the Administration to Representative Smith. City Council and the Administration each shared an introduction with Representative Smith.

Mayor Bobst added that this City Council is very active in the community, civic organizations, churches and businesses. They are great public servants. The Mayor wished Representative Smith every success in her new elected position in Columbus.

Representative Smith appreciates being at this evening's meeting and finally meeting everyone. Ms. Smith said that the City of Rocky River is such a special community. It is beautiful, walkable and friendly and is one of her favorite places. She admires the quality of life the community has built and continues to maintain together as such a special city. Ms. Smith has lived in the Westshore area for her whole marriage of 18 years. Fifteen of those years were spent in Lakewood and the last 3½ in Fairview Park. She loves the westside and feels deeply connected to it. Ms. Smith's husband was born and raised in North Olmsted. Ms. Smith worked in the City of Westlake for eight years at Hyland Software in sales and marketing. Ms. Smith stopped working there in 2014, which was also when she finished serving on City Council in Lakewood. She had a preschooler and toddler at home that she decided to focus more on. Ms. Smith was a member of "Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America". This group trained Monique to pay attention to State Legislation as it really affects local safety laws. That started her into paying attention to what was happening at the State House and she decided to begin campaigning in 2019 for the seat she was fortunate to win in November. This is only a two-year term and she's been told she will always have to campaign. Her goal is not to introduce the most legislation but rather be a good advocate and a good representative of what she hears in the community. She asked her Legislative Aide to make this a top priority for her. Monique has been assigned to three committees: the Economic and Workforce Development Committee; the Labor and Commerce Committee and a new committee this year called Technology and Innovation. This last committee will be exciting and interesting to be a part of due to the pandemic and the big cracks in technology in terms of constituents being able to apply for services needed. This committee is headed by a professional project manager and he is asking many hard questions. Monique is excited to be part of this committee so hopefully government will be more efficient and easier to interact with.

Representative Smith has a fourth grader and a second grader who are students in the Fairview Park Schools. Ms. Smith applauds the Fairview Schools in making it the most positive experience it could be to be a working parent during the pandemic. School Boards have been under such pressure and parents have struggled during the pandemic, but she has been fortunate to have a flexible school system as her kids just went back to school today. Ms. Smith is looking forward to being an advocate for this District and a conduit for any information she can share with all the residents and also bring back concerns and needs at the local level to the State House. She is very grateful to be here and working to learn from everyone. Please feel free to contact her at any time.

Mayor Bobst stated that she has shared with Council the highlights of the Governor's Budget and is hoping to see the highlights soon of the Transportation Budget. Many of these items are significant to the Westshore and the Mayor will be in contact with Ms. Smith about specific items, especially if there are modifications that need to be discussed. The Municipal Income Tax is one of the most important issues to local municipalities. There has been a lot of discussion about municipal tax, municipal tax collection and now issues involving where that is paid. The Mayor appreciates Ms. Smith's willingness to listen to the leadership of the Cuyahoga Mayors and Managers as this group can provide good background. Ms. Smith said to let her know preferences, wishes and concerns, especially in regard to the Transportation Budget as it will move quickly.

- Mr. Furry asked for more money for Bradstreet's Landing. Representative Smith asked what bucket most of the dollars are coming from for the Bradstreet's Landing Project. The Mayor responded, diverse funding sources that are leveraged to secure other sources. Currently there are federal funds that come through the state along with state and county dollars. For example, the County Community Development Fund, casino dollars, in the amount of \$1,100,000. The city also received a distribution from the State Capital Fund of \$350,000 for the planning, design and engineering of the park; and \$200,000 recently from the State Capital Budget. The Mayor would be happy to discuss the details of the funding. ODNR is involved as it took six permits to get the project approved. The city is well on the way with this very exciting project. Director Snyder has been submitting grant proposals to all sorts of organizations and public entities. Ms. Smith asked if there is a funding gap in order to complete the project. The Mayor said it depends on the scope. The next phase of funding is the finalization of the step revetment. There is a building that needs rebuilt and a new configuration of the parking lot to do storm water management. These all add up over time and they all have unique attributes that help to secure outside dollars. Senator Dolan was extremely pleased with the diversity of funding. There were also two CMAQ Coastal Management Grants. Mr. Furry said that the funding from the state was less than what the city thought it would receive. Representative Smith would like to follow up with a meeting with the Mayor and anyone else that would like to join. The Mayor will forward the detail in the Capital Request that former Representative Greenspan and Senator Dolan also received. President Moran stated this area is a great area for the City of Rocky and is also utilized by so many other people in local communities across the county. Mayor Bobst stated that this is one of the few direct lake access areas in the Westshore. Bradstreet's Landing is part of the Lake Front Access Plan, the Lake Erie Water Trail, the Greenways Project and the Green Print Project.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor began her report by stating that crews will be out performing borings on many streets throughout the city. This is in preparation for the 2021 Annual Paving Program. In addition, they will be looking closely at Hilliard Blvd. for possible reconfiguration to coincide with the rebuild of the Hilliard Road Bridge.

