

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

March 16, 2026

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

Council Members Present: Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Moran, Mr. Shipp, Ms. Havemann, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Furry & Ms. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst & Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by swearing in of Patrol Officer Daniel Nuti to Sergeant and Sergeant Michael Pavia to Lieutenant.

Chief Lichman thanked family, friends, and colleagues for joining them this evening to show support for Patrol Officer Nuti and Sergeant Pavia as they take the next step in their careers. He remarked that he believes that the move from Patrol Officer to Sergeant is one of the most difficult transitions as these individuals become a supervisor to the people that they've worked with as peer for many years. Going from Sergeant to Lieutenant is a significant jump as well as he now needs to look out for more individuals and the department. These promotions come with more responsibility and leadership for both individuals. Chief Lichman noted that they have a very young department – perhaps half the department has less than five years. While these individuals are leading, they are also going to be teaching to a great degree, and it is a good challenge. He thanked everyone for coming and thanked both individuals for stepping up.

- Mayor Bobst thanked everyone for coming tonight and proceeded to swear in Patrol Officer Daniel Nuti to Sergeant.
- Sergeant Nuti thanked his family and everyone at the department for their support tonight, including those that came in from the Westlake Police Department.
- Mayor Bobst proceeded to swear in Sergeant Michael Pavia to Lieutenant.
- Lieutenant Pavia thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He noted that they do have a very young department, but it's a very solid group of people and the future is bright for the department.
- Mayor Bobst thanked everyone for their attendance this evening and thanked Council for all their work to ensure the Police Department has the resources needed to do their jobs.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Bobst shared that Rocky River is an Official Ohio 250 Community. Today they received their 250 Community flag which she shared with Council. She thanked Director Kerber for making sure Rocky River was one of the first communities to sign up for this honor. Director Kerber along with the Historical Society are planning several events that will all be posted on social media.

Mayor Bobst mentioned that she received an update that out of 10,445 accounts in Rocky River only 18 customers, all on Kramer Drive, are still without power. First Energy is aware of the outage, and they are working on restoration. She added that for a significant amount of time from Friday through Monday there

was a significant portion of Dale that was out of power due to a downed tree. Mayor Bobst noted that there were quite a few trees that were down during Friday's storm. At one point a tree came down, knocked down an electric pole, and one of the City's Arborists Tyler Stefancin's truck was entangled with live wires. Fortunately, he is a volunteer firefighter and understood how dangerous the situation was and after about 1.5 hours they were able to untangle him with no injuries. When she considers what the Service, Police, and Fire Departments all need to do to help residents and make sure debris is cleared, everything went very well. On Linda Street there was an arcing wire, which lit some landscaping on fire and spread to a parking lot. Thankfully no one was hurt and nothing was damaged except for some bushes and the parking lot.

Mayor Bobst advised that Rocky River submitted a State Capitol request to Representative Bride Sweeney and Senator Nickie Antonio for approximately 2.5 million. She thanked Director Kerber and Director Snyder for their work on this project. This request is for the Storm Water Management project and Erosion Control project at Rocky River Park. She doesn't know if it will all be funded, but she hopes that a significant portion of that project can be funded.

Mayor Bobst advised that Enbridge is working on the gas line project on Wooster. They have run into several issues including the need for alternative placement. It will involve some sidewalks and potentially aprons, but there will be all new sidewalks and aprons installed following the completion of the project. Residents will be able to get in and out of their driveways and they plan to communicate with those residents accordingly, but it will be a much more involved process than they had first hoped.

Mayor Bobst advised that they will soon see some communication regarding Bradstreet's Landing. Tomorrow, the Spencer Creek Restoration project will start. They are going to be removing about 43 trees – some very small, others more moderately sized trees. They try to never take out trees, but these trees do have to be removed because of the work that needs to happen in the creek. There will be a replanting and reforestation, but with the appropriate trees which will allow for the correct flow of water. They hadn't anticipated doing this tree removal before the rest of the project was mobilized but are responding to a request from Ohio Fish and Wildlife.

Mayor Bobst provided an update regarding the Heritage Home Loan Program advising that there is a meeting scheduled for June 17 at Memorial Hall from 6-7 pm. She noted that this program has had a lot of success for homes that are 50 years or older in the community.

Mayor Bobst announced that Rocky River has again been named Tree City USA and are receiving the Growth Award again. She thinks this may be the 42nd time that Rocky River has been named a Tree City USA and perhaps the 8th time that they've been given the Growth Award. The Growth Award is important as it's very focused on the way that the urban forest is managed which is in big part thanks to Director Snyder, but also the four arborists that are on staff in the Parks Department. These arborists are continually receiving certifications and educations on best practices.

