

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

November 7, 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. Sindelar, Mr. Moran

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office for Firefighter Jack S. Bailey

Chief Aaron Lenart introduced Firefighter Jack Bailey as a new firefighter for the City of Rocky River. The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter Jack S. Bailey. Firefighter Bailey received two recommendation letters from the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief of Eaton Township. Both recommendations mentioned his enthusiasm, excitement for learning, his respect and admiration and collaboration with fellow firefighters. The City of Rocky River is happy to have Firefighter Bailey join the Rocky River Fire Department. Firefighter Bailey thanked everyone for attending this evening's swearing-in. The Mayor added that Rocky River City Council is very supportive of the city's safety forces.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that city-wide leaf pick up began last Monday on October 31st and 232 tons of leaves were picked up and anticipate that amount doubling this week. The city is using a demo leaf machine until the city's equipment arrives. The new equipment has a water tank that tampers the dust down during pick-up. The Service Department has been working extra hours until the sun sets and on weekends. The schedule is posted on the Service Department's Facebook page.

Chief Lenart shared this morning that the Fire Department surpassed 3,000 calls for service this weekend for the year, which is a couple hundred more than the same time last year. The fire department is taking RSV training as this virus is impacting so many more children this year.

The Mayor announced that Fire Prevention Officer Joe Williams was on the front cover of the Sun Herald as he spoke to the Citizens Emergency Response Team on fire rescue and fire prevention. The CERT Team has begun meeting in person and completing training. The Mayor thanked the CERT Volunteers along with the fire personnel that help with their training.

The construction update went out to the community on Friday. Lakeview Road will be closed from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and the following Monday between Westway

and Hilliard, while the I & I study is being completed. Busses and local traffic will be accommodated.

The Mayor stated that tree planting is moving along well on Kings Mill Run and Kings Post Parkway.

The Senior Center received the grant for the new transit van a few weeks ago and last week the Senior Center received a \$5,000 grant from the Giant Eagle Foundation for senior transportation. The city has received this grant from Giant Eagle for more than ten years. The city is very appreciative of their generosity.

Tomorrow is voting day from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. The city has three polling locations located at Rocky River Methodist Church, Rocky River Presbyterian Church and the Civic Center.

City Hall will be closed this Friday in observance of Veteran's Day. There will be an Open Skate on Friday and veterans are welcome to attend at no charge.

The Mayor is happy to discuss where the City of Rocky River is regarding the topic of the sewer system and the investment that City Council has supported over the past several years. The Mayor pointed out that the City of Rocky River was supportive of Lakewood 15-16 years ago when they were first notified. The City of Rocky River moved up the Valley View Project to the top of Rocky River's list so that area would continue to flow by gravity to the Lakewood WasteWater Treatment Plant. Superintendent Barille has discussed the CEPT Project, a \$30 million project and the work Director Snyder is doing with the I & I Project. These are all things done in collaboration with US EPA and the Ohio EPA. The city is always looking to be compliant and to develop a good working relationship with them.

- Councilman Sindelar thanked the Mayor and Director Snyder for the completion of East Shoreland. Residents are thrilled at the finish of that project. The Mayor extended the city's thanks for their patience.
- Councilman Sindelar asked if there is a detailed report on severity that Council could receive detailing the 3,000 EMS runs. The Mayor said there is a report and Director Snyder will have the Chief forward that to Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee: President Moran discussed the budget outline for the December 2nd Budget Hearing. Director Thomas thought the outline was good. The Budget Books for 2023 will be received by Council at next Monday's meeting.

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. Phase II includes the construction of a stepped revetment wall, boardwalk, pedestrian bridge, turnaround, concrete walks and landscaping and appurtenances. Bid specifications as well as the project plan were prepared by the

SmithGroup. The bridge and site plans were prepared by MacKay Engineering. Quality Control is assisting with the bid process even prior to passage of this ordinance. Director Snyder said that an extension request was received through SmithGroup for the bid deadline and it was extended through November 14th at noon. Director Snyder said it was important for the administration to do this for a competitive bid. Mr. Shepherd said this is encouraging. Director Snyder added that there was a pre-bid meeting with three contractors involved and no addenda was issued. Mr. Shepherd added that this ordinance is priced at 7% of the upper range of the Phase II Project which is \$3,000,000. These contracts are usually in the 7–14% range. This is scheduled for a second read next week and will have three full reads.

ORDINANCE NO. 66-22: Mr. Sindelar said that a Commodity Building is essentially a temporary removable structure that will house top soil, mulch and stone along with some equipment. This is a smaller cost for long term savings. This will have two more reads.

ORDINANCE NO. 67-22: Mr. Moran said this is the authorization for the purchase of gas fuel oil on the open market. As outlined last meeting, it is appreciated that the Service Director goes out to the open market for special bids for gasoline and oil. The city can always use the State bids if it is a better price.

ORDINANCE NO. 68-22: Mr. Moran said this is similar to the last ordinance but this is for the purchase of tires on the open market. The city saves money by purchasing outside the State bid but can still use the State bids if it is a better price. Thanks again for the extra work and the money that is saved.

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. The Program Fee increases were to offset increased wages, supplies as well as to continue to stay at market value. Most area rinks, although City owned, are leased to for profit entities so it is somewhat difficult to give an apples-to-apples comparison. Ice rental and pavilion rental fees (which were included as an attachment) are being increased to bring us closer to neighboring communities while still offering discounted rates for residents. This will have three full reads.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Morris said these next ordinances are all yearly ordinances.

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 bidding process and was the only bid. Superintendent Barille believes that the pricing is acceptable given the economic climate. The Mayor stated that last year the WWTP paid \$71.75 and this year \$86.35.

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 this year.

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 and involves 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.

- President Moran asked if other locations have been checked and if they are finding the same increases. Mr. Furry added that these are the two that have gone back and forth. Superintendent Barille moderates the use of these chemicals and has made improvements in the process so the chemical usage has gone down. The Mayor will have Superintendent Barille check other WWTP to compare pricing.
- Councilwoman Gallagher asked if a price could be locked in for a two-year contract. The Mayor said that none of the vendors would honor their current price and all wanted to go to be re-bids. Mr. Snyder said that vendors are hesitant to lock in for a yearly contract due to market fluctuations.

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. This service is used April through November. This is a rebid with the same vendor. James Diaz was the only bidder and historically has been the low bidder. The farmer will collect the biosolids and apply them to his land. James Diaz holds the current biosolids hauling contract. Superintendent Barille stated that this price is very competitive and assumes due to historical bidding results of this by product, there were less bidders because they had not been competitive in the past.

ORDINANCE NO. 74-22: 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. The Superintendent followed up with Ruple and the proposed disposal site. Superintendent Barille heard back late from the previous hauler and that is why the bidding process is later than usual. This ordinance needs to be approved by December 1st. President Moran stated that there will be a Special Meeting on November 21st so this can be read three full times.

The Mayor shared the price comparisons from 2022 and 2023. The chemicals in 2022 were \$540,000 and in 2023 \$760,000 which is \$220,000 more and a 40.7% increase which makes up a little over 11% of the total operating budget for the plant. The management of chemicals is important. The landfill costs in 2022 was budgeted at \$338,000 and 2023 it will be budgeted at \$440,000, just shy of a 30% increase which is 6.5% of the budget.

- President Moran asked if all the partners at the WWTP are aware of the increases. The Mayor said that they are aware but have not yet voted on recommending the approval of the 2023 WWTP budget.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Councilman Hunt wished President Moran a happy birthday on November 10th.

The next meeting will be November 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council