

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 19, 2025

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, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor said that this week is National Public Works Week. A message was sent out via ReadyNotify from the Mayor and the Safety Service Director to thank the individuals that are behind the scenes every day. They come out when it is raining, when trees are down, when the snow is falling and keep the streets clean and keep the sewers functioning. This is a week to thank these workers and acknowledge their contributions to strengthening the city and sustaining the city in the way this city is known for. The Mayor wanted to be sure everyone saw that and if you see any of the Public Works Employees, give them a thumbs up. The Mayor knows they will appreciate it.

The Mayor said that Cleveland Water is going to be sending out letters to residents trying to determine what material is used inside their home for waterlines. They are checking waterlines to the houses and if they are lead they are being replaced with copper. The city very much appreciates this. Cleveland Water received a large distribution from the Federal Government to remove all lead water service lines. Cleveland Water has been doing it as the city has been getting grants from them to replace the waterlines in the street and they are using additional funds to replace the lines. They do not know every home and what the waterline is made up of. Is it lead or is it copper. If you are on the listed streets, they need to check. A letter will be mailed to show how to check the pipes if it is a lead or copper line. You use a magnet and a penny and take a photograph. If you have a copper line, they will note it and nothing else will be needed. If it is a lead line, they will put you on a list to come out and replace that line with their contractors. This is a very positive service that Cleveland Water will be doing. The list of streets are as follows; Morewood Parkway, Morley, Northcliff, Northview, Parkside, Parkview, Parsons, Plymouth, Prospect and Purnell.

The Shredding Event had 200 cars with 60 of the cars caught in a long line at the end because the shredding truck went down. Fortunately, they were able to replace it quickly. This is a deeply valued service and the Mayor appreciates the patience of the residents who had to wait on Saturday morning. Thank you to Mark Filipic and the Safety Service Director's Office, the Community Emergency Response Team who helped direct traffic and get material out of resident's cars and the Service Department that set up all queue lines.

The Marine Patrol is in the water. They are doing training this week and this weekend they will be out doing their regular patrols on the river and out into the lake.

The Mayor is pleased to announce that the Police Department is going to receive a 2025 State Violent Crime Reduction Grant in the amount of \$242,000. There is not a local match but the city must have the detectives go through training for the first year of having this equipment. The equipment is for geolocation analysis. This is the triangulation of cell phone towers and assisting in violent crimes. It will identify what cars were in the area and what devices were in the area. It provides a real time

analysis with up-to-date images of the cellular network and cell sites around a crime scene. It will reduce or eliminate the time-consuming process of obtaining tower dumps which the department must request and sometimes must pay for, which is extremely costly. It will also ensure and validate other data that the department has and allow for the proper prosecution of the violent crime offenders. It is called an Autonomous Mobile Network Scanner. The Mayor mentioned a few weeks ago the crimes that were solved by the city's Detective Bureau. Thanks to the technology that they can access when it comes to cell phones, they were able to solve seven car jackings in the Cleveland area. The Mayor is very proud of that work and Detective Mike Asbury is the one who wrote this successful grant. This piece of equipment does not exist all over the state. The Mayor is sure that the Sheriff's Office and the State Highway Patrol may be asking the city to use it for their violent crimes to help analyze. The Mayor cannot thank Detective Asbury enough for taking the step for this grant. It will be put to good use.

The Mayor announced that speed cushions and speed monitors will be deployed later this week on East Shoreland, Northview and Beachcliff. These will be installed as a pilot project. The monitors will help the police to evaluate the speed of traffic and the number of cars. They will be removed in the winter and if the project has been successful, they will be reinstalled in the spring, after the snow ends.

This weekend is Memorial Day. The Mayor cannot think of a weekend that is more important in our city as we gather in remembrance. On Friday there will be a wonderful concert at the Senior Center with patriotic themed music that everyone is invited to attend. Saturday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Lakewood Park Cemetery they will be placing more than 4,000 flags on the graves of veterans. There will be donuts and coffee thanks to Giant Eagle and Starbucks along with several veterans. The Mayor encourages everyone to join in with their families. On Sunday there will be a Concert in the Park. The Jazz Band from Rocky River High School will kick off the Summer Concert Series. They always do a great job and draw a big crowd. On Monday morning there is the Memorial Day Ceremony and to our Veterans, there is no more important event for this weekend. Please honor them and honor the fallen by joining us and attending this service. The Ceremony will be at 10:00 a.m. at Lakewood Cemetery in front of the Mausoleum with several groups participating. We hope to see everyone as we gather to remember and honor our fallen.

