

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 6, 2023

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 a Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated that Director Snyder is applying for a Cleveland Water Line Rehabilitation Funding for the following streets: Rockcliff, Sunnyhill, Orchard Grove and Rivergate. These will be included in the next round of applications. There are several streets that have already been awarded dollars.

Tree Planting this year will be done during the Spring and the Fall. In April/May the tree planting will be on Spencer, Fairhill, Nelson Park and Morewood Parkway. Director Snyder said that an initial letter has been sent out alerting residents on these streets that tree planting will be coming and each specific house or property that has been determined to be able to accommodate a tree will receive their own letter. The October/November planting will be on Aberdeen, Marian Lane and Rockland (north of Riverview).

A Legal Notice for Bradstreet's Landing will be published in the Plain Dealer February 10th, 17th and the 24th with a bid opening on March 3rd. On March 6th the administration should have some initial results to give to Council. The plan, the specification and bid forms will be available on February 15th.

The Mayor shared that Chief Lichman will be attending the FBI National Academy. He was accepted into the program, a once in a lifetime experience for law enforcement both professionally and personally. The intent of the National Academy is to teach the nation's best law enforcement executives the latest techniques in leadership, increase their physical fitness and health and multiply the department's network throughout the law enforcement community. Chief Stillman went through this program and brought back several programs and resources, met with law enforcement officials across the United States for questions, implementation of programs and initiatives, et cetera. Lieutenant Wagner will be the Officer in charge while the Chief is gone.

Chief Lichman announced that Sergeant Matthew Blazer graduated from the Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program. This is equivalent to attending graduate school for a law enforcement official. The program includes change

management, ethics, human resources, team facilitation, interpersonal skills, police legitimacy and procedural justice which is an area of expertise that the Chief feels very strongly about. Also included in the program is organizational risk management, police resource allocation and budgeting, practical leadership for law enforcement, strategic planning and an opportunity to look at vision, mission and guiding principles for a law enforcement department. The Mayor extends congratulations to Sgt. Blazer. Sgt. Blazer did this all on his own as it was something he wanted to pursue for his own personal and professional development.

The Mayor received a letter that expressed thanks and appreciation to Mike Jarvis, the Animal Control Officer on assisting with the 41 dogs that were found in a home in the City of Lakewood. The City of Rocky River housed several of the dogs and cared for the dogs before going to the Friendship APL. Several have been adopted and have forever homes. Officer Jarvis was a big part of the process. The Mayor acknowledged his efforts in this very challenging situation in Lakewood as Lakewood would do the same for Rocky River, if needed.

The Mayor thanked Council President Moran and acknowledged his great idea for Meals on Wheels. President Moran mentioned using the Citizens Emergency Response Team to help with Meals on Wheels when the weather is challenging or someone is sick. The Mayor said the volunteers in the CERT program are always looking for things to do to give back to the community, so this partnership is important for both organizations.

The Mayor discussed the Governor's Budget. This budget will first be submitted to the State Legislature where the Representatives will look at it and make some changes, it will move on to the Senate and then come back to the House where a Conference Committee will submit the final budget at the end of May, beginning of June. The Mayor was pleased to see that the Local Government Fund uses a formula that is tied into the health of the State's General Fund, which is very healthy. A percentage of this fund goes to local government and that percentage is increasing on a larger corpus of dollars because the State's General Fund has increased significantly. The Mayor is not exactly sure what this will mean, but last year the city received about \$562,000. This money is very flexible and can be used for many purposes. The Mayor expects it to be above the \$562,000 received last year. Also included in the Governor's Budget are:

- A commitment to Mental Health throughout the State. The community health system, treatment centers, investing in growing the number of behavioral and mental health professionals, the expansion of suicide prevention programs and funding of the 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline, the creation of a state action for resiliency network called SOAR which identifies public and private sector resources that can be leveraged together for prevention and provide treatment when necessary.
- Tax reform dealing with families and children support initiatives.
- H2O Ohio which is important to Rocky River because of the environment, the Lake and especially pressures on the WasteWater Treatment Plant which has done all it can do. H2O Ohio is focused on the agricultural community and working with them on water quality issues.
- Economic Development dollars that will impact both Cleveland and Cincinnati.
- Affordable Housing initiatives.
- Public Safety: An additional \$40 million dollars per year for police training and body cameras.

- Fully fund the next generation 911 system.
- The Governor is proposing to pay for all MARCS Radios operating monthly charges. Every MARCS radio currently is about \$30.00 per radio per month.

The Senior Center received official notification that they received National Accreditation. Director Huff extended thanks to all of Council for their help and presence at the last meeting with the evaluators. The Mayor thanked Director Huff, her staff and all the Senior volunteers along with City Hall staff that spent countless hours working on the accreditation. Director Huff is a forward thinker and she is thinking about the future all of the time and what the next generation of seniors will be needing and advancing excellence in all those things to meet the needs of the seniors through programs and services. A huge thank you to Director Huff. Director Huff noted that there are very few Accredited Senior Centers as the average is two Accredited Senior Centers in every state.

The Mayor mentioned that Livebarn has been launched at the ice rink. It is a hockey viewing platform with a small subscription enabling the ability to watch hockey all over the world with this platform. The city receives a portion of the revenue but it is more for the convenience for families with more than one hockey player.

City Hall is in the process of being painted. Patton Painting is doing a very good and quick job. The new sign for City Hall Campus is in progress with the brick going up today.

The Mayor announced that IT Director Chris Grau is leaving to serve the veterans. Chris said he will not be too far away. Logicalis and Ricky Bycoskie will keep things running. The IT Director position is being posted and the Mayor is hoping for a very smooth transition. The Mayor thanked Director Grau for getting the city up to speed in many areas and has been really good at looking at the system to see what is needed today and tomorrow. The Mayor will be forever grateful for his expertise.

