

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 16, 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 Member Absent: Mrs. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that the city received a DOPWIC Grant (District One Public Works Integrating Committee) for Fiscal Year 2026. The award is in the amount of \$2.223 million for the Beachcliff/Cornwall Improvement Project. The total cost of this project is \$7.4 million. This will be a zero-interest loan to the city. Thank you to Director Snyder and MacKay Engineering who assist Director Snyder on these applications. This is a huge award to receive and a great way to end the year.

The Mayor discussed the Police Department. The City of Rocky River Police Department received several recertifications through the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency and the Mayor shared these with City Council.

- Turning in use of force
- Recruitment in hiring
- Community engagement
- Body worn cameras and the operation of those and uses of those
- Telecommunicator training

This is something the Chief has done to enhance the police department and has been extremely successful in the recertification process. Rocky River is one of the first agencies to receive this certification. Kudos to Chief Lichman.

The Mayor corrected several inaccuracies in a recent article regarding the 2025 budget. The Mayor added that the city is partners with the reporters because the city is dependent on their accurate reporting of the work the city does. When it comes to the budget, there is no more important document to the city and it is equally as important as annual reports.

The Mayor announced that Christmas Eve Day, City Hall will be open for half a day and closed on Christmas Day in observance of the holiday. City Hall will be open on New Year's Eve for half a day and closed on New Years Day in observance of that holiday.

The Mayor wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! The Mayor is looking forward to next year.

- Mrs. Gallagher thanked the Mayor for all that she does.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Furry said that City Council will not be meeting next Monday, December 23rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 99-24: Mr. Sindelar said that at the corner of Woodside and Morewood Parkway is a strip of land that the property owners have asked to purchase. As stated in the property description, the city is selling this slice to them so they can put up a fence. It is fair market value and the city will retain 8 feet of that area. Mr. Sindelar will seek passage at the next Legislative meeting.

Ordinance No. 100-24: Mr. Hunt said this was read for the first time at this evening's Special Meeting. The city has been accepting funds for the Marine Patrol from the ODNr for many years. It is a great program. The city receives a grant in the amount of \$35,000 towards the operation of the Marine Patrol between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The city pays a portion as well. This will be discussed at the next meeting. This is included in the budget and was discussed during the Budget Hearing. It is more than worthwhile and is front and center for the summer months. This will have three full reads.

- Mr. Furry asked if this amount has increased. Director Snyder said it was at \$30,000 and was increased to \$35,000 last year.

Ordinance No. 101-24: Mr. Furry said this was read earlier. This authorizes the awarding of the city's Audit Services and will cover the Fiscal periods 2024 to 2028. The vetting process is prescribed by the Auditor of State, Keith Faber and is being awarded to the incumbent firm of Zupka & Associates who just finished their five-year contract. Although this is for an additional five years, per auditor of state criteria, the city cannot contract with a private firm for more than ten years. Four firms were vetted and scored by Auditor of State and Zupka & Associates scored the highest. They were not the least costly but conversely not the highest. The city has latitude for lowest and best especially regarding professional services. Mr. Furry is expecting three full reads on this.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: The next meeting will be a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

President Furry wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council