

## CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

July 15, 2024

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Furry, President of Council, immediately following the Special Meeting in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. O'Boyle  
Mr. Shipp, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mrs. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor thanked everyone for the weekend's events. They were eventful but uneventful, which was great. The Sunflower Wine Festival had one issue that the EMS Professionals responded to, but other than that everything went very well. On Sunday at City Hall Campus, the "Red, River and Blue" event was very well attended including events at the pool, great vendors on campus and the Car Show. A big thank you to Councilman O'Boyle, Councilman Furry and Sue for helping to serve the pies. "Pie in the Park" and "Revolutionary Pie Band" began and ended early due to the weather but were able to play at least ten songs on their playlist. Within fifteen minutes of calling it, the skies opened. Thank you to Heinen's, Joe's Deli, Giant Eagle, the Normandy and the Welsh Home for donating all the pies. As always, a huge thank you to Mary Ellen Umerley and her husband Jim. Mary Ellen secures all the pies; she and Jim pick them all up and slice them to make it easy work serving them. Thank you also to the Fire and Police Departments that participated in "Touch a Truck" in front of the ice rink. It was very well attended.

The Mayor is happy to report that the Governor has signed the "One-Time Appropriations Bill" and the City of Rocky River received \$500,000 for the new Fire Station. Thank you to Director Snyder for submitting the request to our Senator.

The crosswalk on Hilliard Blvd. will have a sidewalk installed with flashing beacons by Safety Town and the pool. These have been ordered and should be installed by the end of summer. Many residents have asked about this.

The Recycling Report came out and the City of Rocky River is up to 36%, which is an increase of a couple percentage points. It is not where the city could be with a more robust recycling program, but the city does very well with composting and yard waste. Some of recycling issues are due to situations with the hauler as well. The Mayor is happy the recycling did increase, which means 36% of waste did not go to the landfill.

The Mayor distributed two new ordinances that will be on next week's Legislative Agenda. Ordinance Nos. 46-24 and 47-24 deal with smoking in public spaces. This was discussed last week. Thank you to Councilman Hunt and Law Director O'Shea who have been working on this and Mary Ellen Umerley who drafted the legislation for Council's review. This is very similar to the City of Westlake's ordinance. It prohibits smoking in public spaces including buildings and public grounds. It prohibits anything that produces smoke and any item that produces smoke including marijuana. It is straight

forward and will be its own section. The companion ordinance is specifically for the city's parks because the park rules are in the Codified Ordinances. A notation is added that is consistent with Chapter 521, which is the smoking ordinance. Once Council has a chance to review and ultimately to approve, the city will then change rental contracts and park rules. One thing to note is the second ordinance that pertains to the parks excludes Tri-City Park as it is governed by three communities. Westlake has passed their legislation, the City of Rocky River has it drafted and the City of Fairview Park will be considering passage. If at the time these coincide, the administration will bring Tri-City Park to Council allowing the police to have the same enforcement ability as Fairview Park and Westlake as it relates to Tri-City Park. That is the only co-owned park.

- President Furry said there will be more to follow for Ordinance Nos. 46-24 and 47-24. These will not be passed next week but read for the first time. This legislation will need to be fully vetted. The Mayor anticipates a first read next week.
- Councilman Hunt said there are a couple of things he saw that he may ask to have tweaked. It will be read for the first-time next week.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 32-24:** Mr. O'Boyle said this is to amend the official zoning map of the city. It has been referred to the Planning Commission and is on hold. There will be a Public Hearing on August 6, 2024, to discuss this ordinance.

**RESOLUTION NO. 37-24:** Mr. Furry said this has been discussed for several weeks. This is requesting that the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer advance property taxes collected from the various city levies to the city prior to the final reconciliation settlement and disbursement. By making this request, the City will receive the 2024 property taxes, for the first half collection cycle and the monies will be paid first in mid-January with a second payment in February 2025, instead of waiting until the final reconciliation disbursement in late March or early April. This also applies to the second half of the collection cycle; two disbursements will be received in July versus one in August. This will be on the consent agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-24:** Mr. Furry stated that this is to certify special assessments to the County Fiscal Officer for unpaid delinquent sanitary sewer accounts as of December 31, 2023. These charges have been billed throughout 2023 and in the quarterly March and June billings and include accrued penalties. The attached exhibit is expected to be amended by substitution at the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Meeting as Director Thomas has stated that some collections have been received. The County adds a 1% fee to the assessment which is retained by the County for their shipping and handling fee. Historically, the number of accounts dropped anywhere from 100 to 250 with a corresponding decrease in dollar amount, but unfortunately it has never gone to zero. This will not be on the consent agenda as it will need to be amended.

**ORDINANCE NO. 39-24:** Mr. Furry spoke for Mrs. Morris. This is a new digester for the WWTP. Councilwoman Morris forwarded photos of a digester to City Council. The mixer goes to the digester and mixes it up so it can process waste better. Currently there are four mixers that have a life span each of four years. The WWTP schedules to rebuild one every two years. This one is overdue, but at its last inspection it was doing well. It is now showing signs of age. The lead times are too long to rebuild, currently at 3-4 months versus 2-3 weeks which it has been in the past. With the new mixer the WWTP

will pull out the one that is being replaced and rebuild if possible, keeping it on the shelf as a backup. The lead time to purchase is 34 weeks and Superintendent Barille feels the current one will last that long. This ordinance will be on the consent agenda.

