

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 2, 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, Mr. O'Boyle, Mr. Shipp,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Council Member Absent: Mrs. Gallagher

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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated that a ReadyNotify went out today about bulk leaf collection. The Service Department is in the sixth pass through the city. Beginning the week of December 16th, it will be the final week of bulk pick-up. After that day, residents will be asked to place yard waste and/or leaves in brown bags to be picked up.

The Mayor said that tomorrow evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, there will be an I/I meeting for residents on Frazier and Kensington to explain the process going forward on the private side of I/I.

The Mayor explained that there is an inventory being completed on Rockcliff noting downspouts and driveway drains. This is in preparation of the I/I evaluation.

The Mayor discussed the latest issue of the Senior Center Quill for the month of December. The publication is filled with many special events, many great classes (old and new), a concert featuring the Ukulele Orchestra, outings and other fun things. It shows the diversity of programming at the Senior Center.

Today is "Membership Monday" for the Recreation Center. Director Holub, as of 7:00 p.m., said the Recreation Center has raised \$192,000 with two hours to go. This is well above last year but includes some other registrations. Memberships total about \$163,000 today, which is about \$35,000 over last year. The "Membership Monday" program has been very helpful.

The Mayor said there is legislation pending in the State Legislature moving the pension contribution from municipalities to match with fire up to 24%. This passed out of Committee with an increase over six years as opposed to four years. This must go to the House and then the Senate. This is significant over time, even though it is six years, with a small increase of a quarter of a percentage contribution on the part of the police themselves. The Mayor will keep Council informed as it moves along.

The City of Rocky River will be sending out a ReadyNotify on Wednesday and again on Friday regarding the Detroit and Old Detroit Holiday Walk which will be kicking off at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 7th. The day will begin with a parade beginning at the Methodist Church processing down Detroit Road to Old Detroit. There will be stilt walkers, antique cars, civic organizations, the library and the Lutheran West Marching Band will be participating. It will be a whole day of fun with carolers,

entertainment and ice carvers. The small businesses all contribute to a collection along with some city funds and it turns out to be a great event. A large live tree, that had to be removed, is now in place. It will be decorated and will be part of the tree lighting ceremony on Old Detroit around 5:15 p.m. on Saturday. The tree lighting will kick off the street dance and other festivities. Please join in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee: Mr. Furry reminded City Council that the Budget Hearing is this Friday beginning punctually at 8:15 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 76-24: This is the annual salaries and hourly rates ordinance effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Furry reviewed a summary of what is included:

- State minimum wage increased to \$10.70 per hour.
- Overall positions saw a 3% increase which includes exempts, union members of Fire, union members of Wastewater, and part-time positions. It does reflect changes in the Police CBA which has been verbally discussed but Council has not received the hard copy of the agreement. That will be in front of Council at next week's meeting.
- The Finance Department renamed existing positions Finance Clerk I and Finance Clerk II and made an equity adjustment to reflect the required experience for these positions.
- There was a small equity adjustment for the Rental Inspector position to reflect the required state credentials needed for the position.
- The Department of Planning and Community Development has moved out of the Building Department and has its own section now.
- There was an equity adjustment for Director of Public Facilities and Maintenance to reflect credentials held for the position.
- The Senior Center added a full-time position slot for Marketing/Communications and Volunteer Coordinator. This position has not been filled but is in the budget.
- An increase for the Assistant Law Director is also included.

Mr. Furry said this has been amended to reflect the changes at the Special Meeting this evening.

Amended Ordinance No. 77-24: This ordinance was amended by substitution to reflect the amended supplemental appropriations of an additional \$100,000 totaling \$1.5 million for the Senior Center Improvements to align with the construction costs and bond ordinance total not to exceed \$4.6 million per the Finance Director's revised recommendation with this covering two fiscal years. This will be placed on the consent agenda .

Amended Ordinance No. 78-24: Mr. Furry explained that Blake Beachler, Bond Counsel at Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP clarified the bottom of the first paragraph of Section 2, adding that the bonds may be issued in calendar year 2024 or 2025. It more clearly states Council's authorizing intent. There is additional language at the beginning of Section 12 regarding the bank qualification language because the Fire Department Project will probably launch in 2025. It authorized the city to issue bonds for the Senior Center Improvement Project and authorizes funding not to exceed \$4.6 million. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 79-24: This is an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to reimburse the City of Cleveland \$7,669.06. This is a sister piece to 73-24 but this is Oak/Collver. Exhibit "A" explains the costs which were reconciled by City Engineer Kimberly Kerber. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 80-24: Mr. Furry said this has been an annual ordinance that although the city can purchase off the State Cooperative list, the city can go out on the open market to possibly get better pricing. This has not had much discussion and will be placed on the consent agenda.

- The Mayor added that a comparison was sent to Councilwoman Gallagher and in every case where prices were compared, the city was able to get a lower price for both diesel and unleaded gas on the open market from the State bids.

