

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

July 18, 2022

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council, immediately following the Special Meeting in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Thomas

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced the city received the first of the One Ohio Opioid Settlement which came in last week in the amount of \$4,300. Of the settlement dollars, local governments will receive 30%, the Foundation will receive 55% to fund drug prevention programs in the state and the Attorney General's Office receives 15%. There are very specific purposes for the use of the money to remove drugs from the community, assist individuals with opioid addiction, etc. There are five different areas and the money must be used for these purposes through the MOU entered into through Council. Director Thomas will set up a separate fund for these dollars and the money will be dispersed accordingly and appropriately. The Mayor had notes from February stating that one settlement may be \$122,000. The city will continue to monitor this. The police do important work with the WestShore Council of Governments, specifically the WestShore Enforcement Bureau that works specifically in the area of drug prevention and crimes related to drugs. Thank you to City Council for passing this legislation and thank you to our former Law Director Bemer for guiding Council through this process with the Attorney General's Office.

The Mayor said the Salt Contract pricing came in at \$47.24 a ton for the 2022-2023 season. That amount is up \$10.00 a ton from last year but below the high of \$73.00 in 2019-2020 and above the low of \$29.12 in 2017-2018. The average is \$50.95, so it is below the 5- or 6-year average.

The Mayor said the ARPA Fund request is in front of County Council for the Police Station Firing Range. It will be introduced on their agenda tomorrow. At some point, the Mayor, Director Snyder and the Police Chief will be asked to present the project to County Council. The application submitted was very comprehensive. The legislation that is being presented tomorrow is a little more than \$1.2 million to complete this project. The city is pleased with this consideration.

The Mayor gave a construction update: Wooster Road is completed other than a few punch list items; Oak and Collver will begin mid-August; Spencer Rd. will begin August 1st; Morewood has moved over to the other side with the concrete and the Malvern/Telbir Project will begin paving shortly.

The Car Show was canceled yesterday due to the rain. The City will celebrate Christmas in July on the 24th at 12:00 p.m. at the outdoor pool and at 7:00 p.m. at Rocky River Park with Funkology Band performing.

The Mayor announced that Law Director O'Shea has been appointed by the Ohio Municipal League to the Ohio Jail Advisory Board. Congratulations on this appointment.

- Councilman Shepherd added that he heard that some party or class action did not participate in the Opioid Settlement and took it to trial and lost. Mr. Shepherd will gather more information and forward that to the Mayor.
- Mr. Furry asked if all the salt was delivered from 2021-2022. The Mayor stated that the entire contract was utilized.
- Mr. Moran asked about the city's position with the Narcan supply. The Mayor said that during COVID there was a decrease with OPIOID related issues. In the last several months, it has grown and the use of Narcan has increased. The city has been able to secure Narcan through the WestShore Enforcement Bureau and both the police and EMS carry Narcan. Currently, it is not unusual that the police and EMS are giving multiple units of Narcan to revive individuals. Mr. O'Shea stated that drug suppliers are adding fentanyl in unknown amounts in other drugs causing a rise in the number of overdoses.
- The Mayor said that the Director of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau, Matt Venyo or the Rocky Police Department could come to a meeting to discuss this further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 41-22: Mr. Moran stated this ordinance has been read twice with a third read next week. This gives authorization to issue bonds on an amortizing payment schedule to replace one-year notes the city had issued. The final invoices will be paid in the amount of \$12.7 million. This will be read for a third time next week.

- Mr. Furry asked if the city could go to market earlier if the rates are favorable on August 13th or does the city wait until September 22nd. Director Thomas said the first part of the process is to get the Moody Rating scheduled for August 1st and cannot do it before 30 days before the maturity of the bond anticipation notes.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-22: Mr. Moran said this resolution makes sure the city can collect the delinquent sanitary sewer accounts. The exhibit will be amended by the end of July due to the city receiving payment for these accounts. The accounts that are not paid will be sent down to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer for collection. This has been read twice.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if residents can pay online. Mr. Thomas is working on that process with the account debit function from the sewer billing along with a credit card online payment and a credit card payment in person at City Hall.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-22: Mr. Moran explained that Director Thomas puts this together with input from the Mayor as a first pass of the 2023 budget. This is in a summary form of a rough draft called the "alternative tax budget information". This includes known costs as well as some projections. This has been read twice.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-22: Mr. Moran stated that this is accepting the amounts and tax rates of the County Budget Commission for the levies. This has been read twice with a third read next week. This is an annual resolution. The debt millage went from .78 to .75 mills which means taxes will be reduced. This will be discussed further at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 45-22: Mr. Sindelar stated that this is an ordinance to purchase janitorial supplies from Ohio Valley Supply and Maintenance. This is an annual housekeeping ordinance for toiletries and supplies. Ohio Valley is a long-standing supplier and the city is happy with their service.