**ORDINANCE NO. 41-24:** Mr. Sindelar said Ordinance No. 41-24 is a contract with Angelo Benedetti, Inc. Asphalt for the 2024 asphalt resurfacing of the alley between Struhar/Wooster and Inglewood Avenue for \$126,874.50. The city received only one bid because this is a recycled asphalt project and very few, if any companies, do this other than this company. The positives of this process include it being 100% recycled, the equipment it utilizes is a cleaner burning energy using propane for the machine. It will use less equipment for milling machinery and within ten minutes, the surface is drivable. It is also a more efficient process. The bid came in almost \$8,000 under the Engineer's Estimate and Angelo Benedetti, Inc. is recommended by the City of Bedford and Northfield Center Township. There are no unresolved findings in the Auditor's Database. This will be added to the consent agenda.

**ORDINANCE NO. 42-24:** Mr. Sindelar said this ordinance is to enter a contract with Quality Control Inspection. The city has used this company before and has been happy with them. They were the only proposal received but the city has an established relationship with them. The total amount of the agreement is \$316,670 and includes \$3,500 in reimbursable expenses. This contract gives the city control with the construction manager. The contract states that the city will provide oversight, design, inspections and constructability review throughout the project. This ordinance will need to be amended, thank you to Councilwoman Gallagher, as the amount of money was off \$300.00.

**ORDINANCE NO. 43-24:** Mr. Sindelar said this is a contract with Crossroads Asphalt for Phase II of the 2024 Street Repair Program. Crossroads has worked with the city prior and the city is happy with their work. Two bids were received, Crossroad's bid was \$45,000 less than the bid by Perk Company but \$19,000 or 4.7% greater than the Engineer's Estimate which is still within the 20% threshold. This project is on Bonnie Bank and Mark Avenue. Mr. Sindelar asked Director Snyder how he determines which streets have the recycling process versus doing them all. Director Snyder said the reason this was chosen for a typical asphalt replacement program is due to the amount of concrete work necessary for full depth repairs, curbs and curb ramps. The big part is the full depth repairs. When the asphalt recycling program is used, it includes milling, processing the asphalt and then laying it back down. Mr. Snyder walked the streets with MacKay Engineering and chose these four streets as part of the pavement condition rating process. Then it is determined that Inglewood Avenue and the alley were excellent candidates for recycling because Inglewood has a curb and gutter system where it is concrete for the curb and the gutter system. It will mill nicely. All four of these streets had pavement borings to determine the condition of the concrete underneath the streets. Mr. Sindelar added that there is a very detailed matrix and analysis prior to making these decisions. Mr. Snyder added that historically between the two programs, they have a better price for doing the concrete work with a contractor like this versus Angelo Benedetti who will typically put in an additional amount of overhead versus a larger company like Crossroads. This will be added to the consent agenda.

**ORDINANCE NO. 44-24:** Mr. Sindelar said this ordinance enters a contract with SmithGroup for the Development of the Rocky River Park Master Plan not to exceed \$99,996.00. Mr. Sindelar said the city has worked with SmithGroup extensively with Bradstreet's Landing along with SmithGroup working with the County, MetroParks and the Cities of Euclid and Bay Village. Mr. Sindelar said that like the Pier, dealing with a specialized resource like Lake Erie, the city needs to take extra special measures and the city wants a company that has handled these issues before. The RFP went out in April with the project summary looking for collaborative discussion to present a plan to the city. Some of these projects will be transformative and residents will be appreciative of their tax dollars at work. The Mayor said this work is foundational and facilitates the city's ability to secure outside grant dollars. They want to know that comprehensive planning has been done. This has been proven with the overall Master Plan that has

been utilized for grant applications. Mr. Sindelar reiterated that this is for the Rocky River Park Master Plan and not part of the main Rocky River Master Plan. This will be added to the consent agenda.

- Mr. Furry asked about being under parked at Rocky River City Park, even though parking has been added. Did SmithGroup come up with the suggestion of parking at Bradstreet's Landing. The Mayor confirmed they had several suggestions for parking all very similar. The Mayor reiterated that Bradstreet's Landing is a 3.3-acre parcel that has too many cars already. More parking will be added however, for Bradstreet's Landing.

**ORDINANCE NO. 45-24:** Mr. Sindelar said this is for purchasing replacements for the existing fuel system under the State Cooperative Purchasing Act from Collins Equipment Corporation. The pumps on City Hall Campus will be eliminated including the tanks and pumps. This equipment has shelf life and to ensure there will not be an environmental hazard, the system will be improved and consolidated. This will be added to the consent agenda.

- Mr. Furry drove around the Service Garage and asked where the pumps physically would go. Director Snyder said the pumps will go right next to the tanks. It will be the scale, tanks and pumps parallel to the existing scale going towards the hill. Mr. Furry asked if it will be a problem for traffic. Director Snyder said it is far enough from Lake Road and there is a significant amount of room. There are never more than two or three buses at a time at the City Hall pumps and there is enough room for that at the Service Garage pumps. There are also two diesel and two unleaded pumps so two buses can fuel at one time. They will drive in, fuel up and pull around and go right out the existing road. Director Snyder asked Collin's Equipment for a diagram and a sketch and as soon as he receives it, he will provide that to Council.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** Ordinance Nos. 46-24 and 47-24 will be on next week's Legislative Agenda. The Mayor said that if there are tweaks, it should be changed prior to the first reading at next week's meeting.

President Furry said the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. Council will then be in Recess until September 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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David W. Furry  
President of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council