

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

June 3, 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. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mr. Sindelar

Administration: Mayor Bobst

Law Department: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor said that the Suburban Water Council, which includes Cleveland Water staff and area Mayors, met last Friday. The Suburban Water Council meets on a regular basis to discuss several issues. The main item on the agenda was the current rate structure. Current rates have not been raised but there will be a small increase beginning in 2025 through 2029. The increase will be a 3.75% to a 4% increase over the next five years. The fixed charge will increase the second year to \$9.90 and will stay at that price for the duration. Tier 1 will increase slightly each year beginning at \$30.48 and at completion will be \$35.32. If residents have a bill that has .2 mcf, an average for a small family, the monthly bill will increase from \$15.95 in 2025 to \$16.96 in 2029. The Suburban Water Council does not make decisions on these rates, information and background is provided only. The Watermain Replacement Program originally was set at \$10 million and increased to \$15 million a few years ago. Money will be added to this program but the amount has not yet been determined. The Homestead Exemption for senior citizens is 40% off the fixed rate and 40% off the first Tier. The City of Rocky River is in two pressure categories with half the city in the lowest service area, meaning the cost to bring that half of the city is the lowest next to Cleveland and the other half of the city is in the next lowest service area. The lead line replacement continues and as the city replaces waterlines, Cleveland Water is checking each of the homes and replacing lead lines.

New legislation will be forthcoming to City Council and is being drafted for Council's consideration. Most are routine, including the Tax Budget and Tax Rates which have not changed along with millage coming off; Delinquent Sewer Accounts; Lakewood Sewer Rates and the new Zoning Map. The Zoning Map will be referred back to the Planning Commission who will then have a Public Hearing with the recommendation referred back to City Council for another Public Hearing. The administration is anticipating that the Zoning Map will not be approved until September.

The Mayor said that the city has a very industrious Eagle Scout who put in a "Gaga Pit" at Elmwood Park near the playground equipment. Gaga Ball is like dodgeball, played within a specially designed Gaga Ball Pit. These pits, typically hexagonal or octagonal, enhance the game by keeping the ball in play.

The latest Quill from the Senior Center has been mailed. Please review all the programs being offered.

Senior Services will be celebrating 50 years of existence this September. There will be many special events surrounding this celebration.

D.A.R.E. Graduation is this Thursday and is also the opening day of the outdoor pool.

- Mrs. Morris asked what is left in the city as far as lead lines. The Mayor said there is quite a bit. However, every time there are new waterlines replaced, the Cleveland Water Department checks for lead lines from the main to the homes. Replacing the lead lines from the main to the homes began about 2-3 years ago. The water is being treated so there is no leaching of the lead, but still removing them out of the system and ultimately that will help in the treatment of water. Mr. O'Shea added that lead in the water pipes is a fraction of the danger of lead found in paint. The Mayor added that Cleveland Water will hold sessions on water, algae treatment and lead lines for any groups interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mrs. Morris announced that the Green Team will be meeting this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Rocky River Library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 28-24: Mr. Shipp said this has been read twice and discussed for the last several weeks. This application is for a Natureworks Grant from the ODNR for adding to Elle's Enchanted Forest. The application needs a resolution from City Council authorizing the Mayor to submit this application.

ORDINANCE NO. 29-24: Mr. Furry said this is an authorization to enter into a contract with Fabrizi for the Kensington Road Improvement Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,609,441.00. Two bids were received on May 17th. The bid from Fabrizi was the low bidder by \$70,000 under Tri Mor Corporation but was over the engineer's estimate by \$98,000 but is still within the allowable 20%. The city has a good track record with Fabrizi. This still has two more reads.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

President Furry said the next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council