

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 3, 2025

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION BY MATT HILS – OHM, TREVOR HUNT - CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND MIKE DEVER – CUYAHOGA COUNTY

President Furry introduced Mr. Matt Hils from OHM, Mr. Trevor Hunt from Cuyahoga County and Mike Dever, the Director of Public Works for the County who are here to present the Clifton Lake Road Project. Mr. Hils, Principal and Landscape Architect with OHM Advisors, began the presentation. Three different projects were discussed that are being studied or have been studied along the length of Lake Road across the city of Rocky River.

1. The first project discussed is to implement a bike path along Lake Road and Clifton Blvd. between the City of Rocky River and the City of Lakewood. Mr. Hunt, Senior Project Manager with the Department of Public Works, presented the information regarding this project. This project spans approximately 1.25 miles from Linda Street in Rocky River to Webb Road in Lakewood. This project would shrink the four lanes to two lanes with an 11-foot-wide multi-purpose trail on the north side. The City of Rocky River is about a third of the total length of the project. Starting at Linda Street there will be improved crosswalks and the multi-purpose trail would be on the north side. This project would go out for bid in August 2025, selling the project by the end of 2025 and approximately a year from now, March 2026 would have shovels in the ground. Estimated cost for this project is \$11.4 million. The County is receiving multiple sources of funding. The City of Lakewood would contribute \$1.4 million, NOACA has given several grants including \$500,000 through a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative and a Carbon Reduction Fund of \$5.75 million. The County is requesting \$540,000 from the City of Rocky River and the remainder, which is over \$3 million, will be handled by the County. This does not include what the County will tackle for design as well as construction administration which combined is over \$2 million. In all, the cost roughly will be \$13.6 million for design, construction and construction administration.
2. Mr. Hils discussed the second project which is a bike facility, feasibility study for Lake Road picking up at Linda Street where the first project finishes to get a dedicated bike trail along Lake Road all the way to Rocky River's western border. This would allow all people to bike along Lake Road safely rather than biking on the road. Estimated costs would be approximately \$4.5 million not including lighting.
3. Mr. Hils discussed the third project, which is additional parking at Bradstreet's Landing. This would add about 29 parking spaces for regular vehicles and 4-5 paddle craft trailer parking spaces on the east end. Estimated cost would be approximately \$860,000.

Mayor Bobst added that parking will be done in conjunction with sewer waterline roadway projects that the city is already planning and hopefully will be able to defray some of those costs. The same would hold true for the rest of the projects discussed. If the city moves in the direction of the multi-use trail, it will happen over time as the city is doing sections of the roadway making improvements to sewer drainage, et cetera.

Mr. Snyder added that the administration is always looking to leverage projects. There are sewer projects being planned with full rehabilitation on Lake Road so building on the findings of the Community Confluence and the desire for residents to have connectivity between the Cities of Bay Village, Rocky River, Lakewood and the MetroParks, it seemed like a good opportunity to start looking at some of these projects to know what it would entail and whether or not it could be done in sections.

Mr. Snyder stated that these are very separate projects. The Bradstreet's Landing parking lot and the Lake Road multi-module trail is 100% separate from the Lake/Clifton project. This is a broad view of how to connect Bay Village to the City of Lakewood.

- Mr. Sindelar asked about the Marian Ramp. The Mayor said that the city did hear from the State of Ohio regarding the Marian Ramp. The ramp was built prior to I-90 being built and is close to being past its useful life. ODOT is looking at the year 2033 for the potential removal of the Marian Ramp. The land would be an asset to the City of Rocky River.

Mr. Furry requested the power point presentation for all of City Council along with the surveys for the 324 responses.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if there would be any coordination with the Hilliard Road Bridge. Mr. Snyder said they are still determining funding for that project. The Mayor said the full-depth improvements need to be complete on I-90 prior to the Hilliard Road Bridge Project. Mr. Dever from the County Public Works Department responded that the County will be administering the replacement of the Hilliard Road bridge but are still lacking a substantial portion of the funding. After the I-90 project is finished, they will follow suit with the Hilliard Road bridge which will be a complete takedown and rebuilt. They are still working through the funding. The County roughly has \$30 million available and that amount needs to double. The I-90 project will begin this year in 2025.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that the County awarded the city \$47,000. The Mayor gave a shout out to County Executive, Chris Ronayne for his help. Thank you to Director Snyder for obtaining this grant. This will be used for Hilliard, Spencer and Wagar Road crack sealing, rebuilding, gutterwork, catch basins and manholes. The Mayor also heard last Friday that the city's project in the DOPWIC rankings will be moved up to the funding range. The total amount for that project is in the millions.

The Mayor thanked Councilwoman Gallagher for her suggestion last week regarding a ReadyNotify go out to residents regarding the solicitors and the semi scam that was happening in the community. The notice went out and within less than an hour, 48 residents had contacted City Hall requesting a "No Solicitation" sticker. The Mayor said to please register for ReadyNotify, if you don't already have it by signing up on the city's webpage.

The Mayor shared the Building Department Statistics at the end of 2024:

- In 2024 almost 1,700 residential permits were pulled with a total added valuation of \$45.5 million. The city is made up of 85-86% residential. This was the highest year ever.
- In terms of commercial investment in 2024, 127 permits were pulled totaling \$15.7 million for a total of \$63.2 million of added valuation, which is one of the highest years.
- The largest investment in the city was in 2023 in the amount of \$104 million dollars due to the two buildings on Lake Road and the work being done on Center Ridge Road.

The Mayor stated that the Street Department is taking advantage of the mild weather by fixing potholes and waterholes that have occurred. Let the city know if you see one that needs attention.

