

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 14, 2020

The Regular Legislative Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Furry,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Klym, Mr. Moran

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. Bemer

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, that the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 4th be waived, and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
	Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
	7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

Moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Furry, that the reading of the minutes of the Public Hearing and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 7th be waived, and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
	Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
	7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor stated that this is the last week for leaf pick up. The Service Department will make it through the city one more time this week. Beginning next week, yard waste and leaves will need to be in brown bags to be picked up. Notices have been sent out to the community along with a notice on the Service Garage Facebook page.

The Chamber of Commerce is holding a Food Drive today and tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Chamber will be accepting food donations for the Rocky River Assistance Program. Residents have been very generous to the Assistance Program and thanked Councilwoman Morris for being the catalyst for the food collection at the Recreation Center that is ongoing. Almost 6,000 items have been collected at the Recreation Center. The leadership of the Civic Organizations and the Assistance Program are very appreciative.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 83-20 **BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE CREATING POSITIONS AND FIXING OR
ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND HOURLY RATES COMMENCING
JANUARY 1, 2021 FOR THE APPOINTED EMPLOYEES IN THE SEVERAL
DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER
3rd READING

This has been discussed since early November. Mr. O'Donnell has not had any questions or much discussion. It is an annual ordinance setting the salaries and hourly rates for all the employees of the city including employees in the collective bargaining units. Mr. O'Donnell moved for passage of Ordinance No. 83-20.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
	Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
	7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 95-20 **BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL**

Mr. O'Donnell stated that Council should have received an amended exhibit for this ordinance. The amended exhibit affects the budget for 2021. There were changes on the exhibit such as the debt payment for the Municipal Court; some of the budget stabilization fund was used to ease some of the strain in 2021 regarding COVID, adjustments for the Recreation Department and a few others. Obviously, Council took a great deal of time including Friday, December 4th for almost five hours to go through the budget. Mr. O'Donnell moved to amend Ordinance No. 95-20 by substitution of the exhibit, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
	Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
	7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 95-20 **BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO, DURING THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
3rd READING

As amended, it is pending before Council. This was discussed in great detail during the Finance Committee Meeting. Council appreciates the work of Director Thomas as well as all the Directors for compiling this budget. Mr. O'Donnell also appreciates Council's support in working with the various directors in presenting the information. Since the Finance Committee Meeting, Mr. O'Donnell has not had any questions regarding this ordinance. Mr. O'Donnell moved for passage of Amended Ordinance No. 95-20, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
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Morris – aye
7 ayes

Klym – aye

Moran – aye
0 nay

PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 97-20

BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL

Mr. O'Donnell said Ordinance No. 97-20 also needs to be amended. Council should have received an update of the exhibit for this ordinance. The notable increase is on the CARES ACT Funding that was received. The amount received was almost \$1.4 million. At this time the total appropriation is a little over half a million dollars. This is money to help pay for all the Coronavirus increase costs the city has. Mr. O'Donnell moved to amend Ordinance No. 97-20 by substitution.

Vote: Hunt – aye

Shepherd – aye

O'Donnell – aye

Furry - aye

Morris – aye

Klym – aye

Moran – aye

7 ayes

0 nay

PASSED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 97-20

BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND TO AMEND AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 94-19

3rd READING

Mr. O'Donnell received information from the Finance Director concerning this ordinance. The biggest increases on the attached exhibit is that the city received an additional \$260,000 from the County to go along with the Federal money received under the CARES ACT. The city has allocated more of the federal money which is shown on the updated exhibit. This is all revising the 2020 Budget. Mr. O'Donnell has not had many questions and moved for passage of Amended Ordinance No. 97-20, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote: Hunt – aye

Shepherd – aye

O'Donnell – aye

Furry - aye

Morris – aye

Klym – aye

Moran – aye

7 ayes

0 nay

PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 100-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR VARIOUS INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER WITH McGOWAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. FOR THE YEAR 2021 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$218,360.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Shepherd stated that Council received an excel color-coded spreadsheet in packets this week. The front page is the analysis of the different components of the city insurance. Also included are the proposals along with coverage's and an analysis of the cost. This week, the consultants Crain Langner will be available for any of Council to discuss any issues related to this ordinance and the following two ordinances.

- Mr. Furry stated that he has had a professional relationship with an entity that he has a fiduciary responsibility for. The entity had a claim against an underwriter that McGowan was representing. Mr. Furry did not feel that McGowan was representing the entity as well as they should have. This comment relates to Ordinance No. 100-20, 101-20 and 102-20.

ORDINANCE NO. 101-20**BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR VARIOUS INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE ROCKY RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT WITH McGOWAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. FOR THE YEAR 2021 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$79,334.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Shepherd stated that on the second page of the spreadsheet received by Council, the left side is the same analysis for the WWTP Insurance required and the responsive bids. Crain Langner will be available this week to answer any questions related to the insurance issues in front of Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 102-20**BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR VARIOUS INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE ROCKY RIVER MUNICIPAL COURT WITH McGOWAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., FOR THE YEAR 2021 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$6,015.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Shepherd stated that on the back page of the excel spread sheet is an analysis for the Rocky River Court insurance issues. Mr. Shepherd has nothing further to state unless there are any questions.

ORDINANCE NO. 103-20**BY: DAVID W. FURRY**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KIMBLE COMPANY FOR THE REMOVAL OF DIGESTED SLUDGE CAKE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT A COST OF \$46.47 PER TON FOR THE YEAR 2021, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

This is an annual ordinance for the removal of digested sludgecake for the WWTP to a landfill. Two bids were received, one from Kimble Company for \$46.47 a ton and one from The Pen Ohio Corp for \$67.50 a ton. This represents a slight increase from the current provider Rumpke of Northern Ohio whose contract is expiring at \$42.87 a ton. This is for the months when the city cannot send it to Mr. Diaz along with Ordinance 88-20 due to regulations set by the EPA for the renewal of our NPDES permit. This is slated for three reads and emergency language will be used and is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit.

