

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

September 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,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor shared with Council a thank you card received from Nan Baker who was our State Representative and County Councilwoman when significant dollars were secured for Bradstreet's Landing including \$1.1 million from the County and \$350,000 from the State. Nan's name is listed on the plaque at Bradstreet's Landing.

The Mayor thanked Councilman Shipp for his attendance at the 9/11 Ceremony. There was a nice gathering on a beautiful Wednesday morning, much like the morning of 9/11 in 2001. The Mayor was very pleased at the participation of the Safety Forces as well as the public.

The Fall Arts Festival this weekend was a great event. Sixty-seven of the 70 secured vendors were there. Artists and merchants were all happy. The Parks and Recreation Foundation was very pleased. A big thank you to the RRHS Hockey Team, the RRHS Girl's Soccer Team and the RRHS Key Club. The Senior Center and the Historical Society were there also. The Mayor received a lot of good feedback while taking the time to talk to the vendors as well as the merchants in Old Rocky River as events can be disruptive but it brings a lot of people down who have never seen some of the shops and take time to frequent the establishments that day. Another successful event. A big thank you too, to the Recreation and Service Departments for their involvement.

The Mayor mentioned that paving on Mark Avenue and Bonnie Bank will commence with milling, full concrete repairs and an overlay and will continue through the beginning of November.

The Mayor said there is a Fire Training Simulator in the Fire Station parking lot. This will be used for training to operate emergency vehicles and other safety equipment. The State will be training the entire WestShore Fire Departments. It is great to have this in our community, especially with the investment this Council has made in all the vehicles and equipment.

The Mayor said that the new MARCS Radios have been outfitted in the Police Department. The MARCS radios are the handheld radios that the police use. They have a great deal of interoperability. This system has been deployed statewide and is critically important, allowing cities to speak with other municipalities and other levels of government including state government. It is critically important to have that upgrade. Thank you to Director Snyder for his work regarding this.

The CDBG and CDSG Grant requests in front of Council are two requests for \$150,000 from the CDBG for the park and \$50,000 from the CDSG which is the supplemental, totaling a \$200,000 request. The estimated cost of the park right now is \$347,600.00. Thank you to Kathryn Kerber for her work on this

submission. A big thank you to Director Snyder for completing the DOPWIC Grant. Director Snyder said that Kim Kerber and Brenda Mockbee of the firm Wallace and Pancher, a Division of Mannik and Smith, carried a heavy load on this grant.

The Mayor discussed the Heritage Home Loan Program which provides low interest loans and technical expertise that is extended from the Cleveland Restoration Society to our residents who own homes that are more than fifty years old. The city has decided to move ahead in 2025 to join the Heritage Home Loan Program. City Council should have this agreement in front of them with a starting date in January 2025. The total cost is around \$14,000. This will involve a great deal of communication with the residents which the city will supplement along with public meetings, etc.

The Mayor said the city is putting out the request for Tree Planting. The total amount of 250 additional trees that will be planted in the city. 150 of these trees will be planted around town on tree lawns. 100 trees will be planted in front yards in West River Estates and Christiansen Estates as part of the Urban Canopy Program Grant that Director Snyder was successful in securing. The city has a Tree Master Plan with specific species for every street in the city. Director Snyder also did an inventory of viable locations so the city knows the right place and the right tree to plant in specific areas.

The Mayor celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs. Louise Novak who is a resident of the Normandy. The Mayor had the pleasure and honor of presenting Mrs. Novak a proclamation from City Council and the Administration on Saturday.

The Mayor mentioned that the Senior Center is hosting two trivia programs a month on Fridays. This past Friday there were 88 participants forming 18 teams. The Mayor is hopeful the Rocky River Senior Center will take home the trophy for trivia.

The Mayor reminded City Council that this is Constitution Week beginning tomorrow, September 17th through September 23rd. This Saturday there will be a parade on the sidewalk from St. Thomas Lutheran Church on Detroit, down Wagar Road to City Hall to honor the Constitution and the Constitutional Convention.

