

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

October 20, 2025

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

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher (7:02), Mr. O'Boyle, Mr. Shipp,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that the drive-up mailbox has been reinstalled at the Rocky River Post Office.

The Shredding Event over the weekend was very successful. About 175 residents along with 3,000 lbs. of materials that was shredded, thus indicating that that is still a valued service in the city.

The Mayor announced that the Quilt Show at the Civic Center had many attendees over two days. The quilts and handwork were all beautiful.

The Mayor announced that there will be a Public Input Meeting next Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is specifically for the CDSG Program, which is a supplemental grant. These grants have been used at East Shoreland and Wooster Road for pedestrian safety amenities. This is applying for funds for a midblock crossing that is raised on Rockcliff. The Public Input Meeting is a requirement for the CDSG Program.

The Lead Line Replacement Project is complete on Center Ridge Road. The contractors have moved to West 210/Wagar Road. There was concern that the roadway would need to be closed but they have found a way to maintain traffic on Wagar.

The Mayor discussed the meeting that was held last week with NEOCH, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. The Mayor distributed a Street Card listing all the resources available for individuals and families experiencing being unsheltered, unhoused or homeless. The meeting lasted almost two hours. Thank you to the Council members who were in attendance along with Judge Hagan, two members of the Probation Department, four representatives from NEOCH and Director Snyder. It was a great conversation with the first hour listening to each other and the second hour discussing tools available to help. NEOCH will be working with a couple of individuals that the Police Department has identified. There are model programs around the United States that could help the city and the Executive Director will present the city a proposal of how the city might be able to work directly with NEOCH and other individuals such as Social Workers, to build relationships with individuals who are unhoused, providing them with the Street Card but more importantly specific resources that they need. The Mayor would then share the proposal with other WestShore Communities. The Mayor respectfully requested that Council keep the legislation on hold until more information is obtained.

The bid opening for Center Ridge will be this Monday. Director Snyder has indicated that there are several contractors interested in that project which means good competitive bids.

The Mayor announced that the price per ton increased for the Road Salt Contract to \$14.01 that Council approved in the spring with ODOT. That is a significant increase. Cargill won the bid and that moves the price to \$63.99 a ton. The city ordered close to 3,000 tons and needs to purchase 90% of that up to 110%. The city has 1,000 tons currently and is in good shape to start the season. This does mean the city will be ordering a fair amount of salt through the winter season. Director Snyder said that in southeast Ohio the price per ton is \$93.00 a ton.

The Mayor is beginning budget meetings this week by meeting with all the Directors who have all submitted their budgets in a timely manner. Thank you to Jonathon Lindow and Director Thomas for providing the first pass of the budget detail. Director Snyder has been very busy putting together a very aggressive capital budget. There will be some hard decisions in prioritizing, but we will get there.

The Mayor discussed the Heritage Home Loan Program. There are changes due to federal funding beginning January 1, 2026. The 2% loan will no longer be available. There will be a low interest loan but probably not as low as 2% which was subsidized federally. Any residents who are interested in applying for the Heritage Home Loan Program need to do it before December 31, 2025 to secure the 2% rate that will be honored if the residents qualify.

The Mayor stated that Council will receive legislation from the Recreation Commission regarding fees in Friday's packet.

The Wooster/Shoreland Park is in front of Council this evening with the project beginning this fall and the landscaping being completed in the spring.

The Mayor met with Global Cleveland, which works with refugees on resettling them in this area, finding them jobs and training. Joe Cimperman, who started Global Cleveland has done a lot of positive things in the region. One of their staff members lives in Rocky River and met with the Mayor about some of the work that they do and some of the needs the city may have that mesh and interface with the people that they work with. He mentioned that the City of Rocky River has a sister city that was established in 1964/1965, Patzcuaro, Mexico and it is on the shores of Lake Michoacan. There was a "People to People" Program in '64 and '65 and the City of Rocky River was matched with this community. The City of Rocky River sent some things sharing what Rocky River was all about and they sent back a tapestry or a woven piece of material that went to the Rocky River Public Library.