RESOLUTION NO. 46-22: Mr. Moran said this was discussed during the Special Meeting and is a request of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to advance taxes from the proceeds of all tax levies for the tax year 2022 and not wait until the end of the year. This will be read for a second time next week.

RESOLUTION NO. 47-22: Mr. Sindelar said that this is for the purchase of an XL Connect Van for the Senior Center.

RESOLUTION NO. 48-22: Mr. Furry stated that this is an authorization to apply for and enter into a grant agreement with ODNR for a Natureworks Grant to be implemented at Linden Park. The funding is for \$40,000 for a \$110,215 project to replace approximately 1,535 feet of an existing 4-foot-wide asphalt path on the east and south side with a 6-foot-wide flexible asphalt path similar to the flexi pave installed at the City Hall Park playground areas. This new path will provide ADA accessibility with a porous asphalt solution to assist with storm water mitigation. Mr. Furry forwarded pictures to Council showing existing conditions. This needs to reach the ODNR by August 15th so Mr. Furry will ask for a rule's suspension next week.

ORDINANCE NO. 49-22: Mr. Hunt said this was read for the first time at this evening's Special Meeting. This has been in the works for years through the budget process and in November 2021 leading into the 2022 fiscal year, the funding has been appropriated for the purchase. This would authorize the purchase from Sutphen Corporation at a cost not to exceed \$773,665. Firetrucks and police vehicles are the backbone of safety services and are necessary to respond to emergencies. This is an investment of health, safety and welfare for the community. Mr. Hunt reiterated Chief Lenart's comments and this fire engine would replace a 1996 engine and has had some corrosion issues, heating and cooling issues. The mechanics have kept it functioning but it has been a significant chore. The manufacturer Sutphen would be the same as the manufacturer for the Ladder Truck so there would be familiarity and redundancy in parts. The specs for the new fire engine have gone through a committee within the fire department. The exhibit shows that bid proposals were sent to six manufacturers and followed up to be sure the proposals were received. Only one bid came back and that was from Sutphen. Chief Lenart commented a year ago, trucks were in the \$500-\$600,000 range and the Chief indicated this truck would be projected to be \$725,000, so at \$773,665 it is quite an increase. Moreover, based upon supply chain issues, the build out for this vehicle is 28-30 months. It is recommended to go forward as it will take approximately three years to receive a new vehicle. Mr. Snyder said that the issue now is the individual components where one plant is shut down holding up the whole process.

- Mr. Sindelar asked why only one bid was received. Mr. Snyder said there is a lot of work to be had and the Mayor added there is a lot of money available and the need to accurately make the timeline is very difficult.
- Sutphen has been great with customer service and is an Ohio company. The city mechanics go to Columbus for training.

Mr. Hunt asked Mr. O'Shea about the wording at the end of the contract concerning the controlling jurisdiction for any related litigation is in Franklin. Mr. O'Shea said that is not an issue as everything is e-filed these days. Mr. O'Shea added that Sutphen will insure the engine three days beyond delivery.

Mr. Hunt said there is time sensitivity to lock in this price and potentially to get the equipment underway, so he will request a rule's suspension next week after the second read.

ORDINANCE NO. 50-22: Mr. Shepherd said this is the 2022 Sidewalk Program that was discussed at the Special Meeting in length. Mr. Shepherd will ask for a rule's suspension at next week's meeting so this project can begin.

ORDINANCE NO. 51-22: Mr. Shepherd said this is the 2022 Street Repair Program that was discussed at the Special Meeting in length. Mr. Shepherd will ask for a rule's suspension at next week's meeting so this project can begin.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: City Council discussed the Thai Cravings LLC & Patio Liquor License Request. Mr. Shepherd said it is a transfer and Chief Lichman's report did not have anything that would stop the transfer. The request was approved by Council.

The next Legislative Meeting will be July 25th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council