- Mr. Sindelar said that in years previous, the city was in the home loan program and then left because it was not used. Has there been an uptick in requests? The Mayor said years ago, there were only one or two people securing loans with very few even asking about the loan product and only a handful of individuals requesting technical expertise. That was many years ago when the interest rates decreased significantly so the competitiveness of the loan product was not that much. Now it makes more sense with the increase of interest rates. The Mayor has had several residents reach out inquiring about this program. The Mayor believes that with many more homes being eligible there will be an increase in interest for the program. There will be an annual fee of about \$14,000 and can be revisited annually. Mr. Furry said it is worth seeing if it will be worth it with all the older homes in Rocky River. The Mayor said it is a positive for the city as it spurs investments in resident's homes.
- Mrs. Morris asked where the front yards are located that are part of the Canopy Program. Director Snyder said that the Tree Lawn Tree Program is on different streets around town typically where there has been construction. He will get Mrs. Morris a specific list. The front yards are in West River Estates.
- Mrs. Morris asked who the point person is regarding the Constitution Parade. The Mayor said the city does the Proclamation for the RRPL but this group also has a copy of it that will be read. Ann and John Robins are the contacts. The flyer says to wear red, white and blue and bring a flag. Mr. Furry will forward the flyer to Mrs. Morris.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Furry said that the RRHS Homecoming is this Friday. Mr. Furry has purchased candy for Council to distribute.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Amended Ordinance No. 32-24: Mr. O'Boyle said this is to amend the official zoning map of the city. It is currently on hold. There will be a Public Hearing on October 7, 2024.

Ordinance No. 50-24: Mr. Shipp passed around colored pictures of the five features being replaced at the outdoor pool. The original features are 20 years old and are either damaged, inoperable or have been removed. This will be placed on a consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 51-24: Mr. Shipp said this is a companion ordinance to the prior ordinance to have the outdoor pool resurfaced. This is also overdue for repair as there is some cracking in the surface. This is planned to be completed before the end of the year. This will be added to the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 52-24: Mr. Hunt said this will also be a candidate for the consent agenda. This was discussed last week and it is authorizing the Mayor to purchase three Stryker Lifepak Heart Monitor Defibrillators for the Fire Department under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. These will be compatible throughout the city. It was discussed that there is an urgency and importance for replacing the current Lifepaks that are several years old and are critical pieces of equipment for the Fire Department and for public safety. Mr. Hunt encourages everyone in passing this next week.

- Mr. Furry asked how big these are. Mr. Hunt said they are a portable, box shaped piece of equipment with a shoulder strap.

Ordinance No. 53-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is for the purchase of two Ford F550 trucks for the Service Department. This was introduced a week ago. Mr. Sindelar stated that the city's mechanics do a great job keeping vehicles running. The two vehicles being replaced are 2016 models that both have a good number of miles on them and commercial miles are more than the basic mileage. These will be purchased through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program. One of the trucks can be delivered in November. Mr. Sindelar asked if the new truck could be outfitted with current plows that the city has. Mr. Snyder said that if there was a catastrophic reason to use the new truck it could be rolled over, but that is unlikely. Plows will be ordered but are on backorder until next fall. This will be on the consent agenda.

Resolution No. 54-24: Mr. Hunt said this is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio to receive \$500,000 in grant money for the Fire Department/Station renovation improvement. The city is always anxious to receive grant money and the administration deserves a lot of credit for seeking out and obtaining grant funds. This is not the total amount requested for the construction, nonetheless the city is happy to be awarded and accept this \$500,000 to be used for the renovation of the Fire Department. This will be on the consent agenda.

- Mr. Furry asked if the administration is confident that this grant will be received. The Mayor and Mr. Hunt said yes. This is from the onetime Strategic Community Investment Fund. This was in addition to the Biennium Capital requests.

Resolution No. 55-24: Mr. O'Boyle said that this is a resolution supporting the placement of a proposed Shore Structure and approval of a Lake Erie Submerged Land Lease from the ODNR. This is

guaranteeing to the ODNR and the Army Corps of Engineers that the city does not need the submerged land for purposes in the future. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 56-24: This is authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Perspectus Architecture for the architectural design and engineering services for the Fire Station Renovation Project. This is a companion piece to 54-24. Perspectus Architecture was one of twelve proposals submitted. The proposals were reviewed by Chief Lenart, Ray Reich, Mike Balla, Jim Fantozzi with Infinity; Construction Manager at Risk and Director Snyder. They were scored separately on several criteria and it was determined that Perspectus Architecture was the best firm based upon those criteria. Perspectus has had significant experience in completing fire stations including those in Lyndhurst, North Ridgeville and Grandville Township. A search of the Auditor of State Findings for Recovery was negative. Mr. Hunt received a separate email with additional background of the firm that Mr. Hunt will forward to City Council. Based upon the size of this contract, Mr. Hunt will not put this on the consent agenda. Perspectus has offered their availability if Council has questions or questions can be submitted to Mr. Hunt or the administration for a response.