ORDINANCE NO. 104-20**BY: DAVID W. FURRY**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KIMBLE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE REMOVAL OF GRIT AND SCREENINGS FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT A COST OF \$71.75 PER TON AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

This is an annual renewal ordinance for the removal of grit and screenings from the WWTP. Grit is removed by mechanical means and must be sent to landfill. Three bids were received with a range of \$71.75 to \$94 a ton with Kimble Company being the lowest and best bid. This is slated for three reads and should be noted that emergency language is being utilized and it is necessary for compliance with the NPDES permit.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 105-20

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF A PROPOSED SHORE STRUCTURE AND APPROVAL OF A LAKE ERIE SUBMERGED LAND LEASE FROM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR) ADJACENT TO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 302-01-007 AT 22732 LAKE ROAD, ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

1st READING

Mrs. Morris stated that this is for the condo complex at 700 Lake Road. Rocky River Preservation Partners is requesting to place rocks along the shoreline to reduce any kind of shore loss. If there are any questions, please let Mrs. Morris know.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCE NO. 84-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE, PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND OPTIONAL VISION COVERAGE FOR THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

3rd READING

This is an annual ordinance that will provide health benefits that are negotiated by the collective bargaining units for the organized employees and also to provide these benefits to the full-time employees. There was a zero increase in employee contributions, a 2.8% increase in premium to the city, which is very modest, and in the lower range for the Westshore Communities with no design changes in the plan.

ORDINANCE NO. 85-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL TO PROVIDE DENTAL COVERAGE FOR THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

3rd READING

This is an annual ordinance that fulfills the obligation to the collective bargaining employees and to other full time employees for dental coverage. There is a zero increase in cost to the city and the employees. There are not any substantial design changes to the policy or reductions in benefits.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-20 **BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
CONTRACTS WITH OCHS, INC. LIFE INSURANCE TO PROVIDE LIFE
INSURANCE FOR THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY
RIVER, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
3rd READING

The city provides for full-time employees a life insurance benefit and this will continue that benefit. It is at an increase of only .06% and is locked in for three years.

ORDINANCE NO. 88-20 **BY: DAVID W. FURRY**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RENEW
FOR ONE (1) YEAR THE AGREEMENT WITH JAMES DIAZ TO PURCHASE
SERVICES FOR THE REMOVAL OF DIGESTED SLUDGE CAKE FROM THE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AT A COST OF \$30.50 PER WET TON FOR
THE YEAR 2021, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
3rd READING

This ordinance is for a one-year renewal of an agreement with James Diaz for the removal of digested sludgecake at a cost of \$30.50 per ton. This is a renewal of last year's contract at the same price for 2021. In 2019, two bids were received, one from James Diaz for \$30.50 a ton and one from Quasar Energy Group for \$49.33 a ton. This was an increase of \$8 a ton but is still the least costly alternative during the non-winter months.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-20 **BY: DAVID W. FURRY**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RENEW
FOR ONE (1) YEAR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR THE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM BONDED CHEMICALS, INC. AT
\$0.769 PER GALLON FOR THE YEAR 2021, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT
"A"
3rd READING

This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with Bonded Chemicals Inc. for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite at the current price of \$0.769 a gallon. Sodium hypochlorite is used in three different application points. It was bid last year with three bids within a range of \$.769 to \$1.255 a gallon.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-20 **BY: DAVID W. FURRY**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RENEW
FOR ONE (1) YEAR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM BISULFITE FOR THE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM PVS CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS, INC.
AT \$1.26 PER GALLON FOR THE YEAR 2021, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN
EXHIBIT "A"
3rd READING

This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of sodium

bisulfite. This is a one-year renewal with the current provider PVS Chemical Solutions at the current rate of \$1.26 a gallon. The was last bid out in 2019 with four bids received with a range from \$1.26 to \$2.1273 a gallon with PVS Chemicals Solutions, Inc. being the lowest and best bid at \$1.26 a gallon. This is necessary to comply with our NPDES permit.

ORDINANCE NO. 91-20

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RENEW FOR ONE (1) YEAR THE PURCHASE OF FERRIC CHLORIDE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM PVS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. AT \$578.00 PER DRY TON FOR THE YEAR 2021, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

3rd READING

This ordinance is for a one-year renewal with PVS Technologies Inc. for the purchase of ferric chloride. This product has had some volatility but it will be renewed at \$578 a dry ton. This is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit and running the WWTP.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 96-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE AND OPERATING AGREEMENTS WITH CLEVELAND CLINIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR REHABILITATION FOR SPACE AT THE ADDITION TO THE DON UMERLEY CIVIC CENTER

3rd READING

The Cleveland Clinic has been a good tenant on the second floor of the Civic Center by the weight room. This will extend the relationship for another three years and the tenant will have a set of one-year options to renew. The first year the rent will be held as it was this year thereafter the annual increase will be approximately 2.5%.