- Councilman O'Boyle asked if there is a historical connection with President Grover Cleveland and the group you were talking about. The Mayor said that People to People established this program, picked the city for Rocky River to create awareness and learn about other cultures.
- Councilman Shipp said he thinks it was a month ago he wrote a letter to Judge Hagan inquiring what the courts resources were for the unhoused. He is curious if Judge Hagan shared anything during the meeting. The Mayor said he did and of course there are a lot of resources here in the Probation Department and the Community Outreach Program through the court. Judge Hagan mentioned what a Diversion Program would look like. There are Diversion Programs for Drugs and Alcohol and Youth that have been extremely successful in the court. If someone has committed a crime their ability to rent an apartment could be compromised in some way. The Mayor feels that there needs to be advocacy around changing state laws as it relates to landlords. These are minor misdemeanors trying to decriminalize it in some way or lessen the offense but they say it still exists. The Mayor reached out to the County Executive who wants to be a partner and he is doing some research about their support. There are three issues the Mayor sees that go way beyond the community: the landlord issue; the funding issue and the hospitals. There was a lot of impassioned discussion about these issues.

- Councilman Hunt saw an article that Metro's Emergency Room Psychiatric Department is being defunded and will close.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 49-25: Mr. Hunt said this ordinance is set for a third read and would prohibit the parking of vehicles within three feet of a driveway apron. There has not been much discussion or questions about this and there are still plenty of complaints regarding this issue. This will be on the consent agenda next week.

Ordinance Nos. 50-25 and 51-25: Mr. Hunt stated that this and Ordinance No. 51-25 are essentially companion pieces regarding prohibition of camping on public property and sleeping in the parks. There is still more to discuss regarding these two ordinances.

Ordinance No. 52-25: Mr. Hunt thanked Councilman Shipp for his memo regarding the low speed and under speed vehicle definitions. Some of the language has been worked on and Mr. Hunt wonders if Council has anything to add.

- Councilman Shipp had a call with a resident this evening and some good points have been raised. There are 21,000 residents and maybe ten people have golf carts in Rocky River and he was not aware that it was an issue. He would like the city to be safe for all kinds of modes of transportation. If the city is going to move ebikes and escooters that can go up to 20 mph off the sidewalks for safety then we will need infrastructure on the streets like bike lanes, et cetera. Mr. Shipp agrees with President Furry that golf carts are a safety liability, especially for the people choosing to drive them, but the point made to him was so are motorcycles. He has heard quite a bit in favor of trying to keep the golf carts where he has not really heard from anyone asking to get rid of them. He does not want to burden the Police Department with more administrative work with inspection of these golf carts. Maybe we leave some space for regulating it more.
- President Furry is wrestling with this also. How much do we regulate it, but he fears that it is a safety issue and once the first accident happens, people will be screaming why didn't we do something on that.
- Councilman Sindelar said that he feels similar to what Councilman Shipp is saying but he goes further that he feels like singling out something without a greater plan with ebikes, scooters and other things is picking on that as opposed to having a plan for safety.
- Councilman Hunt does not disagree. The city is going to be looking at ebikes and other things for ever potentially. The one interesting thing in the Ohio Revised Code is that they use the word golf cart and this is somewhat of a misconception because some of the folks have stated that they can go faster than a golf cart potentially going up to 25 mph. The way the code reads and how they talk about a municipality being able to allow the under-speed vehicles, he doesn't think these things run or are outfitted like a golf cart. How do we differentiate from these types of vehicles. The Mayor said it would be the equipment, the operator, which roads they will be allowed on, et cetera. The Mayor stated that the state does not allow under speed vehicles. Councilman Hunt is struggling with this too.

- Mr. Snyder said that the two points that ring home to him in his conversations with Chief Lichman is this is a safety issue primarily on the 35 mph streets. If one of these were to be in an accident with a vehicle going 30 or 35 mph it would be a significant impact. The other issue is that it is sometimes difficult for the officers to determine if it is a golf cart or one with the turn signals. Identifying is harder without stopping and going through the process to be sure the equipment has everything it should have. That is why they were looking at eliminating them. The big thing is safety so if it came to restricting the carts away from 35 mph streets, that would be a significant improvement from what they are seeing.
- Law Director O'Shea said that cars today are made so the slightest impact creates the biggest dent. There is an insinuation that they are made cheaper, but that is not the case at all. Cars are designed to collapse to assist the occupants of the car on the inside. The car takes the impact instead of the human beings in the car. It saves a lot of lives. He looks at these golf carts and if the impact is at 20-35 mph in a car or truck, the people inside the golf cart are going to be much more severely injured than the people in the car. It is just basic mechanics. Golf carts are not safe for any place other than a golf course or Put-in-Bay. Mr. O'Shea asks Council to consider the reality of what would happen if there were a car/golf cart impact and the injury that would incur because of that. The city would not have any liability for passing or not passing an ordinance to address this reality, but he thinks it is a safety issue and he is concerned about it. The regulation is worth the safety in the Law Department's opinion.
- Mr. Furry has a memo from Police Chief Lichman who received correspondence from the Police Chief at Kelly's Island and the Police Chief at Put-in-Bay. The Mayor said the Chief contacted the Ohio Association of Chiefs to ask them how they viewed this and how they are handling it.
- Mr. Shipp agrees with Council President that he worries that there hasn't been an accident yet, but when we do how bad will it be and how will we all feel the first time someone falls off and dies from a head injury. Everybody must take responsibility for their choices also in society, but some of this is a privileged vehicle with separate insurance policies. He might be more willing to regulate them as a first step before an outright ban. The world is changing regarding personnel transportation and it is going to continue to change. The city is a little behind the curve on the infrastructure for it, but we are working on it and making progress, slowing people down and putting in safer places for people to ride and walk.

