

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

June 5, 2023

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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor expressed the administration's thanks for Council's engagement over Memorial Day weekend. Lieutenant Previts did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies. There were 4,002 flags to be placed around the cemetery on Saturday. The volunteers began at 8:30 a.m. and by 8:55 a.m. all the sections were out. There were many volunteers and on this beautiful morning and it was breathtaking to view all of the placed flags. A huge thank you to the auxiliary from the American Legion, Mary Ellen Umerley for securing the doughnuts and Starbucks coffee and all the families that came out to volunteer. It was great to see so many families carrying on this tradition so a younger generation understands the importance of Memorial Day and why the sacrifices are acknowledged. The Mayor appreciates all the scouts in attendance that led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Richard Healy was recognized for his efforts of working with the City as Chairman of the Memorial Day Ceremony and the parade in past years, which is now passed along to Lt. Matt Previts. Lt. Previts has assembled a wonderful committee that the city is working very closely with. It was a very important weekend and there was a lot of engagement from the community.

The Mayor announced that Mike Reyes, the former Service Commissioner, passed away last week. The funeral services are this Wednesday. Visitation will be 12:00 noon until 5:30 p.m. with services beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Liston Funeral Home in North Ridgeville. The Mayor thinks of Mike when in Council Chambers he presented in front of Council during the Budget Hearings. Mike was not used to doing this and had a little anxiety as he would rather be out in the field making sure the city Service Department was working hard. Mike admired all the work of Council and of course Council and the Administration admired all the work Mike has done. He was the city's first forester and today because of his good work, the city has four arborists on staff.

The Mayor announced that the Government Finance Officers Association has sent a letter indicating the city, Director Thomas and the Finance Department has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. City Council and all the Directors are a huge part of the budgeting process and monitoring the process. Director Thomas however, plays a significant role in all of this. This is about 30+ years of Certificates of Achievement received by the City of Rocky River.

A ReadyNotify was sent out to residents regarding the sewer bills for this quarter. Sewer bills have been mailed out and includes an adjustment for the year's projection of water usage.

The Mayor said the city received the last salt delivery last week. Commissioner Dave Arendec said that there is approximately 2,000 tons in the barn. The last order was moderated slightly because of all the salt the city currently has at 2022-23 pricing.

The Household Hazardous Waste Material structure has been erected behind the Service Garage, close to the pond, for residents to drop off hazardous waste at any time.

The Mayor mentioned that last Friday, Superintendent Barille called notifying the Mayor of a large area of sheen and was not sure what it was. The WWTP checked all the outfalls and the Northeast Regional Sewer District was out on the lake along with the Coast Guard and the city's fire department was out due to some of the sheen being at Rocky River Park. The Mayor is happy to report that after all of that effort, it was determined that it was pollen that had collected on the lake.

The Mayor announced that a few of the Police Department Law Enforcement Officers have received recognitions. One recognition is from Police Chief Lichman to Officer Daniel Nuti who on May 13th, along with a patrolman from Westlake, saved a woman's life on I-90. There was an accident, the car was on fire and the woman was unconscious. Officer Nuti pulled her out of the vehicle while the Westlake officer put the fire out with an extinguisher. This was a heroic effort and a letter of commendation was presented to Officer Nuti. In addition, the three officers involved in the shooting months ago last November are receiving recognition. The important work these officers did is being recognized by the "Silver and Gold". They were nominated by the Chief along with others and have just heard that on August 1st, they will be awarded the "Silver and Gold Medal". The Patrol Officers receiving the award are Nathan Gonzalez, Brad DiMatteo and Eric Hageman. Be sure to extend your congratulations to them.

The Mayor announced that 51 individuals took the police test for the City of Rocky River. The interviews will begin this Friday and Monday for the first 15 highest scorers.

Thank you to the Sunrise Rotary for the plantings in front of the Police Station, in the planters they purchased last year. The planters are beautiful.

This Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Linden Park, there will be a "Family Fitness Day" and bike parade. There will be food trucks and many activities. It should be a lot of fun.

D.A.R.E. Graduation is this Thursday morning. Council President Moran will be in attendance for the Mayor. The pool will open following the graduation for the graduates. The outdoor pool will open for the community this Friday.

The Mayor announced that 219 graduates, graduated from Rocky River High School. It was a beautiful graduation ceremony on a beautiful day at the Rocky River High Stadium.

