

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

November 21, 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. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor said that Service Commissioner Dave Arendec shared this morning that 750 tons of leaves have been collected in the city so far. The Service Department is hopeful that most leaves will be picked up by Thanksgiving.

The Mayor mentioned that a resident dropped off a letter received looking like it came from Rocky River City Council called "Quality of Life Policing" from the National Police Association. It is about supporting the police and to please send money. The administration checked on it and it did not come from anyone from the City of Rocky River. This is a legitimate organization, but any funds received would not find its way to the City of Rocky River. The Police Dispatchers, Senior Services and the front desk all know that this is not from the city. The return address is Stafford, TX.

The Mayor stated that the EV Stations are being installed in the far corner of the front parking lot at City Hall and should be up and running soon.

The Opioid Settlement is being dispersed as follows: OneOhio Foundation receives 55% of the Opioid Settlement; 15% to the Office of the Attorney General; 30% to local governments and those are the distributions the city is receiving. The funds can be used for treatment of individuals affected by substance use disorders; to develop, promote, provide evidence base substance use prevention strategies; provide substance use avoidance and awareness education and decrease the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids and support those that are recovering from addiction by appropriate licensed individuals. There is stated criteria for the use of these dollars. The City of Rocky has discussed using these funds for the WestShore Enforcement Bureau as they are involved in the above strategies. The Police Department may want to use these dollars for specific programs that may be initiated.

The Rec Department announced that next Monday, November 28th is Membership Monday. People may buy a Civic Center membership that day and receive three free months.

On Monday, Lakeview will be closed from Westway to Purnell to smooth out the bump at the north end of the bridge in the pavement. The road will be closed for about four hours and after the start of school.

All-Aglow will be held Friday evening, December 2nd beginning at 6:00 p.m. in front of City Hall. The “Pop Tarts” are performing and will welcome Santa’s arrival along with decorative reindeers provided by the Chamber of Commerce. After the lighting ceremony, everyone will walk through the Police Station Garage to their vehicles for the drive-in holiday movie “Elf” being shown in the Memorial Hall parking lot at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 3rd will be filled with all sorts of festivities: carolers, entertainment, balloons, magicians, carriage rides and elves giving away free gifts. At 5:30 the DJ begins with Santa leaving the Methodist Church at 5:45 escorted by very special reindeers. There will be a reindeer food station, hot chocolate and Flip Side is donating free chicken and french fries from 5-6. The Mayor appreciates all the departments involved in the festivities along with the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchant Association on Old Detroit.

Thursday, City Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving and the Mayor is thankful for all of City Council.

- Councilwoman Gallagher asked if there is a time frame that the Opioid Settlement funds would need to be spent. The Mayor will look into that as it is not noted in the paperwork received.
- President Moran asked if there would be more opioid funds received. Director Thomas does not believe all the funds have been received. He expects a similar distribution next year. Director Thomas has established an account for the Opioid Settlement Funds. The Mayor also noted that once the OneOhio Foundation decides how to utilize their percentage, grants could be available with timelines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee: President Moran discussed the budget outline for the December 2nd Budget Hearing. The agenda is as follows:

- Finance (8:15) Director Thomas with Councilman Moran
- Recreation Department (8:45) Director Holub with Councilman Furry
- Municipal Court (9:15) Judges Fitzsimmons/Hagan, Clerk Comery with Councilman Sindelar
- WWTP (9:45) Superintendent Barille with Councilwoman Morris
- BREAK 10:15 – 10:30
- Senior Services (10:30) Director Huff with Councilwoman Gallagher
- Fire (11:00) Chief Lenart with Councilman Hunt
- Capital Projects & Equip. Purchases (11:30) Director Snyder with Councilman Shepherd
- Police (12:00) Chief Lichman with Councilman Hunt

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 65-22: Mr. Shepherd stated that this authorizes the city to enter into a contract with Quality Control Inspection, Inc. for Phase II of the Bradstreet’s Landing Project and Construction

Management which includes contract administration, inspection services and help with the bidding process. This is scheduled for a third read. Phase II includes the construction of a stepped revetment wall, boardwalk, pedestrian bridge, turnaround, concrete walks, landscaping and an alternate proposal for a new driveway, parking lot. Mr. Snyder is reviewing the bid package. Mr. Shepherd stated this can be passed prior to the finalization of the bid process as no payment will be necessary prior to the beginning of Phase II. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 66-22: Mr. Sindelar said that there has been little discussion regarding the Commodity Building. This will help with saving supplies and equipment for the Service Department. This will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 67-22: Mr. Moran said this is the authorization for the purchase of gas fuel oil on the open market saving 20-25 cents a gallon. Thank you to the Service Director for going out to the open market for special bids for gasoline and oil. This will be read for a third time and on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 68-22: Mr. Moran said this is for the purchase of tires on the open market. Thank you to the Service Director for going out to the open market for special bids for tires. This will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 69-22: This is a two-year adjustment of Hamilton Ice Arena fees with some procedural changes. The procedural change which, where applicable, a Civic Center member rate was added to stay consistent with previous resident rates to offset member rate increases. The Parks and Rec Commission did tweak some suggested fee increases suggested by the Rec Department. That was done so resident rate increases would be equal to or less than non-resident rate increases. This will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 70-22: This ordinance is for the agreement for the removal of grit & screenings for the WWTP. This is inorganic material, such as fine particles of sand, corn, or toilet paper that is removed as part of the initial screening process at the plant. This material is taken to a landfill about once a week and Kimble won the competitive bid and was the only bid. Superintendent Barille believes that the pricing is acceptable given the economic climate.

