

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

June 17, 2024

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Furry, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Thomas

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor said that the "Taste of River" was a great success this weekend. There were many people in attendance enjoying a beautiful evening.

The administration has communicated to the city's receptionists and all of the buildings that if necessary, the city will have "Cooling Centers" at the Senior Center, the Civic Center and Memorial Hall that will be available areas for residents if there is a major power outage. For the duration of the week, the Refuse Department will be on "task days". Wednesday, the Refuse Department will not be working in observance of Juneteenth and will make up for that day by picking up refuse on Saturday.

The Mayor shared exciting news regarding the application through the State Capital Requests as well as the one-time Strategic Community Investments for funding for the Fire Station. The Mayor is happy to report that the legislation has earmarked \$500,000 for the Rocky River Fire Station. The city is very pleased to be receiving this.

The Hilliard/Wagar intersection will have a police officer on duty through 7:00 p.m. directing traffic through the intersection. This construction includes extensive full depth repairs of the intersection so if residents can avoid the intersection, please avoid the intersection.

The Mayor shared the events commencing this Sunday at City Hall Campus for "The Summer of Fun". The city will have a Vendor Fair with about 40-50 vendors beginning at 2:00 p.m. At 4:45 p.m. there will be a "Kids Fun Run" followed by the "Hilliard Hustle" for adults down Hilliard Blvd. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a concert by the band "Funkology". "The Summer of Fun" will be holding these events every few weeks concentrating around a band, an activity and a vendor fair.

The Mayor said the City of Rocky River will be observing Juneteenth this Wednesday, June 19th and City Hall will be closed.

The Mayor announced that the "Greek Festival" will begin this Thursday, June 20th through June 23rd. Each day the festival begins at 11:00 a.m. with the drive-through opening at 11:00 a.m. as well. The festival closes at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday, 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with the drive thru closing at 8:00 p.m.

- Councilwoman Morris asked if the city could preemptively announce about the "Cooling Centers" in case residents do lose their power. The Mayor said yes, but these are areas to go to

charge a phone and stay cool, but there are no refreshments available. All the buildings have bookings and programming scheduled, so the “Cooling Centers” will have to work around that.

- Mrs. Morris asked what type of vendors will be at City Hall Campus this Sunday. The Mayor responded that there will be food vendors/food trucks, crafts and eventually some “Farmer’s Market” vendors similar to the CLE Flea.

President Furry mentioned that Law Director O’Shea was not feeling well and was unable to make it to this evening’s meeting.

President Furry also explained to those in attendance that tonight is a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting where residents can attend but cannot address City Council. Next week’s Legislative Meeting has times that residents can be heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Furry announced that Mr. Jim Moran submitted statistics regarding the city’s consistent historical rankings in the Cleveland Magazine and distributed copies to City Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 29-24: Mr. Sindelar said this will be read for a third time at next week’s Legislative Meeting and he will seek passage. Mr. Sindelar explained that the term I & I stands for Inflow and Infiltration. He explained that the storm water sewer rests above the sanitary so any backflow from storms causes the rainwater to enter the sanitary causing the sanitary system to become overwhelmed. The City of Rocky River has been at the forefront of fixing this issue for the last eighteen years for the betterment of the environment and it will also help with basement flooding. Also attached to this project is a watermain replacement, funded by the City of Cleveland Water Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 30-24: Mr. Furry said that historically City Council has taken recess during the month of August to spend time with their families. There are sometimes occasions that Council needs to meet in August if an emergency arises. Mr. Furry also reminded Council that August 4th will be Councils Hot Dog Night at City Hall Park.

- Mrs. Morris asked when “Pie in the Park” will be held this summer. It will be on July 14th at City Hall Park. “Revolutionary Pie” will be playing.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-24: Mr. Furry said that the City of Lakewood has been treating sanitary sewage in the ValleyView Sewer District since 1956 and it comprises approximately 102 single family homes. Lakewood’s sewer rates are higher than the City of Rocky River, so the City of Rocky subsidizes these rates and all Rocky River residents pay the same mcf.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-24: Mr. O’Boyle said this is to amend the Zoning Map and has been referred to the Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-24: Mrs. Gallagher said this is to relocate and replace two boilers that have served the Civic Center, Fitness and Pool area since 2007. The boilers will significantly improve the energy efficiency and the environmental sustainability of the facility. The boilers are fully modulating ultra-high efficiency condensing boilers. \$111,051.50 of a NOPEC Grant will pay a portion of the \$157,220 cost. The lowest proposal received had unfavorable references so the city went with the second

lowest and best proposal from S. A. Comunale to replace these two boilers.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-24: Mr. Furry said the Mayor discussed this a few weeks ago and it is to commemorate the Semiquincentennial. As the time gets closer, more information will follow for the Semiquincentennial for the United States in the State of Ohio.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-24: Mr. Furry said this is a very brief first pass of the 2025 Budget in a summary and required form. It is based on information by making projections using what if scenarios but also includes known costs that will be part of the 2025 Budget. It is not the final budget that Council will address in December 2024. This will have a second read next week.

RESOLUTION NO. 36-24: Mr. Furry said this is a companion piece to Resolution No. 35-24 and is another step in the 2025 Budget process. Resolution No. 36-24 authorizes the levying of property tax millage. The total city millage will be set at 9.9 mills which is a reduction of .65 mills from the current 10.55 mills. This reduction is from the Civic Center Bonds being retired. Other city activities included in the millage figure are the Senior Center, Refuse and Recycling, the Recreation Center, Fire Pension, Police Pension and other Capital Improvements. This will have a second read next week and Mr. Furry is anticipating three full reads.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 37-24: Mr. Furry said this is requesting that the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer advance pay 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.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

President Furry said the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 24th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council