Mayor Bobst advised that last week was the state convention for senior centers and she's happy to report that Sheena Wright, the Assistant Director, passed her state boards and was awarded her Senior Center Administrator Certification. She noted that that this is a coveted certification and not an easy test, but Ms. Wright passed with flying colors. Laurie Schaefer also passed her state board test and was awarded her Senior Center Manager Certification in addition to her previous certifications in Senior Program Management. The Senior Center was awarded their State Reaccreditation at the convention. They are one of seven Senior Centers around the state to hold this accreditation and are ranked in the top 1.5% of senior centers nationally and ranked in the top 2% of senior centers in the state. She advised that earlier today the Senior Center entertained 200 individuals to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and 300 in the auditorium for The New Barleycorn.

- President Shipp noted that the Service Department Facebook page posted a detailed helpful explanation of what is going on with the Spencer Creek Restoration project.
- Councilman Hunt inquired if they will be grinding the stump when the trees are removed.
- Mayor Bobst replied that she isn't certain, but she believes they likely are grinding the stumps. There is a lot of work that needs to be done on the sides to build them up. There is also a lot of brush that needs to be cleaned up which will be done at the same time, but they will be careful to minimize erosion. She added that there is an explanation of the tree removal with a link to the full project scope on the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 52-25: Mr. Hunt advised that this ordinance remains on hold.

Ordinance No. 54-25: Mr. Hunt advised that this ordinance is up for its third reading next week. This Ordinance started in September 2025 and was on hold for some time. The ordinance would modify Chapter 729.01 of the code in particular the definition section regarding peddlers, solicitors, and canvassers and adds new language for aggressive solicitation all of which can be found in Exhibit "A." Exhibit "B" would enact new section 729.021 which delineates the prohibition of locations and the manner of solicitation. Subsection A of Exhibit "B" describes the findings and purposes for enactment and Subsection B then specifically delineates prohibited locations and manners of solicitation that would be prohibited if this section were enacted. There are some references to specific locations, including banks and busy intersections, but the key is that they would be prohibiting solicitation within 20' of a number of entities including banks, credit unions, teller machines, 20' of entrances or exits to public buildings, facilities, parking lots, outdoor dining, pedestrians in line for services or events, bus stops, bus shelters, public transportation facilities, as well as on public streets or ROW that block or impede safe passage of pedestrians. This does not restrict any type of non-aggressive or peaceful solicitation or congregation, which would be permitted, these are specifically drawn up to protect against neutral time and place restrictions on solicitation in just those areas.

- President Shipp raised the issue that prior to this Ordinance being put on hold Council had initiated some clean up of this Ordinance and Ms. Pease had made some changes to it, but it was never formally amended. He believes that it was put on hold prior to it being read as amended. What they are currently looking at is the amended version. He believes that prior to seeking passage Council will need to amend the ordinance.
- Mr. Hunt confirmed that there were changes to Exhibits "A" and "B" so he would amend by substitution both exhibits.
- Ms. Havemann reiterated her concern that they may want to add healthcare facilities, noting that this mostly came from the fact that they are putting in an Urgent Care Center that will be close to the bus station. At the last meeting, it was noted that this may be captured under 'all commercial buildings within 20', but she is still trying to figure out where in Section B that will be covered. It mentions pedestrians waiting in line, but she doesn't think that would cover healthcare facilities as people are not necessarily waiting in line.
- Council discussed if perhaps removing 'waiting in line' would modify the ordinance enough to cover healthcare facilities.
- Mr. Shipp noted that, to Ms. Havemann's point, the original legislation that spurred this proposal dealt with a healthcare facility. He doesn't have any opposition to amending this ordinance to capture more locations. He noted that in their CAD reports they often see that people are being

approached going in and out of Giant Eagle. He suggested that perhaps dialing back the specifics and making it more general would be beneficial.

- Mr. Hunt advised that he would work with Law Director O'Shea to modify the ordinance prior to next week's final reading.

Ordinance No. 11-26: Ms. Gallagher advised that they are looking to purchase a new F600 from the Valley Truck Centers. They would use the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract to purchase this Truck at a cost not to exceed \$95,641. The F600 chassis is better suited for hauling more weight and the aluminum dump truck bed holds twice the volume of wood chips. The old truck will be maintained and used as a backup until it's no longer functional.

Ordinance No. 12-26: Mr. Moran advised that he previously provided guidance on the acronyms used in the Ordinance. This is replacing Ordinance 1-21 which happened in 2021 and lasted for 5 years so now we are looking at another 5 years that would run from 2026 to 2030. He advised that for \$6,600 a year the Cuyahoga Soil Water and Conservation District provides public education. Director Snyder will be the City Liason and he thinks this is a great program to stay involved in.

Ordinance No. 13-26: Ms. Havemann advised that this ordinance is to revise a part of the code that will require maintenance on existing properties. It will require inspection every five years by a structural engineer or registered architect for buildings 30 years or older that are more than four stories in height, above ground parking structures having at least five spaces, underground parking structures, and retaining walls over 4' that contain flammable or combustible liquids. In June '21, there was an incident in Florida where 98 people died and more locally in December '21, there was a parking garage that collapsed in Lakewood where fortunately no one was injured. The Ordinance would require that these inspections happen every five years. There will be a minor amendment next week, but it will not change the content of the legislation.