ORDINANCE NO. 71-22: This is an agreement for the purchase and supply of Sodium Bisulfite for the WWTP for the removal of the chlorine content in the wastewater and is required by a permit and used only in the summer months. PVS Solutions was the low bidder of three and currently holds the supply contract for 2022. This did not see a large increase.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-22: This is an agreement for the purchase and supply of Ferric Chloride for the WWTP to remove phosphorous. The WWTP has to have a permit for the addition of Ferric Chloride for the phosphorous removal. There were two bids, and there was a significant increase in price over the past two years. The price has doubled since 2021 due to economic climate and PVS Technologies won the bid for 2023 and currently holds the contract through 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-22: This is an agreement with James Diaz for the removal of Digested Sludge Cake. This is a farm that takes the digested sludge cake and uses it as fertilizer. James Diaz was the only bidder and historically has been the low bidder. James Diaz holds the current biosolids hauling contract. Superintendent Barille stated that this price is very competitive.

ORDINANCE NO. 74-22: This ordinance was read for the second time tonight at the Special Meeting and will be placed on the consent agenda. This is an agreement with Ruple Trucking, LLC for the removal of Digested Sludge Cake in the winter season. This is the same material as above but cannot be used during the winter months so is sent to a landfill. Ruple Trucking was the low bid of two received bids. Ruple Trucking, LLC is a new bidder. Superintendent Barille heard back late from the previous hauler and that is why the bidding process is later than usual.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-22: Councilwoman said this resolution is necessary for the WWTP to apply for a zero-interest loan for a water pollution loan fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 76-22: President Moran said this is a yearly outline and approving a not to exceed number for all the positions of the city. This includes increases by contract increasing 3%. There are increases for dollar per hour for the recreation department employees. There is a position for the administrative coordinator added to the Rec Dept., a rate change for the assistant rec director position, a title change in the public building dept and the minimum wage increase went from \$9.30 to \$10.10. The WWTP Management Committee also approved a salary increase for the administrative assistant and the Fire Division and WWTP are still working on their contract.

- Councilwoman Morris noticed that the updated amount of minimum wage is not correct under the Service Division in the exhibit attached to the ordinance. The exhibit will be amended.

ORDINANCE NO. 77-22: President Moran said this is the projected budget and appropriations for the current expenses from January 1st 2023 through December 31st 2023. Council will read this again next week and will have the opportunity to speak to all the Directors on December 2, at the Budget Hearing.

AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 78-22: Mr. Shepherd said this is the paving project for the resurfacing of Hilliard Blvd. from Gasser to Wooster Road. This is an agreement with the County as Hilliard is a County road and the County will participate for 50% of the project up to \$239,000.00. This will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NOS. 79-22, 80-22, 81-22: Mr. Shepherd discussed the yearly insurance ordinances together for the city, the Rocky River Municipal Court and the WWTP. In 2020, the city went out to bid under the advice of Crain Langner, an independent consultant. The city awarded the contract to McGowan as the agent, underwritten with Zurich and other companies that underwrite different provisions in parts of the coverage. The city was advised not to bid every year, but to bid every 3-5 years. Next fall the city will put this out to bid. The attachment, which is the same for all three ordinances, shows an 8% increase in price and includes the property value increase by \$4 million, added six vehicles without removing any vehicles and Zurich has a rate increase of 5% due to a 15% increase in claims cost. The opinion of the advisors is that 8% is a reasonable increase along with the provision of going out for bid next year. The letter says that other municipalities with good claims history are experiencing increases of 15-20% and nearby municipalities are between 16-30%. There is a reference to the cyber insurance increasing 40-100% and Rocky River is only 2% attributed to the city IT Director Grau installing different cyber controls into the system. The last page of the exhibit shows different components of the coverage and increases along with the breakdown. These will all have two more reads.

- President Moran asked about joining a pool of municipalities. Director Snyder said Zurich has been good and McGowan has provided great representation with Harbor

Village along the vehicular accidents. McGowan has stepped up to the plate. The Mayor said it is hard to budget with pools as there could be a liability in the future and it is a large risk in sharing the risks of other municipalities. Mr. Shepherd stated that with the city's claim history a pool might not be the way to go and it would limit some of the ways the city may want to adjust the policies.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran stated that refuse will not be picked up on Thursday as it is Thanksgiving. Refuse pick up will move to Friday and Saturday this week.

Director Snyder also mentioned that many residents have new concrete aprons and sidewalks and is reminding residents to avoid using salt for the ice on the new concrete. Please use calcium chloride for ice as opposed to salt this first winter.

President Moran wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said that the next meeting will be November 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council