ORDINANCE NO. 98-20

BY: CHRISTOPHER J. KLYM

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 954.01 ENTITLED FEES, PERTAINING TO THE CIVIC CENTER RECREATION FACILITIES, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

3rd READING

Mr. Klym said this has been discussed on many occasions including with Director Holub who attended the December 4th Finance Committee Meeting. This involves the increases in fees of the Recreation Center and changes to policies that are there. Mainly it deals with the membership for the rec center. The last increase was in 2015. Mr. Klym noted that this includes a reduction in the fees for part-time city employees and for the first time there will be a 10% discount for non-active and veteran military members.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-20

BY: CHRISTOPHER J. KLYM

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND HER DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT (CMAG) FOR THE BRADSTREET'S LANDING INTERPRETIVE ACCESS BOARDWALK UNDER THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF

NATURAL RESOURCES' OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AND IF GRANTED, TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT
3rd READING

Mr. Klym said this has been discussed a number of times. It is signaling Council's support for a grant application to the Coastal Management Assistant Program maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This grant is for funds for the boardwalk that will be between the pier and the bridge over Spencer Creek. The pier is under construction; the bridge will be next year. The city has grant funds for the bridge but this will be just for the boardwalk. It is not for the revetment on the shoreline or any shoreline change, just the walkway between the two. If this grant is received, the city will have an additional cost to spend for the completion of the boardwalk. This grant would be for \$100,000 for a \$400,000 project. This is another piece of the puzzle at Bradstreet's Landing which everyone is excited and looking forward to in the near future.

Mr. Moran moved for passage of Ordinance Nos. 84-20, 85-20, 86-20, 88-20, 89-20, 90-20, 91-20, Amended 96-20, 98-20 and Resolution No. 99-20 on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry - aye
	Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
	7 ayes		0 nay	PASSED

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Next Monday there will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting along with a Special Meeting with five of the ordinances being up for passage next week. This will be the last Council meeting for 2020 unless something major comes up before the end of the year.

The next meeting will be held on January 11th as a Legislative Meeting. Mr. Moran asked that this meeting begin at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. O'Donnell wished the Browns well tonight and Mr. Shepherd thanked everyone for moving things along tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. O'Donnell, Chairman of the Finance Committee immediately following the Special Meeting via zoom.

Finance Committee Members Present: Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd

Council Members Present: Mr. Furry, Mr. Klym, Mrs. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Thomas, Director Snyder, Director Holub,
Chief Lichman, Chief Lenart, Director Huff, Superintendent Barille

Also Present: Judge Fitzsimmons, Judge Hagan, Clerk Comery

Mr. O'Donnell opened the meeting by saying thank you to everyone for attending this morning's meeting. Mr. O'Donnell thanked the administration and Council for their hard work for not only what is happening today but also the hard work leading up to this point and giving Council the opportunity to review each department's budget. Mr. O'Donnell feels that this is one of Council's most important duties as stewards of the residents money and it is Council's job to be sure it is being spent prudently on the right things and in the right areas. This morning take the opportunity to ask the Directors the questions that need to be answered to be sure the city is spending the money appropriately.

Mr. O'Donnell discussed the highlights of his finance report: Debt activity is a big line item on the budget with the Police Department at \$9.9 million. The plan is to pay the interest on the \$9.9 and roll that over into 2022, which means Council will continue dealing with financing the police department over the next couple of years. The ladder truck has been paid off with proceeds of the lawsuit to satisfy that debt. In 2022 there will be a purchase of a new engine truck for the Fire Department. The RR Municipal Court Building will be paid off in 2022 and 2024 the Recreation Center will be paid off which will give the city some freedom and focus more on the police department and paying down some of that debt. Bradstreet's Landing is in the budget for \$1,000,000. The city is working with the State of Ohio and David Greenspan and others to obtain additional funds to help pay for Bradstreet's Landing. The city is committed to this project and will get the park open and available for the residents of the county and the city. COVID-19 is not going to go away by December 31, 2020 and the city will be dealing with the effects of COVID financially well into 2021 and maybe 2022. All of this needs to be kept in mind and prioritizing projects as the city heads into 2021. It is important that this is laid out but this is just a framework and as COVID could not have been predicted in March of 2020, Council does not know what 2021 will bring and will need to stay flexible and work with whatever comes.

Mayor Bobst said how much the administration and directors appreciate Council's engagement in this process and thanks Council for being partners in this process. Mr. O'Donnell said it well that the administration tries to create a flexible document and framework for all the things that have to be done. COVID changed all the plans the administration had for 2020 dramatically and the city was able to do it without panic and sweeping adjustments. The city anticipates COVID to go on easily for six more months or longer. The budget sets forth the priorities of the city and is the template for where the city is going. There are many projects funded by outside dollars, which is important in allowing the city to invest in the community. The Mayor announced that next week the State Capital Budget will be introduced. The Mayor is not sure where Bradstreet's Landing is in this document but is excited that the city will be hearing soon about that request. Additionally, the County opened up additional opportunities to secure CARES Act dollars that were initially distributed to the county for the benefit of local community. The city submitted two requests: one for the Court but it did not qualify as it represents revenue losses and is not eligible. There was a second opportunity to apply for COVID related expenses regarding first responder's compensation and benefits during the time of the emergency declaration, which continues today. The city has requested and should hear soon.

Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that the Budget Stabilization Fund was established a few years ago as per the Governor's words as a "rainy day" fund. There are plans in the 2021 budget to use some of this money to provide relief to individual departments due to COVID.

Director Thomas added that the theme for the Budget Stabilization Fund will add some flexibility to the 2021 Budget. Director Thomas would like to have that money appropriated but is not sure if it will be used. Council can expect a revised exhibit for the budget ordinance.

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Director Thomas for all the work he and his staff have done.

