

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 5, 2022

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council, immediately following the Public Hearing 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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor reported on this weekend's events, obviously a great weekend. Thank you to the Councilmembers many of you who were at several events over the weekend. A huge shout out to the Chamber of Commerce and all the work they did with the reindeer out front, decorating the reindeer and being the reindeer in the parade with Director Snyder leading the way. It looks somewhat effortless because of the great team putting everything together; the Recreation Department, Mike Balla, the Service Department all who really stepped up to the plate. A very fun beginning of the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who participated including the merchants, Santa Claus, the fire and police departments.

The Mayor discussed the cardboard collection with Council and noted that a ReadyNotify will be sent to residents soon. The administration is asking residents to please collapse the cardboard prior to dropping it off at the collection bins. The bins would be more efficient if the cardboard was collapsed. The new compactor at the Service Garage is ready to accept cardboard and cardboard does not need to be collapsed if putting in the compactor. The bins are emptied three times a week, however Director Snyder received an email today from River Valley that they are experiencing labor shortages with their drivers so there will be periodic delays with the pickup. The same thing happened this time last year. Please do not set your cardboard outside the bins, if full.

The Mayor mentioned that there may be some shutdowns at the rink and gym this week due to roof repair.

The Senior Center Christmas Concert is this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and there are still a few tickets available for the concert only. The Cleveland Women's Orchestra will be performing.

The Senior Center is also at the final stages for Accreditation. They are meeting next week and on Wednesday morning, the Senior Center will hear the report and recommendation of the lead evaluator. The Mayor will have information from the evaluation and will share that with Council the following Monday. It is looking very good. They have not asked a lot of questions regarding the submission but there will be a few questions asked next Wednesday. A big thank

you to all the contributors involved in this process including the staff, volunteers and Senior Council. Thank you to all that have helped in this process.

- Mr. Furry said he had the most fun he has ever had driving the Kubota in the parade. The Mayor added that the Kubota's were decorated with wrapped packages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee: President Moran discussed the budget hearing that was held last Friday, December 2nd. Mr. Moran said that all seven Council members were in attendance. This year, thank you to the Mayor, Director Thomas and all the department heads, it was very educational to hear the plans for next year. The Budget Book is a great outline and along with the explanations provided gave Council a great vision as far as what the plan is for next year. The finance sheet is a great reference for the number of employees, budget amounts, line-item detail, future plans and major plans for the next 5-10 years. It tells a great story for the coming year including the challenges, new programs and major investments. By talking to the Directors, it shows their great knowledge of their budgets, staff and total responsibility. President Moran thanked the Mayor, Councilmembers, Directors and everyone who attended. Council will look forward to the third read of Ordinance No. 77-22. This ordinance will not be placed on a consent agenda. This will be discussed one more time at next week's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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. This will be placed on a consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 71-22: This is an agreement for the purchase and supply of Sodium Bisulfite at \$1.87 per gallon 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 will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-22: This is an agreement for the purchase and supply of Ferric Chloride for the WWTP to remove phosphorous. The WWTP must have a permit for the addition of Ferric Chloride for the phosphorous removal. There were two bids with 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. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-22: This is an agreement with James Diaz for the removal of Digested Sludge Cake. This is the 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. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

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. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 76-22: President Moran said this is the ordinance fixing the salaries starting January 1 2023 through December 31, 2023. This ordinance has been presented to Council. There are some amendments to be made on the exhibit for next week's meeting. There is a 3% increase for staff, title changes and an increase of minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

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. As mentioned before through the budget meetings, this was an outline presented by all the Directors to the Mayor and Finance Director. This is the Budget for the entire year. This will have a third read next week.

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. As discussed, these are at a rate increase. These contracts will be put out to bid next year. This rate increase is substantially below the rate increases neighboring municipalities have. These will be on the consent agenda but may need to be removed. The Law Department has been in communications with McGowan regarding an in-depth review of the contract and raised some technical legal issues. Insurance contracts are not a simple matter and McGowan has answered most of the questions but there are still a few issues that Law Director O'Shea is in communication with for clarification. The ordinances may need to be amended, but if not, they can stay on the consent agenda.

- Mr. Sindelar asked about the bid for insurance. Is the bidding process to involve the broker or who is covering the insurance. The Mayor responded it is with the agent. The city has a contract with McGowan with Zurich being one of the insurance companies. The Mayor said this is the third year and the city will go out to bid next year. In 2020, the city went out to bid under the advice of Crain Langner, an independent consultant. Mr. O'Shea said that the Mayor, Mr. Moran and Mr. Shepherd have done an incredible job of vetting McGowan and Zurich and other companies.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran said that there will be a Special Meeting on December 19th since December 26th is the legal Christmas Holiday and City Hall will be closed. The Mayor also added that the Health Insurance Renewal legislation will be in front of Council next Monday to have at least two reads prior to the end of the year. The Mayor will also be asking for an Executive Session to discuss two collective bargaining matters next week.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m. The next meeting will be December 12th.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council