Ordinance No. 54-25: Mr. Hunt said this is the ordinance prohibiting certain solicitation practices which has been discussed. This is set for a second read. There was discussion on changing some of the language. Does anyone have any comments now. He is not prepared for a second read next week at this point.

- Mr. Shipp has less concerns about this now. He has paid more attention to the CAD and the dispatch entries about it and seeing the uptick of complaints and calls about solicitations that aren't necessarily happening door to door but more in business areas. He is open to reconsideration and changes to it but he thinks for the most part it is allowable and this is more of an issue than some of the other things Council is trying to deal with.

Mr. Hunt will forward some changes to this exhibit.

Ordinance No. 61-25: Mr. Furry said this has been read twice and is the annual true up of the quarterly sewer bills. This could be paid quarterly but it is more fiscally prudent to do annually. Some residents have complained about the true up. This technically does not need Council approval based on the dollar

amount, but there might be waterline reimbursements later this year which would more than likely need to be authorized by Council. This will be added to the consent agenda.

Resolution No. 62-25: Mr. Furry said this has been read twice and is for the Indigent Drivers' Alcohol Treatment Surplus Fund. There are several regulatory approvals needed to establish a new city fund and approval action by City Council is one of them. The Indigent Drivers' Alcohol Treatment Surplus Fund is stipulated in State Code under the Ohio Revised Code of 4511.191 subsection (H). The city also received an administrative order from the Municipal Court Judges. Both the Cuyahoga Budget Commission and the Ohio Auditor of State require action by City Council. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 63-25: Mr. Furry said this is more of an administrative action to allow certain city officials permission to complete and file the declarations of official intent to make an expenditure that the city will reimburse with the proceeds of tax-exempt securities. This is basically for the Fire Station that will be coming up. It should be noted that this does not authorize the issuance of any notes or bonds. That must be done separately in another ordinance by this body. This is laying groundwork allowing Council to do so. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 64-25: Mr. Sindelar said this has been discussed for a couple of weeks with the Mayor discussing it in her reports regarding the Public Health Services Agreement for 2026 and 2027. Mr. Sindelar has listed the low cost per resident based upon the 21,775 residents. There is a litany of services for the city and individual residents. It is well worth it and will be on the consent agenda.

Resolution No. 65-25: This has been discussed for several weeks. This is a continued project from the western gateway and now it will be the east end of Center Ridge Road. It is a NOACA for the Transportation of Liveable Communities Initiative including things like ADA compliant crosswalks, signalization and various other items to make this a less sterile environment. This will be on the consent agenda.

Ordinance No. 66-25: This is for the renewal of the one-year agreement with PVS Technologies for the purchase of Ferric Chloride for the WWTP at no change in price.

Ordinance No. 67-25: Mrs. Morris said this is to renew an agreement for the removal of grit and screening for the landfill for the WWTP. There has been no change in price from last year.

Ordinance No. 68-25: Mrs. Morris said this is the renewal of one year for the agreement with James Diaz Farm for the removal of digested sludge cake for the summer. There has been no change in price since last year.

Ordinance No. 69-25: Mrs. Morris said this is the renewal for one year for the agreement with Ruple Trucking for the removal of digested sludge cake for the winter season. There has been no change in price from last year.

Ordinance No. 70-25: Mrs. Morris said this is to renew for one year the agreement with PVS Chemicals Solution for the purchase and supply of sodium bisulfite for the WWTP. The chemical Ferric Chloride is used to remove phosphorus and sodium bisulfite is used to disinfect. These are yearly ordinances.

- Mayor Bobst announced that Superintendent Barille and his wife had a baby girl more than a month early but everyone is doing well.