The Mayor had two dignitaries visit her office today. The Honorary Consul General to Ireland, Mark Owens along with Suzana Cesarek, the Honorary Consul General from the Republic of Slovenia and a new resident of Rocky River. Both would be great speakers if any Civic Organizations would like them to speak.

The Mayor thanked Chief Lenart and the Fire Department along with the Police Department for the continual updates on Saturday evening and Sunday morning regarding the Rocky River. The mouth of the river opened and things were cleared out without flooding. The river will continue to be watched. The ice is unstable so please do not walk on the ice. The city has all the contacts for residents who live in the Yacht Club Basin who will be notified if things begin to change.

- Mr. O'Boyle added to fact that the ReadyNotify did a great job notifying residents in Ward 2 about the watermain break on Hilliard Blvd. The Mayor thanked Director Snyder, the police and the auxiliaries for closing the road and Cleveland Water for their quick response.
- Mr. Snyder announced that the funding for BeachCliff and Cornwall was awarded in the amount of \$2,223,300 which will be used for sewer, watermain and pavement replacement project. The city will also have waterline grant money from Cleveland Water for this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 1-25: Mr. Sindelar said this authorizes the city to enter into an agreement with the City of Fairview Park to repair a culvert, which is in an area behind residential homes that handle rainwater. This culvert is in desperate need of repair as it is caved in, blocked and the water cannot free flow anymore. The total project is \$300,000 and the City of Rocky River will pay \$217,000 which is 72% of the cost and is based upon the city's percentage of that culvert. Fairview Park will pick up the remaining 28% totaling \$83,000. It is a project that needs to be done.

Ordinance No. 2-25: Mr. Shipp said that this ordinance authorizes the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety Service to enter a two-year contract for vending machine services with the Metropolitan Vending Company for the Rocky River Recreation Center and Hamilton Ice Arena. The contract is not a source of revenue but more of an amenity for patrons. The income brought in is between \$3,500 to \$4,000 over the past three to four years. The contract states that 28% of gross sales on food goes to the Recreation

Center and 30% on coffee and ice cream. Mr. Holub stated that they have been a good partner with the city and are very responsive to issues and have been used since 2015. They serve several other local recreation centers.

Resolution No. 3-25: This is to renew an agreement with NOPEC, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, for providing the city with grant funding or reimbursements for energy efficiency and energy infrastructure updates. Previous examples of this include in 2022 the Civic Center generator for \$193,000 and electric service upgrades that allowed for the EV Charging Stations for \$25,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 4-25: This is an agreement with Fairview Park regarding the Center Ridge Road Gateway Improvement Project. This involves calming traffic with center boulevards and crossing paths. This will be discussed further and read for the first time next Monday. Mr. Snyder said that this is an agreement with the City of Rocky River and Fairview Park that Fairview Park will pay for their portion and Rocky River will pay their portion. The center line of Center Ridge Road south is considered the City of Fairview Park for part of the project. ODOT has given money to Fairview Park to complete part of this project. Anything that takes place in Fairview Park will be billed to Fairview Park. Fairview has the same exact agreement before their Council. Mr. Sindelar added that the grant funding is 55% of the project.

Resolution No. 5-25: This is an agreement with Fairview Park for the resurfacing of Higley Road. This will also be read for the first time next week. This is part of the 2025 Paving Program. The city assigns grades to all the streets in the city checking curbs and pavement. The Mayor added that they are graded and if they require any infrastructure below the street level including waterlines, sewers, utilities, it is done at the same time. The entire length is 2,600 feet with 180 feet being in Fairview Park. The cost will be split accordingly based upon that and include full- depth concrete repairs, curb and apron repairs, ADA compliant crosswalks, curb ramps and asphalt milling. Below are the cost estimates:

The City of Rocky River Engineering and Design - \$32,000
City of Fairview Park Engineering and Design - \$4,000

City of Rocky River Construction - \$400,000
City of Fairview Park Construction - \$50,000

City of Rocky River Construction Administration - \$8,000
City of Fairview Park Construction Administration - \$1,000

This will be read for the first time next week and will have three full reads. Mr. Snyder said that all these numbers are estimates as it has not been put out for bid yet. Each community will pay for their actual amount.

Ordinance No. 6-25: This is an MOU with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for Stormwater Pollution Education for a 12-month term at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. The CSWCD provided important Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) programs that are required by the current municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit for the City of Rocky River. Criteria for the PIPE Program is to identify stormwater pollution concerns, have measurable goals, reach a variety of audiences, actively involve potentially affected stakeholder groups and evaluate the program's success. All of this must be reported to the Ohio EPA annually as part of the MS4 Annual Report.

Ordinance No. 7-25: This requests authorization to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District regarding storm water pollution prevention technical assistance for a 12-month term at a cost not to exceed \$13,080.00. Cuyahoga SWCD assists the city with inspection of all stormwater control measures for all construction projects with a disturbance greater than 1 acre in size. They will also provide guidance for any projects less than one acre in size as requested by the city. These activities are outlined as part of the Minimum Control Measures (MCM) section as MCM 4 and MCM 5 for the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Also please note this MOU includes an option to renew in 2026 at the same rate.

Additionally, the Cuyahoga SWCD will provide additional services such as:

Planning assistance, technical advice, and landowner follow up and Cuyahoga SWCD will provide administrative support, including: an annual report of all activities; Project file management; Mapping of facility locations; and Data and assistance with MS4 reporting, as requested. This is a good program as it helps the city maintain its EPA status but also helps with larger projects when needed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

The next meeting will be a Legislative Meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Furry thanked everyone in attendance this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council