The city went out for bid for Crack Sealing. This is normally done in the fall but bids will be opened on March 19th. The scope of the project is very large and the city would like to get a head start on this project. The crack sealing will be completed first before the striping is done on the streets.

The March 1st Sewer Bills are in the mail. City Hall is not accepting cash payments. There are two secure drop boxes, one at the back door of the temporary entrance and one drive through by the fire department close to the building entrance. For the past year the penalty and fees on unpaid balances has been waived through this billing cycle. Beginning April 1st penalties and fees will be accrued at 10%. This information was sent out on a ReadyNotify and is printed on the sewer bill.

The Mayor congratulated Director Snyder on receiving a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for two shredding days, a large recycling banner and six additional recycling containers.

The Cuyahoga Soils and Water Conservation District is providing a Rain/Garden Virtual Workshop on March 10th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. All residents are invited to attend. This is part of the P.I.P.E. Agreement and contributes to the work the District does with public education and public information on the city's behalf.

This afternoon the city kicked off the first of a six part series on Diversity and Inclusion with the Diversity Center. Thank you to Councilman Klym and Councilwoman Morris for attending today's first session. The Mayor asked the leadership of all the Civic Organizations representing churches, the library, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, etc. to join in on this six part series. The hope is to create a model for communities to replicate in other communities. After this six-part workshop the leadership will take it back to their membership of their organization and the word will spread. The library will continue through monthly meetings and the Chamber of Commerce will be featuring the Diversity Center next month. Rocky River City Schools has been involved for many years with the Diversity Center. The Mayor stated that this is one more stitch in bringing this very large important quilt together for our community. Thank you to those that participated.

The Mayor said that construction at the Valvoline site would begin tomorrow. Valvoline hopes to open by June 10th.

The Summer Concert Series received a donation in the amount of \$3,500 from NOPEC and along with other contributors, the series is being scheduled.

This Sunday there will be a Swim-A-Thon at the Recreation Center Pool to benefit Elle's Enchanted Forest, the new playground to be built on City Hall Campus.

Congratulations to the Rocky River High School Hockey Team who beat St. Ignatius and will go on to play St. Ed's this weekend. The Mayor wishes the Hockey Team continued success on the ice.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee: Mrs. Morris attended the Design and Review Meeting this afternoon and announced that Ohio Pie will be opening a store at the former Pizza Hut location in Linda Shopping Center.

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Moran reported that Drew Ferguson passed away this past Sunday. The Ferguson Family has lived in Rocky River and their four boys all went to Rocky River High School. Drew and his wife Heather have three children and Drew died of a heart attack this Sunday. The entire community is reaching out to the Ferguson Family. Drew was a great guy and "Big Daddy" will be missed by all. City Council sends their prayers and thoughts to the entire family.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 10-21: Mr. Hunt said that the city is in the midst of replacing the police station and jail facility. This is the final bid package for the new police station for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the department. GDOT Design, LLC of Cleveland was the lowest and best bid of four bids received. The base bid package is \$199,999.97 with a \$10,000 contingency and is \$45,000 lower than the \$255,000 estimate. References were provided to Bowen and Associates that indicate that GDOT does quality work and completes projects on schedule. They have completed projects in Warrensville Heights, the Great Lakes Cheese Headquarters Project and the South Euclid/Lyndhurst School Project. There are no findings on the Auditor's website. This will be read for a third time next week and Mr. Hunt will move for passage.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-21: Mr. O'Donnell stated that this is a resolution to certify the special assessments on Exhibit A to the County Fiscal Officer on unpaid property maintenance costs as of December 31, 2020. The city has provided maintenance services for the three properties listed on Exhibit A. The owners have been billed these amounts but no payment has been received by the city totaling \$917.00. This will allow the city to collect this

money by placing a lien on the individual property owners tax bill. If any payments are made, the resolution will need to be amended to reflect payment.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran said that next Monday's meeting will be on zoom and will discuss opportunities for Council to begin meeting soon in person.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council