Ordinance No. 71-25: Mr. Shipp said this authorizes the Mayor and Director of Safety Service to purchase a dehumidification unit replacement for the Don Umerley Civic Center indoor pool from CRS Metal Works

Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$1,229,000.00. This is a big-ticket item and obviously is the giant dehumidification unit that sits on the roof that is necessary for indoor pools. This has been due to be replaced. This has been discussed at the Parks and Rec Commission for a while. The exhibit shows the proposals and CRS Metal Works is the lowest and best bid. The new unit weighs slightly more than the old one so it necessitates reinforcement of the roof and ceiling for it to sit up there. This is a big project and will shut down the indoor pool for a significant period. The Mayor will get a timeline for Council for the actual time. The contract gives them 290 days. Mr. Snyder said a portion of the 290 days is for the order of the unit. Until the contract is awarded, the city cannot place the order for the unit. There is delivery time built in. The administration hopes to have the unit in place for the shutdown in May that is typically done on an annual basis. The Mayor added that the city has agreements with the other rec centers including Fairview Park.

Resolution No. 72-25: Mr. O'Boyle said that this resolution is supporting the placement of a proposed shore structure and approval of a Lake Erie submerged land lease from ODNR adjacent to Permanent Parcel No. 301-05-005. This was read for the first time last week. It is identical to resolutions passed last year and one earlier this year. We are attesting to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources that we as a city do not have a need for this parcel either for placing marinas, piers, harbors or anything of that nature. Aside from the parcel number in question, it is the same as the other ones passed before. This will be discussed more next week.

Ordinance No. 73-25: Mr. Hunt said that this is the proposed contract with Infinity Construction for the oversite of the new Rocky River Fire Station. Council received an amended cover sheet and exhibit for Ordinance No. 73-25 with the amount not to exceed increasing \$52,266.00 more in the amended version. Director Snyder provided some insight and indicated that upon review of the sheets provided by Infinity and review with the Owners Rep they identified a couple of items. First and foremost was the carpentry line item that Infinity Construction had listed itself and awarded itself the subcontract for the carpentry. This is legal to do, but they had to do it with a sealed bid, which they did not. It was awarded then to the next bid with an additional \$29,566.00 to Patriot Construction. There is also an addition to the amount that would be needed for the precast planking and masonry work line item. Finally, an increase in the direct building costs, the hard costs, in Infinity's fee of \$2,000 based upon a 3.6% of the direct costs. Mr. Hunt appreciates that Director Snyder went through this with a fine-tooth comb and he indicated that he will provide some comprehensive bid sheets for each of those line items. This will have a second read next week.

Ordinance No. 74-25: This is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety Service to enter a contract with Sona Construction, LLC for the expansion of the Rocky River Fitness Center at a cost not to exceed \$244,000.00 as described in Exhibit A. Mr. Shipp forwarded pictures this afternoon of the area this is addressing. The desk and office at the top of the stairs will be moved out to open the floor next to the free weights. The Cleveland Clinic had leased space further to the right of the steps, the Autism Center. The lease was terminated and the lease required them to put the space back to what it was originally, but a payment by them was negotiated to go towards the construction of what the Recreation Director wants to do now which is to open the space back up to expand the fitness area and order more equipment. They will continue to use some part of it for meeting space and another office. It will be a nice expansion of the facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 75-25: Mr. Sindelar said this is a great project and a long time in coming. This area was a mechanic shop and the city tried four times to obtain Community Block Grants. This authorizes the administration to enter a contract with RMH Concrete. The city has used them before in other successful projects like Safety Town, Rocky River Park and the Streets Program. They came in slightly above the

engineer's estimate but within the 20%. The cost is \$513,913.50. It is a jewel upon the crown of heading towards the Master Plan and the Wooster Trail. This will be one of the locations that will be a stop-off or rest area. It will be a passive recreational park and will have a covered bench, a bench swing, Adirondack chairs, picnic tables, a water feature, shade sails, a water fountain with a bottle feature, a bike maintenance station and a dog water station. This will have a full three reads.

- Mr. Furry asked if RMH is handling everything from cradle to grave. Mr. Snyder said they may have a subcontractor or landscaper, but the contract is inclusive. Mr. Snyder forwarded the rendering for the park.
- The Mayor said that there was one grant. The city purchased the land but it remained a car repair shop. When the repair shop left, there was a lot of soil that needed to be remediated and the city partnered and received a sizable grant from the Cuyahoga County Land Bank to clear all that land. They had the hydraulics under the bays and a lot of work was done.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

As there was not further business, President Furry adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting will be a Legislative Meeting on October 27th.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council