The Mayor shared with Council a collection of notes from the Principal of St. Christopher School along with letters from many of the students. Their letters thanked the Mayor and City Council for all the playgrounds, shops, jobs, keeping the city clean, the ice rink, crossing guards, the beautiful churches, the snow plows and all the big pieces of equipment that build things and the dump. The Mayor said that this is what it is all about. The Mayor always asks students that if they could be Mayor for a day, what would they want to change or improve. The Mayor has received many good ideas that have been put in to action. The Mayor wants the younger members of the community to know that that is how government works for them. When there is a good idea and they take the initiative, the city takes it seriously.

- Councilwoman Gallagher asked if communities receive equal amounts from the Local Government Fund or based on population. The Mayor said it is a percentage which is divided by a formula and dispersed to various communities. There are many rural communities that depend on this fund for paving and infrastructure projects. It can be used for sewers, playgrounds, transfers to the Senior Center or the Recreation Department. There is a lot of flexibility.

- Councilman Hunt asked which section of Morewood Parkway will be having trees planted. Director Snyder said it will be from the railroad tracks north to Lake Road and then between Avalon and Beachcliff.
- President Moran asked if there is a flag for the Senior Center Accreditation. The Mayor said there is an emblem that the Senior Center uses, but the Mayor will look to see if there is a flag.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Parks Recreation and Health: Councilman Furry announced that the Parks and Recreation Commission is meeting this Thursday to discuss fees for approval for businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 85-22: Mrs. Gallagher said this has been tabled with the Planning Commission until their next meeting which is February 21st.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 86-22: Mrs. Gallagher stated that this is similar to Amended Ordinance No. 85-22 for detached garages. Council received the amended exhibit in their packet. This will be read for a third time next week and put on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 1-23: Mr. Moran said this has been read twice and has to do with the Valleyview District where the sewer flows into the City of Lakewood. The city pays the City of Lakewood for approximately 102 homes at the rate of \$113.37 which includes \$15.70 along with a \$98.28 mcf millage. This is an increase of about 8%. The residents pay the same as other Rocky River residents at \$38.00 mcf, and the City of Rocky River pays the balance. Mr. Snyder added that in regard to Mr. Furry's question last week, he spoke to the consulting engineers who will provide a reasonable estimate on the cost to install a pump station. It would have to be pumped up from the bottom of the Valleyview section and would involve some easement potentially with the MetroParks or Lakewood to do that. A rough estimate is somewhere between \$8-\$10 million. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

- Councilwoman Morris asked how much the city spends on the 102 homes per year. The Mayor and President Moran said it is a difference of \$70.00 approximately from what the city pays, about \$700.00 per house. That would total between \$70,000 - \$80,000 a year.

ORDINANCE NO. 2-23: Mrs. Morris said this ordinance is for upgrading the WWTP supervisory control and data acquisition software which enables the plant to be controlled from any computer in the network on the property. Currently they are using obsolete software that works but is not as effective as the new software would be in collecting data and is very expensive to maintain. The software has been transitioning since 2018 with the same company, SG Tech, but will need to accelerate the final push to finish before the capital project begins due to new EPA regulations. This expenditure has been approved by the WWTP Management Committee. This will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 3-23: Mrs. Gallagher said that the Planning Commission approved this ordinance as it is written. This is to amend section 1181.13 of the Development Code. Mrs. Gallagher would like to receive the minutes from the Planning Commission before placing this on a consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-23: Mrs. Gallagher said this ordinance is in tandem with Ordinance No. 3-23 regarding the artificial light shield required in the Code. The light trespass code is enforced by using a light brightness a measurement of a foot candle. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-23: Mr. Shepherd said that this authorizes a one-year extension of a two-year agreement that is about to expire with the Metropolitan Vending Company for the provision of and operation of vending machines in the Civic Center. They are willing to extend on the same terms where the city receives a commission on gross sales in the range of 28-30%. This will be read for a second time at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-23: Mr. Hunt said that this will be read for a second time next week. This ordinance would direct the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the State to accept grant funds up to \$35,000 for the Marine Patrol in 2023 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This is a yearly ordinance of financial assistance from the ODNR to help maintain and operate the Marine Patrol. The purpose of the Marine Patrol is to provide emergency responds to boating accidents that occur on water, to serve and protect lives, property and persons participating in recreational boating on the waters of the state. The grant allotment increased from \$30,000 to \$35,000 last year. The grant must be utilized for the maintenance and operation of vessels, marine equipment, education, materials and salaries. The Marine Patrol runs through the summer between the weekends of Memorial Day and Labor Day. 80% of the hours shall be on boat patrol and the remainder does safety inspections on the docks and the mouth of the river.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 7-23: Councilwoman Morris said this allows the Mayor to enter into a MOU between the Cuyahoga Council Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Rocky River regarding stormwater pollution education and stormwater pollution prevention and technical assistance for Ordinance No. 8-23. There will be a liaison between the city and the Soil and Water District working on education and other programs like proper salting for residents, rain barrels, etc.

ORDINANCE NO. 8-23: The Soils and Water Conservation District will do inspections and consulting services. The Mayor explained if there is more than an acre disturbed, that has to be monitored during the construction phase and for a period of time afterwards. The Mayor said they have been called in a number of times. Mrs. Morris asked if they help with parking lots. Mr. Snyder said they monitor all the storm water control measurers in the city, the fire retention basins, the basin at Rocky River Park, the Hamlets and MacDonalds routinely along with any construction projects, 700 Lake, Lutheran West that all storm water control measures are being followed per the NPDES.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Law Director O'Shea reminded City Council not to open any email that you are not expecting.

As there was no further business by members of Council, Mr. Moran adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be February 13th.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council