- Councilman Furry asked about the revenue budget and real estate taxes. Mr. Furry asked if the county gave a good figure for valuations and collections for 2021. Director Thomas stated that the approach is to use the 2020 projection for 2021. The budget was \$9.1 million and the city received \$9.4 million. The additional amount is what is available to carry over for next year. In terms of projection for next year, Mr. Thomas will wait for the county to complete their work and whatever they recognize as the projection, is what will show up in the books and records.
- Mr. Furry asked about information on tab 5, page 9. Is the city anticipating retiring the note for the police station and bonding it out? Mr. Thomas stated that it may seem like that because in his mind it is a note roll over and not a bonding out of the total. It reflects a total liquidation of \$9.9 million and an Intel of another \$9.9. In the budgetary number, this is what it will look like.
- Councilman Klym asked about the municipal income tax and the real estate tax that are the city's income. As he looks at the line item, it looks like the net profit tax and withholding is ahead of budget for both for 2020. The Mayor explained that last year the budget was \$14.9 for 2019 and the city exceeded that. This budget shows that the

revenue from income tax will be \$15,750,000; the city will be 1-2% below what was projected in the budget, but well over what was in the budget last year but lower than what was actually received. The administration does not think the city will hit the \$15,750,000 but will be over \$15 million, but under the \$15,750,000 by 1-2%. Director Thomas acknowledges what is showing in the budget book, but there are certain components that are showing higher, as in the withholding, whereas the resident's tax component is lower. There are three line items in November the city was down about 5-6% overall from last year.

- The Mayor added that there has been discussion about many residents working from home and what that will mean for income tax. If employees would not have to pay taxes to the community where their business is located and only pay to their home community, which could change the entire landscape. The City of Rocky River would be one of the winners if this happens, because more people work outside the city than actually work in the city. Mr. O'Donnell said there has been a lot of discussion regarding who the winners and losers are in this type of situation.

Recreation Department

Councilman Klym introduced the Recreation Department budget. Mr. Klym said that recreation is heavily dependent on participation as that is the revenue generator to cover expenses. This year has been challenging unlike any other. There was one retirement, a promotion and a slight amount of turnover in personnel with one anticipated retirement in 2021. The original revenue and expenses in 2020 compared to the actuals are much different. Mr. Klym introduced Director Holub to explain this.

Mr. Holub shared his screen to show Council his power point slides. The slides showed upgrades to the indoor pool, the chimney on the ice rink pavilion, the addition of a secure harness safety system on the majority of the basketball backboards, the pavilion at Rocky River Park with help from the Recreation Foundation, a sand volleyball court, Civic Center upgrades and new equipment. The recreation team did a great job of moving forward while keeping residents and members safe. The numbers used are actual dollars and not necessarily including fund balances. The 2021 numbers show about \$700,000 that will need to be made up before a fund balance rollover from 2020-2021. The fund balance numbers will bring the deficit closer to a half million. As the recreation center moves through quarter one, the administration will know what to do to get through quarter 2, 3 and 4 to get the budget on track and balanced by the end of the year. Reduction in part-time staff throughout the year will be one way. The recreation staff has done a tremendous job at finding ways to reduce costs while being creative at generating revenue while serving the mission and members. Mr. Holub is looking ahead at the transfer from the General Fund that has helped balance the budget and how to continue to reduce that. One of the main goals, prior to COVID, was reducing that transfer pre-COVID from the schedule of transfers and he will continue to work towards that as the COVID implications are managed for the next year. The \$2.4 includes revenues, the transfer and advances from the city. The advances were actually moved to the transfer account. Mr. Klym added that there has been significant impacts on revenue this year. The normal users of the rec center want recreational programming. There is a sense of safety with lowering participating numbers and spreading participants out. Parents want their kids to participate in hockey and

various sports and activities. Zoom fitness classes have started this week and there are more participants on zoom than the in-person classes. There is still a revenue component because there is a cost regardless of participation via zoom or in-person.

During the shutdown in March, Mr. Holub and Mr. Balla were tracking the pool water depth and discovered that the pool was losing 10,000 gallons a day. There is a true dollar amount contributed to that loss. The leaks were discovered and repaired so there will be a reduction in water expense. There were some reductions in staffing in 2020 that Mr. Holub anticipates will continue in 2021.

2021 Operating Budget highlights: There will be a decrease in speculative revenue due to COVID-19, decrease in water usage, a marginal increase in minimum wage.

2021 Impacts on Budget: Revenue expects to decrease in many areas of the department due to membership and admissions, Kids Cove and facility rentals.

2021 Areas of Cost Savings: Administrative cost savings, operational budgets with reduced hours/staffing at times.

2021 Capital Upgrades: Civic Center rooftop unit, replacement of original track surface (deferred from 2020), turf in the ice rink, renovation/replacement of Rocky River Park's playground. Elle's Enchanted Forest funds have been used to order equipment, which has been delivered, excavation and old equipment needs removed, curbing needs to be added and then the equipment will be installed for Phase 1. The current structure at City Hall Park will stay with additional equipment being added.

- Mr. Furry asked about the projections showing the recreation center lost money but the year-to-date shows it made money. Mr. Holub responded that what is important are his numbers for the actuals not including the fund balance roll over. Most of the projects were capital dollars, not operational. The numbers here are operational budget accounts.

The Mayor noted that the CARES Act reimbursement has not been reallocated back to the departments and this will help manage this as well.

Ordinance No. 98-20 is a flat increase in fees for memberships at the Civic Center, which have not increased since 2015. This increase will put the center competitive with neighboring centers like Westlake and Fitworks. A regular onetime payment is less than monthly payments due to the administrative costs associated with auto drafts. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been discussing the age of 15 and suggested lowering the age by one year to 14. The Fitness Center has the capability of managing a 14 year old, which is in the high school age range.

- President Moran noticed that there was nothing mentioned about Tri-City Park in the presentation. This park is managed by Westlake, Fairview Park and Rocky River communities. The project slated for Tri-City is a grind out of tennis courts 5 & 6. Courts 1-4 were resurfaced this year. Mr. Holub is waiting to hear from Rocky River City Schools regarding if they are continuing their home matches at Tri-City Park. There has been suggestions that more pickle ball courts be added if the schools do not

want to use the space. This discussion is still up in the air right now.