Ordinance No. 15-26: Mr. Hunt advised that this ordinance was introduced last week and read for the first time. The ordinance would propose to amend Section 139.01 of the Codified Ordinances as it relates to the composition of the police division. There was an exhibit as well as materials provided by Chief Lichman. He plans to meet with Chief Lichman before the meeting next week to go over it one more time. In the near term the change would allow the addition of the Detective Sergeant position, to assist with increasing technological demands and would support first line supervision and expand the administration capacity of the division. Over the long term, it would provide the flexibility needed to make the most effective and efficient use of both sworn in and non-sworn in personnel as the needs of the community and profession evolve.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No. 17-26: President Shipp advised that this ordinance authorizes the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety Service to enter a contract with Crossroads Asphalt Recycling Inc. for the Wagar Road Resurfacing project at a cost not to exceed \$714,525.05. There is a memo from Kimberly Kerber, City Engineer, which showed that there were six bids received. The Engineer's estimate was \$1,026,000 and all six of the bids came in under the estimate. Crossroads Asphalt Recycling is the lowest bid and the one that is recommended by Ms. Kerber. They have done work in Rocky River in '22, '24, and '25 as part of the street repair program and have completed similar projects in the City of Oberlin, Olmsted Falls, and Berea. They received favorable recommendations from a couple other cities, and they have no unresolved findings in the Auditor of State database. This would cover Wagar Road from the bridge over I-90 to Center Ridge.

- Mayor Bobst advised that she will confirm the exact location and added that this is a project where they have some cost sharing with the County. Director Synder will have all that information ready for them next week.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President Shipp advised that he has received every Council Member's nominee for the Charter Review Commission adding that he's gathered a few additional nominations for the last two spots. The Mayor confirmed that traditionally they include one representative from the League of Woman Voters. He will distribute the list to the group including the information regarding the potential remaining members. Council is permitted to go into executive session to select a nominee. Next week he would like to suspend the rules and pass on emergency ordinance so they can get that process started.

President Shipp advised that they have depleted their Slush Fund. Historically every Councilmember writes a check for \$100, and they use that money for parade candy, gifts, condolences, hot dogs, and miscellaneous spending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Morris advised Parks and Rec met last week and noted that the renovation of the upstairs is going well. There is a scheduled mid May pool closure to complete all the work needed on the pool. She advised that two weeks ago there was a software outage. They use the Sportsman Software which suffered a hack that went nationwide and was down for 5.5 days. They couldn't check people in or register people and they're currently working to create a system should this ever happen again. The Gym ceiling is chipping, and they are currently working to replace that. The cabin roof at Elmwood needs to be replaced as well as the Tri-City Park court paint and fencing. Additionally, they are working on a Master Plan for programmable spaces.

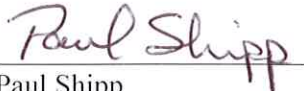
Ms. Havemann shared with Council that she attended the Board of Zoning meeting, and the issue of garage height was brought up. She knows that Council reviewed this and that the current height is 15' and that the zoning board is sticking to it and the most they'll go is to 16'. She was talking with the board afterwards and she plans to review meeting minutes regarding the limitation. She understands that some of the thought process was a result of not wanting these locations to be rented out, which she believes could be limited through ordinance considering they don't allow plumbing. She knows there is an issue with not allowing habitable space, so they've not allowed stairs, etc., but because Rocky River is landlocked and there is not a lot of space to expand from many houses, it doesn't seem unreasonable to her to allow people to have a room they can use above the garage for an office or a hobby room. She just wanted to let everyone know that she might be bringing this topic up to revisit. She doesn't understand why Council is being so restrictive as to how Residents can use their property.

- Law Director O'Shea suggested that she talk to the Planning Commission. There were a lot of empirical objective reasons for what they did. During COVID, people started using their garages as functional secondary residences and it got out of control. There was a lot of blowback from the residents and that is part of the reason the amendments were put in place. Planning Commission did a deep dive study on it.
- Ms. Havemann advised she has only spoke with Zoning, but she does want to have that conversation with Planning and bring it back to Council.
- Council continued to discuss the general logic and reasoning for the ordinance enactment.

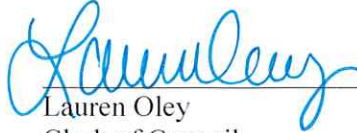
President Shipp advised that there is a 5th Monday in March and they will not hold a meeting that day. The next Council meeting will be a Legislative Meeting March 23, 2026.

Ms. Morris advised that this Wednesday there is a chat with council at 7:00 pm at the Library Auditorium and thanked Council for their support during a difficult time.

As there was no further business, President Shipp adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.



Paul Shipp
President of Council



Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council