- Mrs. Morris asked if Council could see what is being asked for in this project. Mr. Snyder said the new station is significantly larger than the current station. Mr. Snyder will send information to Clerk Pease to forward it to Council. The current fire station will be raised and a new station will be built without a basement. This company has done a lot of municipal complexes.
- President Furry will recuse himself from voting on this. The proposed team for the fire station planning and programming of Mull & Weithman is a friend of his and is the architect on record for his new home. Mr. Furry stated that his friend is working with the cities of Bay Village and Norwalk.
- Mr. Sindelar asked where the firefighters would be located during the construction. The Mayor said they will be located at the Service Garage and possibly firefighters on each shift will be housed at Fairview Park Fire Department with apparatus and personnel at their station. Details to be finalized with Fairview Park.
- Mr. Snyder said the administration has been working with Infinity on a temporary housing plan. The goal is to have the fire department at the Service Garage and Fairview Park Fire Department by April to allow the city to do what needs to be done. The fire department needs climate control conditions for their equipment. The Sewer Division has adequate space and access for the Fire Department to be housed there along with temporary structures for sleep and office space.

Ordinance No. 57-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is an agreement with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving for the 2024 Avalon Drive Sewer Outfall Replacement Project. It was introduced last week and as described this project is necessary to replace corrugated metal storm sewer pipe that takes stormwater from Avalon Drive to an outfall on the edge of Lake Erie. New 30" diameter PVC pipe will be replacing existing 18" and 21" diameter corrugated metal pipe. In addition to the new pipe, the contractor will be improving the outfall. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

- Mr. Hunt asked where the outfall is located. The Mayor said it is behind the house that is under construction between Parklawn and Elmwood.

Ordinance No. 58-24: This is to amend the agreement with MacKay Engineering and Surveying Company, a Division of Wallace and Pancher, Inc. This was introduced last week and this is more of a clean-up matter due to merging companies. Mr. Snyder clarified from last week that they will be called Wallace and Pancher, a Division of Mannik and Smith. Director Snyder said nothing is changing personnel wise, if anything Kim Kerber will be getting more help. This will be added to the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 59-24: Mr. Furry said this is for the addition of a position in the Service Department for a Service Operations Manager. This is a position that existed many years ago but was eliminated in 2008. The Refuse 1 Lead Supervisor will take the position of Service Operations Manager and the city is working with the Union to have only one lead supervisor covering all of Refuse and Recycling. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 60-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is an agreement with AECOM Technical Services for private property dye testing. This is a really important issue to resolve. A significant amount of I & I is entering the sanitary system from private property. This ordinance will continue to determine where these issues exist. Director Snyder said that the General Conditions in the contract have been amended at the request of Mr. O'Shea so the exhibit will be amended next week. This ordinance will need to be amended next week.

- Mr. Furry said it says approximately 58 of the resident homes on Frazier and Kensington, which is not all the homes. Mr. Snyder said is based upon the section of work that was done on Frazier during the last project in 2015. It is not every single home but homes in relation to the sewer main project.

Ordinance No. 61-24: Mr. Furry said this is a supplemental budget request for the Recreation Department due to the prevalent use of credit cards for transactions for programs offered at the Recreation Center. The Recreation Department did not budget enough for these charges. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Resolution No. 62-24: Mr. Shipp said this is to authorize an application for the CDBG and CDSG Grant Programs for the Shoreland/Wooster Neighborhood Park Project. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 63-24: Mr. Furry said this is basically from Summer Fest that was in the Planning and Community Development and should be in the Recreation Center Budget in the amount of \$8,000. This will not be on the consent agenda as it will have a revised exhibit.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Mr. Hunt said that before Council adjourns, he would like to wish President Furry a very happy belated birthday.

President Furry said the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 23rd. The following week will be the fifth Monday of the month and City Council will not be meeting.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council