Municipal Court

Mr. Moran thanked Judge Fitzsimmons, Judge Hagan and Clerk of Court Comery for attending this morning's meeting along with meeting him prior to discuss the 2021 Budget. This is one of the areas that has been hit most severely because of COVID-19. The courts are in charge of their budget and Rocky River consistently operates within a balanced budget. Mr. Moran said that Council is happy to have the courts in Rocky River.

The projected number for revenue in 2020 was \$1,265,000 and the amount received was \$1,190,435.02. The original number projected was \$2,341,000 and the \$1,265,000 was projected once it was evident what was happening due to COVID. The Court continues to operate in a difficult challenging way and hopefully, by the end of the year, there will be a balanced budget.

Judge Hagan thanked Council, the Mayor and the Directors for being the Court's host city and fiduciary. The courts had to remain open during the COVID shut down so the access for justice was there for individuals. What transpired was a shutdown of a major branch from the city side as far as citations and complaints being filed. In 2019 the operating income brought in was \$1,452,548.59 compared to \$1,082,819.92 for 2020. In 2012, there were over 25,000 cases in traffic and criminal matters filed. In 2013 it dropped to 16,005 and in 2014 it dropped to 13,000. The reason for this was the establishment and creation of the Mayor's Court in North Olmsted. There has been a continuous drop in traffic and criminal cases filed. Ironically, pre-COVID, Judges Hagan and Fitzsimmons along with Clerk Comery wanted to meet with the Mayors, Directors and Finance Directors of all the cities and voice their concerns. The courts do not solicit for business. For the first time since 1997, the Rocky River Court was headed for a deficit and wanted to be sure that the communities the court served were aware. Then COVID hit and the bottom dropped out. Work staff has been reduced and individuals have not been replaced. The budget has been cut as much as possible. Grants are always being applied for. The court did receive a COVID grant in the amount of \$70,000 allowing the court to complete COVID preparations in the courtrooms. The county has shut down and are not accepting jail prisoners so Rocky River Court is using house arrest GPS. The above grant will cover these costs if individuals are unable to pay for it. The budget proposal for 2021 is the same proposal that was anticipated in 2020. There are no salary increases and no retirements.

The Mayor mentioned that the Supreme Court required courts to remain open. The Mayor is hoping that in 2021 there is a good definition for what that means "to stay open". The court has always been a source of pride for this community and Mayor Bobst continues to stand by that even knowing that the communities that surround us will be paying to the extent of the fees that they receive and the rest is on the City of Rocky River. For the first time Rocky River will be paying for the operation of the Court, well over \$300,000 this year. This is real and needs to be communicated effectively to all of us and the partner cities that are part of the court. Director Thomas has reached out to the Supreme Court, the Judges and Clerk Comery have done several things as well as their staff members and the administration has tried to obtain COVID dollars to cover the deficit. The Mayor has reached out to the governor's office as well as to Senator Matt Dolan, who is the Chair of the Finance Committee for the Senate, to help them understand

that host communities have a tremendous burden because of COVID and there is not a provision for CARES Act dollars relief or reimbursement. The Mayor and administration are trying to be active advocates for the court to cover this deficit. This will continue into next year. As Mr. O'Donnell stated, this does not end on December 31, 2020. How can the court effectively react to this given what the Supreme Court has asked them to do?

Judge Hagan said that one of the things that have cost the court is the waivers and speeding citations dropping off. There are over 1,300 active individuals on probation. Judge Hagan was on the arraignment docket the past two weeks and he had 8 domestic violence cases that have to be followed through with the victim and eight individuals with guns in their cars. The Judges are acting as social workers right now and the court's probation officers are working 80 hours a week.

One good piece of news from the Court is that the building will be paid off in two more payments without using any taxpayer dollars. Kudos to Judge Fitzsimmons and Clerk Comery for this accomplishment.

Judge Fitzsimmons thanked Mayor Pam Bobst for her defense of the Judges and the Court during the meeting with the other Mayors. Mayor Bobst went above and beyond anything anyone could ever expect. There is a huge surge in domestic violence cases with guns and strangulation and cases that should go to the county. The monitoring idea is to try to keep the victims safe, especially without a victim advocate, with putting a GPS on the offenders so they cannot come within a range of distance of the victim and cannot use alcohol and drugs. The City of North Olmsted has the most of these types of cases where addiction, mental health and domestic violence are coming into play. These cases are charged as state code offenses because they do not want to put anyone in their local jail. The only people who can be put into jail now are domestic violence offenders. Because of that and they are usually people that cannot pay, North Olmsted is benefiting from this. The Rocky River Court is not able to count these as cases for North Olmsted to pay into the deficit, so it is a real problem. The Legislators have to look into this. The Courts have become grant detectives along with applying for grants.

- Councilman O'Donnell asked what are the other municipal courts doing to help with this and is the Supreme Court or State of Ohio offering any assistance with any of this. Judge Fitzsimmons replied that the COVID grant was applied for early on, but did not realize they would not have jail space. This money will be depleted quickly. The other courts like Shaker Heights have never paid for their expenses out of their costs so their cities are used to paying and understand the formula. The other cities contribute to the courts.

Mr. Moran said that even with paying off the court building, there would still be a deficit. Capital projects and pay increases are on hold.

Clerk Comery added that as of this October, 93% of the budget is for employees and 7% of the budget is being used on paper, pens, staples etc. The Rocky River Court is not extravagant. Clerk Comery clarified the reduction of cases at the court; citations are tickets and things that are waivable. Those cases are not only smaller in stature but they are also cases that are handled electronically, so it does not take much of a work force to process these cases. What takes time

and effort on the part of staff are the cases that have not changed in numbers, which are all the criminal and misdemeanor cases that are handled every day with a huge percent from the City of North Olmsted. The Rocky River Court tries to do everything they can do to complete their work and do it as economically as possible. Clerk Comery wanted to reassure Council that the Rocky River Municipal Court is not political. The court does not hire anyone that is not needed. They do the best they can for the City of Rocky River.

