

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 2, 2022

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Furry,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Moran

Council Member Absent: Mr. Sindelar

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that tomorrow, May 3rd is Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Polling locations are all set and ready for tomorrow.

The Mayor attended the Suburban Water Council Meeting last week. The City of Rocky River is a participating community with this organization. The Council met with Alex Margevicius, the head of Cleveland Water, who presented a very interesting presentation on water quality and intake improvements in Lake Erie. One of the items discussed was the replacement of lead lines, most of which are pre-1954 lines. Thanks to the good work of Director Snyder and Cleveland Water, the city has already begun replacing lead lines with various projects being conducted in the city. In the Federal Infrastructure Bill, \$15 billion is earmarked for addressing lead service line replacements. The State of Ohio will receive \$1.4 billion for water infrastructure with \$335 million for lead line replacement. The Cleveland Water Department alone has 440,000 connections. The cost of replacing all of those lead lines is between \$6-700 million. They have received \$500,000 from H₂O Ohio and \$2 million from the WRSLA Loan Forgiveness Program for water infrastructure taking care of all Child Care lead lines in the service area. Rocky River will continue to work with Cleveland Water to replace the lead lines. Now when the Cleveland Water Departments comes across a lead line during a waterline replacement or refurbishing, they will also replace the lead line. The Cleveland Water Department is experiencing supply chain issues. There are 553 hydrants that need replaced, but only 90 hydrants were received. Ductile iron is hard to obtain but there is a replacement product that is effective. The City of Rocky River has greatly benefitted from the waterline replacements in the amount of approximately \$14 million. If residents identify that they have lead lines, call Cleveland Water. The Cleveland Water's website has a tutorial to help residents determine if they have lead lines along with their contact information. The Hypoxic situation in the lake was also discussed. Hypoxic occurs with the decomposition of algae that forms a barrier of oxygenated water at the top and what lies beneath it is hypoxic. The next step is to make improvements in the lake so the water is oxygenated going into the system. Cleveland Water has been an amazing partner to the City of Rocky River.

The Senior Center has begun working on their reaccreditation process by updating their Strategic Plan along with 33 volunteers. The plan was submitted and approved by Senior's Council which is an important step towards the rest of the foundational work needed to submit for reaccreditation. The Senior Center is doing great work.

Little League Opening Day is this Saturday. The parade kicks off from City Hall at 9:30 a.m. with the first pitch at 10:00 a.m. Dave Ford will be part of Opening Day by catching the Mayor's first pitch.

Bike-to-School starts next Monday through May 27th. The city will forward information to residents to alert them of an increase of bike riders to school.

The Mayor reported that the sidewalk has been installed in front of 700 Lake Road.

The Rocky River Watershed will be cleaning up the Rocky River on Saturday June 4th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Volunteers are asked to meet at Scenic Park Picnic Area to be dispersed along the river and then join in on a picnic following clean-up. Please bring boots and gloves with you.

- Councilman Shepherd asked for clarification of the Crown Infiltration Intake location. The Mayor believes it is directly off of Clague Road in the Lake.
- Councilwoman Morris asked for clarification on the Hypoxic situation and if that is due to the run-off. The algae is formed by nutrients when it starts to decompose, creating a barrier between the oxygenated water and the bottom of the lake.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 71-21: Mrs. Morris said this continues to be referred to the Planning Commission and is still on hold.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-22: Mr. Shepherd stated this ordinance is for the engineering during the design and construction of Phase II of the Bradstreet's Landing project. This will be read for a third time next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-22: Mr. Hunt said this was discussed a few weeks ago. This ordinance reaffirms the prohibition of fireworks in the city. Governor DeWine signed into law HB 172 in November. Based upon the administration and law department's analysis it was deemed necessary to consider this ordinance for passage by using home rule to maintain the prohibition against possession, discharge and ignition of exploding fireworks. This will reaffirm the city's ban that is codified in Chapter 1519 and both Chief Lenart and Chief Lichman recommend the existing ban is reaffirmed. The City of Rocky River's population is more dense than other cities.

- Mr. Hunt asked about the discussion regarding updating the permit fees. The Mayor asked the Chief to look at the fees and he does not feel a change is necessary.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-22: Mr. Moran said this is payment to the City of Cleveland Water Department for the annual cost of the water meter readings in the amount of \$33,775.08. The consumption data from 2021 through February 2022 is needed to generate the sanitary sewer bills. This will be read for a second time at next week's meeting.

- Councilwoman Morris asked if this is the usual amount billed. The Mayor said it has risen over the years. The Mayor explained that Cleveland Water could do the sewer billing and this is one of the costs that is evaluated. This is done once a year compared to quarterly as it once was done.

- Councilwoman Gallagher clarified that this is actual read bills as opposed to estimated bills. The Mayor said that there are three months of estimated bills and one of actual cost that is the balance owed.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-22: This ordinance will be read for a second time next week and is for the purchase of playground equipment for Morley Park which is slightly north of the world headquarters of Northern Title. Last week the latest colored renderings of the project were shared by Mr. Furry. From a distance, the current playground equipment looks fine but closer inspection, it is not. The equipment is 20-25 years. Six proposals were vetted by the Parks and Rec Commission, the Parks and Rec Foundation as well as Rec Department staff. Several vendors submitted multiple proposals, some of which met the RFP, some of which did not. All in all, it was a very tight grouping. Snider Recreation was the lowest and best bidder meeting all of the proposals. Let the record show that our Safety-Service Director spells his name with a “Y” and is not related to this vendor.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-22: Mr. Shepherd said this will be read for a second time next week and it authorizes the expenditure up to \$45,000 with the Best Equipment Company. They are the primary dealer and service provider in this region for refuse vehicles which are Leech and Roadmaster and leaf machines under the brand name of Old Dominion Brush. This is necessary as the city has had more repairs than usual and will be spending \$24,700 towards the repair of a main hydraulic cylinder and sweep blade for one of the refuse packers. The refuse packer is a 2016 model year. Director Snyder said these are rotated and a new unit is almost \$200,000.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran thanked the administration for the planting of the Black Gum Tree on Friday along with the tribute to Mr. Jimmy Linden, a former city Safety-Service Director for the City of Rocky River.

- Mrs. Morris said it was a beautiful memorial service for Mr. Linden. The Mayor said it meant a lot to the Linden Family.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 9th in Council Chambers.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council