Ordinance No. 81-24: Mr. Furry said this is also a yearly ordinance. Instead of purchasing off the State Coop the city can purchase tires on the open market. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 82-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is an agreement with the Cuyahoga County of Public Works for the replacement of the Hilliard Road Bridge. It outlines the representatives, the Mayor and her designee and outlines some potential additions the city would like to add and the costs will be covered by the city. This has had little to no discussion other than some clarification. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 84-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is the contract to have Medical Mutual be the administrator for the self-funded insurance policy. Medical Mutual has done a great job for the city and is one of the well-known industry leaders in this field. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 85-24: Mr. Furry said this ordinance is to enter a contract with Millstone Management Group for the 2024 Senior Center restoration and addition in an amount not to exceed \$4,551,889.00. The owner's rep from QCI, the principal architect from CPL and Director Snyder vetted this and agreed to choose Millstone. This has been discussed for a while and will be placed on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 86-24: Mrs. Morris said this is a yearly ordinance for grit and screening removal to a municipal landfill for the WWTP. Kimball was the company used last year and they were the only bid this year at a price increase of 12%. The total per year is generally \$35,000 so expect a \$3,500 increase next year.

Ordinance No. 87-24: Mrs. Morris said there is a language change in Ordinance 915.03 (c)(3) amending the pretreatment enforcement language and the discharge limitation. Exhibit A shows changes in bold. Over the course of a 24-hour period and for instantaneous toxic substances and changes the Selenium concentration of 1.41 has dropped from 1.51. These changes are required by the EPA. The change in regulation occurred in 2017 but it was not properly reflected in the local limits. All the cities that are included in the WWTP must make these changes.

Ordinance No. 88-24: Mr. Furry stated that this was read once. This is for the annual appropriations for the expenses for the city in 2025 further detailed in the Budget books Council received. This will be discussed further at the Finance Meeting this Friday morning. A Public Hearing for this ordinance will be held on December 9th.

Ordinance No. 89-24, 90-24 and 91-24: Mr. Sindelar said these three ordinances are various insurance coverages. One for the City of Rocky River itself, the Rocky River Municipal Court and the WWTP. This has been discussed at length. There was a good outline explaining from the consultants why the city should not go out to market. Concerns were addressed from various claims and lack of notices. As with any insurance, it depends on a litany of factors like claim experience and costs in general for an increase. There are some changes but not to the effect of hurting the city in the long term. Mr. Sindelar stated that we are in the right place we need to be. Municipal insurance is a different animal and a complex system and insurance is not readily available.

- The Mayor added that the Law Director has put some things in place so the city does not run into some of the same issues as in the past.

Resolution No. 92-24: Mrs. Morris said this resolution authorizes the Mayor to apply for and administer a Coastal Management Assistance Grant. Kathryn Kerber submitted a Coastal Management Assistance Grant as a pre-application. She has been approved and is submitting the longer full application that requires City Council to pass this resolution so she can apply for the amount of \$150,000.

Ordinance No. 93-24: Mrs. Morris said this is an annual ordinance. This is for the purchase of Ferric Chloride for the WWTP. There is no change in price and it is the same vendor as in 2024.

Ordinance No. 94-24: Mrs. Morris said this is an annual ordinance. This is for the purchase of Sodium Bisulfite for the WWTP. There is no change in price and it is the same vendor as in 2024.

Ordinance No. 95-24: Mrs. Morris said this is an annual ordinance. This is for the removal of Digested Sludge Cake (Summer Season) for the WWTP. There is no change in price and it is the same vendor as in 2024.

Ordinance No. 96-24: Mrs. Morris said this is an annual ordinance. This is for the removal of Digested Sludge Cake (Winter Season) for the WWTP. There is no change in price and it is the same vendor as in 2024.

Ordinance No. 97-24: Mr. Furry said this ordinance is on hold as previously discussed.

Ordinance No. 98-24: Mr. Furry said this ordinance is on hold as previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 99-24: Mr. Sindelar will discuss this in depth at next week's Legislative Meeting. Mr. Snyder said the city was contacted by a property owner on Morewood Parkway and Woodside Drive. The way their lot lined up gave them a minimal side yard outside of the right-of-way. They reached out to the city so they could have some kind of yard to put a fence on. This vacation would be to offer five feet by 120 feet of the right of way to the property owner. The city would still be able to put in a sidewalk down the road.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if the city has investigated any legal restrictions. Mr. Snyder said they looked at the revised code associated with this and the land was vacated right-of-way. In the administration's interpretation, it did not line up as a true sale. It was a sale associated with a vacation. Mr. Snyder said typically the sale of real estate does have to be publicly bid. The Mayor said if it is abutting or contiguous you can sell it to the individual at fair market value. The legal description was done by MacKay Engineering as part of their monthly retainer.
- Mrs. Morris asked for vacation to be defined. It means vacated.
- Mr. Hunt is asking if it is by the alley. Mr. Snyder said it appears to be an alley, but it is a dedicated street. It is the southwest corner of Woodside at Morewood Parkway.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: The next meeting will be a Legislative Meeting immediately following a Public Hearing on Monday, December 9th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

As there was no further business, Mr. Furry moved to adjourn the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting at 7:39 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council