The Summer Camp sponsored by the Recreation Center will begin next week. The concert series is rocking and rolling. The schedule is listed on the city's website.

The St. Demetrius Greek Festival begins Thursday, June 22nd and runs through Sunday, June 25th.

The Mayor respectfully requested an Executive Session under Article X, Section VI, Subsection III to discuss a conference with an attorney on several matters.

- Councilwoman Morris asked how the traffic was going to be dealt with during the Greek Festival on Center Ridge Road. The Mayor said the city will work with the traffic with auxiliary policeman being on site.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if the fly over at Lakewood Park Cemetery during the Memorial Day Ceremony was planned. The Mayor said the city was not aware of it, but the cemetery was contacted by the Military along with other communities to fly over during the ceremony. The Military presented at several ceremonies, including Rocky River's Ceremony.
- The Mayor also said that the scout who fainted is doing fine.
- Councilman Shepherd asked what the appropriate things are for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The Mayor said there is a list on the city's website under hazardous materials that lists everything, including paints and solvents. Computer and technology items have their own collection date. Old prescriptions can be dropped off at the police department right inside the door. There is also a mailbox for to deposit old flags near the police department, which was an Eagle Scout project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Councilman Furry gave a shout out to #spencerdog, for all the lemonade stands in the city in support of Goldwood's first grade student who is ill. The outpouring of support has been great.

President Moran announced the Cleveland Magazine's Suburb Ratings Issue has been released. Last year the City of Rocky River was #2, the year before that #1 and this year the city was rated #6. As in the past, Mr. Moran pulled the numbers together and there are two communities that are always in the top 9 for the last nine years. These two communities are Solon and Rocky River. For the last 20 of the 23 years in the Cleveland Magazine, Rocky River has been in the top 10. The average for Rocky River over the years is 3.5 followed by Solon at 4.5 during the last 9 years. These stats still show that Rocky River is one of the greatest places to be. The School District and the safety component helps the city to score well. Thank you to the administration who do such a great job along with the residents who continually keep us in the number one spot. The Mayor added that Rocky River was #1 in the Westshore and was pleased to be the insert that featured the Senior Center in Rocky River.

MOTION:

President Moran moved for Council to move into Executive Session prior to the end of this meeting under Article X, Section VI, Subsection III, seconded by Mr. Furry to discuss a conference with an attorney on several matters.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	Gallagher - aye	Furry – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Moran - aye	
7 ayes	0 nays		PASSED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 42-23: Mrs. Morris stated that this was reported on during the Special Meeting this evening. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 43-23: Mr. Sindelar said that this is a roofing contract to replace the Civic Center roof. This part of the Civic Center roof is flat and is the original to the building from 2000. Magnificat High School has given good references for Sibley, Inc. This is necessary and is in the budget. Mr. Sindelar thinks the administration keep the facilities well maintained and looks for problems before they happen. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if the whole roof is being replaced. Mr. Sindelar said it is a layover on the flat portion of the roof.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-23: Mr. Moran said there are two items on the list for unpaid property maintenance cost. This will have a second read next week. This will allow the city to collect these fees for the work done on these properties by adding the amount to their tax bill.

- Mrs. Morris asked how long people have to pay. This list is from 2022.
- Mr. Furry asked about the home on Goldengate and was told it is up on a Sheriff's sale.

ORDINANCE NO. 45-23: Mr. Sindelar said that the administration does a great job looking for the best possible prices for truck packages. This ordinance is a plow and body package for a 2023 international truck. Ordinance No. 54-22 was a contract with Rush Truck Center and purchased two 2023 international chassis only. Ordinance No. 45-23 is outfitting these trucks from Henderson Products under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. This will have two more reads. Mr. Sindelar has pictures if anyone would like to see what is being purchased.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran wished Councilwoman Morris a happy birthday!

MOTION:

President Moran said the Mayor respectfully requested Council to move into Executive Session under Article X, Section VI, Subsection III of the City Charter to discuss conference with an attorney on several matters, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	Gallagher – aye	Furry – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Moran - aye	
7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Furry that the Executive Session be closed at 8:26 p.m.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	Gallagher – aye	Furry – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Moran - aye	
7 ayes	0 nays		PASSED

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council