Mr. Moran thanked the Judges, Clerk Comery and Director Thomas for their time this morning.

WasteWater Treatment Plant

The WWTP, represented by Superintendent Nick Barille was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Furry. Mr. Furry welcomed Superintendent Nick Barille. Mr. Furry recently distributed the 2021 fiscal budget that has been approved by the Management Committee along with the proposed operating budget. The WWTP is not fully staffed as Superintendent Barille was recently promoted from Assistant Superintendent and that position needs to be filled. Mr. Furry then introduced Superintendent Nick Barille.

Mr. Barille said it is great to see Council and he appreciates that he is a part of the City of Rocky River. The staffing changes made by former Superintendent McConnell have all been implemented with the one vacancy that of the assistant superintendent. Since 2018, there has been a significant turnover with retirements and people leaving, so 68% of the staff is now new to the WWTP. The employees are excited about their new roles and are looking at the plant with new eyes.

Capital Expenditures for the WWTP: a roof repair, paving repair, cleaning out primary digester #1 followed by cleaning primary digester #2 next year, and replacement of sump pumps.

- The digesters have not been cleaned in 20 years and loose operational capacity. This needs to be done as it puts a big strain on the operational staff. Mr. Furry asked about odor complaints. Mr. Barille has not received any. Odor controls were built into the contract with Burch Hydro, Inc.

Regarding the 2017-2020 Capital Improvement Projects, Council recently received a mutual settlement agreement between the WWTP and AECOM. This has been approved and Superintendent Barille is currently meeting with the engineers for AECOM. The WWTP has been operating with 2 of 4 primary sludge pumps for the past 7-8 months. Mr. Barille appreciates Council approving that legislation.

A Flow Study was performed with 50 meters monitoring flows throughout the system including all four cities and all the supporting collection system to monitor for increased flow rates, inflow infiltration. This data was collected by Hazen & Sawyer to create a calibrated model for the upcoming year. This will allow the cities to evaluate the locations of improvement because of what was put into the system and where they could allocate more resources in conjunction with the WWTP, to prevent bypasses at the plant. This model will help to create an integrated approach so money is spent towards a common goal.

Another project is the chemically enhanced primary treatment which will be a modification of the current slow primaries to add chemical additives enabling treating the primary effluent to improve the effluent quality.

Capital improvement projects (CIP) are performed once every four years to keep the plant running effectively. The Final Clarifier Rehabilitation is the next CIP to begin. The risk assessment that was performed on the plant at the end of 2019 enabled these projects to be prioritized and address high-risk parts that could lead to a high probability of failure. The engineering for both these projects will be underway in 2021. The contract for this has not been approved by the Management Committee yet, but it is in the works. The final clarifier rehabilitation engineering and design will take a year and a half and construction will begin in 2023. These projects are significant at \$10-12 million for the chemically enhanced primary treatment and about \$7 million for the final clarifier rehabilitation project.

- Mr. Furry asked if DOPWIC Funds or Ohio Public Works Funds would be accessible. Mr. Barille said DEFA loans will be used for the engineering projects but will revisit these other funds when construction begins.
- Mr. Moran asked about the roof repair costs. The amount shown is the initial evaluation for all the roofs, but the work is being completed in sections on an as needed basis. The administration building roof is leaking and needs to be addressed.

The Flow and Strength Study was done in combination with the Flow Study. Mr. Barille shared his screen with Council. It is important to note that since 2006 the City of Rocky River's numbers have continued to decrease contributing to the work the city has been doing. These are the final numbers on the total contribution to the plant and this is how the cities are billed.

- Mr. Hunt thinks it is interesting that the number have decreased since 2006 and thinks it is significant to the Mayor in terms of "sewers, sewers, sewers". Mr. Furry said yes, yes, yes. The Mayor thanked Councilman Hunt and thanked all of Council for the support for all of those projects. Mr. Hunts said the city has invested significant dollars into the collection system and the infrastructure and it is starting to pay dividends.
- Mr. Klym asked what the response has been from the other cities regarding these results. Mr. Barille said the numbers were all accepted at the last Management Committee meeting.
- Mr. Moran welcomed Superintendent Barille and Council is impressed with the work Nick has accomplished since October of this year. Mr. Moran thanked Mr. Barille for the outline and said that Councilman Furry has always been very involved in the past with the WWTP. Good luck with your new position.
- The Mayor added that Nick presented this budget to her in October. He was very involved in developing the budget with CarrieAnne and has been very involved in the operation of the plant. He was the perfect person to step in when CarrieAnne left. The team at the WWTP is pleased to have Nick in this position. The Mayor continues to wish him every success and has enjoyed working with him.

- Mr. Barille said he appreciates everything the Mayor has done and said 2020 has been the best year of his life with everything that has happened.

Senior Center

The Senior Center, represented by Director Deborah Huff, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilwoman Morris.

Mrs. Morris stated that the presentations so far have been awesome and thanked everyone for their hard work. Mrs. Morris said there were major expenditures during 2020 including hiring a new Social Worker that was not in the budget but did end the year with a balanced budget. The Senior Center is not planning on anything major in 2021. Classes will still be half sized and that has been worked into the budget. Mrs. Morris found it interesting to see that the building and maintenance is half of what it was in the past. The Senior Center has changed the way they accept money with bus tours, which has saved credit card fees being charged to the Center.