- Mrs. Morris asked if the city hired a part time police officer for the Marine Patrol. The Mayor said yes and he is sworn in. The city could potentially use another part-time office, but it is first offered to the current officers. In the agreement, there is opportunity to add additional. They do have to go through schooling and the new hire has been attending Marine Patrol Schooling.
- Mrs. Gallagher said that she received the Cleveland Water letter and the test literally takes five minutes to complete.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 22-25: Mr. Shipp said this is the Civic Center Elevator Modernization Project through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract with the cost not to exceed \$148,764.68. Director Balla of Public Facilities sent a memo that this elevator was decommissioned in 2012 because it failed a state inspection. It was determined that it was not needed at the time because there was another working elevator. It was decided to be put back into operation to have as a backup in case the other elevator goes down, but it must be brought up to the current code. Mr. Balla is utilizing the Sourcewell State

Purchasing Program which saves the city time and money. This is the secondary elevator in the gymnasium. This will be paid for from the Capital Improvement Fund Building Maintenance and Parts Account. This will have a third read and Mr. Shipp will begin a Consent Agenda.

Ordinance No. 24-25: President Furry said that this has been read twice. It is amending amended Ordinance 20-25 for positions and fixing or establishing the annual salaries and hourly rates commencing January 1st, 2025, basically the wage ordinance. This is to increase each step of the Lead Supervisors in the Service Garage by \$1.03 an hour and the purpose of this increase is to align compensation with the increase of the Service Contract retroactive back to January 1st along with some Recreation Employees that are under the CBA. The second change is for the Finance Manager annual salary which was increased to \$81,500 to align its responsibilities with the city budget, payroll, auditing, compliance training and supervisory duties. There have not been a lot of questions on this and this will be added to the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 25-25: Mrs. Gallagher said this is an emergency ordinance requesting authorization to purchase one 25 Yard Spartan Self Contained Leaf machine for the Service Department under the Sourcewell Cooperative at a cost not to exceed \$168,632.00. This was read for the first time last week. The City of Rocky River purchased two (2) of these units in late 2022 and they have been great. The total cost of \$168,632.00 includes a base price of \$166,275.00, and an additional \$2,357.00 to upgrade the unit with a hood to reduce dust and an upgraded directional light for safety. This will replace our final packer/tow behind unit that is over 20 years old. The other major issue with the use of the packers for leaf collection is they are not designed for it. There are many maintenance problems that arise from cleaning leaves out of the hydraulics and sweep blade. These new leaf machines are towed behind a large dump truck and are ready at a moment's notice. There is a chance this machine may be delivered this fall, but the lead times are currently uncertain.

- Mrs. Morris thanked Mrs. Gallagher for sending the pictures of this equipment.

Resolution No. 26-25: Mrs. Morris said that this is a resolution to adopt a Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District. The development of the solid waste plan is a requirement of Ohio Law. Every solid waste management district in Ohio must periodically update their solid waste management plan and submit it to each political subdivision to be ratified. Ratification occurs when the city votes to approve the plan. This plan update complies with an Ohio EPA format and contains six chapters, 23 appendices, describes the waste management plans methods to be used in the upcoming planning period and details how the ten waste reduction and recycling goals established in the state's waste management plan will be achieved. It also describes how the plan will be implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Mrs. Morris looked through the presentation slides from the ratification meeting that Rich attended and the information was super interesting. For instance, only 6% of the garbage is composted, 32% is recycled and the rest goes to landfill. The landfill the city uses most is in Lorain County and only has a capacity of 17 more years. Counting all the landfills that Cuyahoga County uses, there are only 54 years left at this rate. It is very interesting and it is being addressed. This plan maintains all existing education outreach and collection programs, enhances existing programs, grants, liter collection, environmental crimes, task force and education and outreach. Potential new initiatives include programs for hard to manage recycled materials, text tile recycling analysis and yard and food waste composting consortiums and infrastructure development. Fees stay the same. Mrs. Morris said that the fees for the city to put waste in the landfill are \$2.00 a ton in Cuyahoga County, but in the state the average is \$4.75 a ton. The deadline for this resolution is in August.

Ordinance No. 27-25: Mrs. Gallagher said this is an ordinance authorizing the city to purchase a Rayco Stump Grinder for the Service Department, Park Division, at a cost not to exceed \$81,434.12 as part of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract from Morbark, LLC. The Parks Division has contracted

stump grinding services, but the costs of service continue to rise. Over the past five years, the city averages \$15,000 per year in stump grinding services and the Parks Lead supervisor has had to closely watch contractors to confirm proper removal of the stumps, to our standards. The new stump grinder will allow the Parks Division to properly remove stumps in a timely manner, so that tree lawns may be remediated sooner. They also intend to use the stump grinder to excavate for tree planting. The Parks Division reviewed multiple models and manufacturers and the Rayco unit is the best piece of equipment for their use and will be an effective tool for the community for many years. AG Pro-North Canton is the local dealer and will be the local distributor for sales and service.

- Mrs. Morris asked when the city will receive this equipment. Mr. Snyder said it should be this fall.

Ordinance No. 28-25: This is for an annual stepped-up rate increase for sewer billing of \$2.50 a year base MCF for four years. President Furry thinks these rates are competitive especially comparing to our neighbor to the east. This is due to EPA mandates and capital-intensive upgrades at the plant, costs continue to increase. The last increase was in December 2007, March 2003 and the one prior to that was December 1997. The Regional WWTP has been good stewards of its resources. This will have three full reads.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

President Furry said that the next meeting will be a Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council