Director Huff said there are not many changes for next year's budget. This has been a very strange year for all of us due to the pandemic. The roof has been replaced and looks very nice. The budget indicates that a van and Malibu would be purchased but that did not happen. That was going to be purchased by estate money from Gizella Wagner's estate. It was not a good time to do that because transportation services are limited due to the virus. This purchase will probably happen next year. The gift shop was converted into the Silver Linings Café, unfortunately it has not been opened due to the pandemic. The computers have been moved into the gift shop along with the gift shop items. When the Café opens, coffee, tea, lattes and hot chocolate will be sold. The old computer lab has been converted into a yoga studio.

The Senior Center closed down in 2020 due to the pandemic and all activities and programs were closed except for Social Services. Mrs. Rokakis was to retire June 1st but willingly stayed on to help. The Social Service requests have increased this year by over 400%. Food was supplied; necessary errands were run along with taking seniors to critical doctor appointments. Programming was converted to zoom classes and the seniors did great with technology. Parking lot concerts that were held along with lunch were a great success. On September 21st, Senior Centers were allowed to re-open as long as all protocols were followed. Seniors felt safe coming into the building and being in limited size classes. Senior Centers were again shut down before Thanksgiving due to COVID. Virtual programming continues and transportation is being provided for critical needs. Ms. Huff is waiting to hear when the Center can reopen but feels realistically February 1st may be the target date to look at. When the Center did open back up in September, all staff and volunteers were required to be COVID tested every two weeks. The staff was very willing to be tested and often went on their own time. Across the state only 25% of Senior Centers opened in September and within a few weeks 5% of those that had closed again. The Rocky River Senior Center was able to operate through September, October and a portion of November, while meeting all the criteria and no one contracted COVID by coming to the Senior Center.

- Mrs. Morris stated that during the last census, a quarter of Rocky River was seniors. Is that still the case? Ms. Huff said she feels the numbers will be higher and is also

interested when the new census information is shared.

- Mr. Moran asked if the Senior Center would purchase the new van and Malibu for next year. Ms. Huff said yes, they would be replacing vehicles that are 12 years old. The plan is to stay at the same level of transportation as today. Initially transportation was stopped during the pandemic from March until June. In June transportation was continued with Plexiglas shields inside the vehicles, drivers were equipped with thermometers and took passenger temperatures along with answering standard COVID questions. The fogger would sanitize the cars and it worked very well.
- Director Snyder said that the vehicles being replaced are a 2006 Chevy Impala and a 2008 Chevy Uplander. The Uplander is having serious issues with mechanics and a lot of rust. This vehicle will be replaced by a vehicle that has the capability of loading wheelchairs without making any changes to the chassis. The Chevy Impala will be replaced with a Ford Fusion. The Mayor added that through NOACA there is a senior transportation grant that Ms. Huff has been successful in acquiring. This would be pursued for the second vehicle. This would make a total of 6 vehicles for the Senior Center.
- Mr. Moran asked about the program for seniors in regards to shoveling driveway aprons. Director Huff said the program is ongoing and there is room for more but the deadline for applications was Monday. Mr. Snyder said the overall sign-up is down from last year so there is room for more. This service is implemented with an outside contractor. Mr. Snyder stated that MVP usually handles the aprons. Once the Service Department has gone through and cleared the streets, MVP is called to clear the apron of those that have signed up. This service is based on the senior's financial status but the threshold has increased slightly. The Senior Center takes care of the qualification process and then sends the names over to Safety-Service.

Director Huff concluded with two suggestions for gifts to purchase. The Senior Center has mugs available with the Silver Linings Café on it on, along with Senior Center facemasks that are being sold by Seniors Council.

The Mayor stated that Director Huff has done an amazing job. The Senior Center has risen to the occasion and the seniors are pleased with what has still been provided because of the dedicated staff.

Police Department

Councilman Hunt introduced Chief George Lichman who took over for retired Chief Stillman on November 2, 2020. Chief Lichman was under the gun to complete the budget process for this meeting. Mr. Hunt met with Chief Lichman on Wednesday of this week. Chief Lichman composed a chart of current personnel with 34 sworn officers, 4 full-time non-sworn personnel and 34 part-time and seasonal personnel including 11 auxiliaries who are unpaid and 15 crossing guards which totals 72. For 2021, Chief Lichman does not anticipate any needs to change with the possibility of adding part-time dispatchers, crossing guards and more auxiliaries. The Chief will continue to look at how best to utilize the SRO officers in 2021. The new police department

will have a new jail and he will work on staffing with the resources currently on hand. Chief Lichman said that Bill Crates retired in March, promoted Ron Flowers from Sergeant to Lieutenant in March and hired Katelyn Slomovitz and Dean Nordstrom in June. Dean resigned in July consequently hiring Katharina Cukelj. In November Frank Frate was sworn in as a patrol officer.

For 2021 the major expenditures will be the implementation of the new police station. The department will maintain staffing and other expenses so the new station can get up and running. Equipment needs have been anticipated and requested but there are still unknowns. Chief Lichman will be requesting two new vehicles and will stay with the Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles that last longer with less maintenance. The jail expenses will increase. It is a large facility, meets all the state codes and the expense will come in managing the jail. There are things that can be done in the new jail that could not be done in the former jail like laundry and possible meal preparation. The plan now is to be in the new building by July with the jail opening in August, which would leave four months to cover staffing for the jail. Chief Lichman said that he still has patrol officers who essentially ran the jail before along with Community Service officers that have also assisted in that capacity. The Chief anticipates hiring someone for the control center to unlock doors as necessary in the new police station. Chief Lichman has on his future horizons list the addition of one full-time personnel to help run the jail. The more help he has the more he can do independently in terms of laundry and meal service. He is optimistic that the first four months the jail is open it will be handled with the resources on hand.

Chief Lichman put his future horizon wish list in the order he would like things completed. #1 is the firing range for the police firearms training including advanced training. This facility will be unique to the region as rifle training will be able to be held there. He would like to see consideration for regional training, which could create some income for the city. The city could host other types of training as well that needs a huge open room. #2 would be the addition of jailers to run the newly constructed jail in combination of full-time/part-time staff. #3 would be an increase training budget to accommodate the implementation of robust training programs to improve safety and service through core competencies and career building and to compensate for nearly eliminated training offered by the state. #4 to replace current MARC's base-station radios in the communication center with updated equipment and a third workstation. The current radios cannot be upgraded as they run on an old Windows 7 system. #5 additional full-time dispatchers to ensure 24/7 coverage. #6 Restore the position of the Youth Service Officer with a focus on the role of the social worker to assist officers with the increased needs of mental health, addiction services, victim advocacy and child interview skills. #7 Redefine/retitle the police coordinator position to include analysis and administrative assistance to the Chief and Detective Bureau. #8 The addition of sworn personnel to restore and eventually expand staffing in the patrol division and detective bureau.

Projected Revenue: The Chief fully expects to receive the Marine Patrol grant this year in the amount of \$30,000 with the city contributing about \$10,000. The Marine Patrol does a fabulous job with at least one or two yearly lifesaving rescues. The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Diversion grant from Cuyahoga County helps fund the Juvenile Diversion Program to prevent juveniles from going downtown. The Chief anticipates continuing the DARE grant from the Ohio Attorney General. School closures may impact the amount of money received on the grant. The Chief anticipates a minor increase in traffic fines and vehicle storage as a COVID related slow-

down. Mr. Hunt said that there are a number of municipalities that do not participate in DARE. The Chief confirmed that there has been a decrease in participation but the Rocky River Police Department is committed to the DARE program. It is a fantastic community engagement tool. Graduates from 20 years ago still ask about Officer Phil and comment on the impact he had on their school experience. The school district helps cover the cost of the DARE program.

- Mr. O'Donnell said that he is one of the graduates that ask about Officer Phil. It is a great program along with the SRO officers. Mr. O'Donnell stated that it seems the last couple of years that POPAS may have run its course. Chief Lichman said POPAS has certainly declined. He is hoping it goes up in 2021 as it was suspended during the first part of 2020 due to COVID. The force has younger officers that may be eager to work POPAS but it will not return to what it was when it was first implemented. Most of the officers have double the income at home and value their time off differently than older generations. POPAS has slowed the speed on the highway; warrant arrests and occasional drugs and guns off the highway and reduced accidents. The program is still beneficial to the community.
- Mr. Hunt stated that the two new vehicle purchases would be out of POPAS. Chief Lichman concurred.
- Mr. Moran congratulated Chief Lichman on his position. Mr. Moran asked if the other Chiefs discussed the impact of COVID on their revenue. Chief Lichman does not know the individual plans but he does know that revenues or ticket writing is down across all five communities that share the Municipal Court. The big slowdown has been COVID. Traffic safety has been a primary concern for Rocky River residents and has been a primary focus of the police enforcement.
- Mr. Moran asked if a robotic speed sign could be installed on Center Ridge Road from Westlake to Spencer due to the speed limit change.
- The Mayor added that Judge Fitzsimmons has been talking to the County about receiving a small grant for a part-time victim advocate. The Chief and the Mayor have spent a lot of time together over the last several months. Chief Lichman is a leader among leaders especially among law enforcement. Chief Lichman has shared some great ideas and has engaged with Director Greco in HR in documenting interactions with the residents.

Mr. Hunt again welcomed Chief Lichman to his new position and said he looks forward to working with him.

Fire Department

The Fire Department, represented by Chief Lenart, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Hunt. Mr. Hunt stated that Chief Lenart provided a detailed outline in terms of budget review for 2020 and the future horizon.

Chief Lenart thanked everyone for the new rescue squad, which was much needed in the fire fleet. Two of the ambulances are old and one has been out of service. Chief Lenart stated that

Fire Engine 65 is a 1996 E1 Hurricane engine, custom made and has been a very good truck for the City of Rocky River. It is starting to show its age with corrosion issues and pump issues that need fixed. It looks good on the outside but underneath it is showing its age. It did a great job at the Hilliard Blvd. fire, pumping water for the entire event. It did suffer damage in the amount of \$12,000 that was repaired. It has been a workhorse and the Chief will be sad to see it go. The Chief will begin the process of replacing the engine in 2021. It is a long, arduous project. The Chief would like this to happen at the end of 2021 into 2022. The price will be \$625,000 to \$650,000. It is a big-ticket item. The vehicles have been undercoated to fight corrosion. The State of Ohio as well as the City of Rocky River does a great job of keeping the streets and highways clean, but the salt solutions are playing havoc in the undercarriages of the vehicles. Apex comes in yearly to apply a solution to the undercarriages. The 2006 fire engine was a grant fire engine that came through FEMA. This truck is not as well built as the 1996 and the Chief has been pouring a lot of maintenance money into this truck. He is not sure if that truck would be usable in reserve. The budget also shows the replacement of the FPO car. The Fire Prevention Officer was driving a previously handed down police car. This car died out. FPO Joe Williams is driving a handed down police car from the sewer department to the fire department and it is not an emergency vehicle. The Chief uses FPO Joe Williams as a firefighter and a medical responder when needed. If a mutual aid call comes in either Chief Lenart or FPO Williams will respond to that call.

FPO Crowe retired after 33 years in January. Firefighter Joe Williams was promoted to FPO and he has been a fantastic addition. He picked right up where Rob left off. He has a little different approach and the public has been very receptive of him. John Otcasek was hired to fill Joe's place. He has been a fantastic fit. Lieutenant Seiple retired after 32 years and David Haas was promoted to Lieutenant. Patrick Hoke was hired and is a great person and great team player. He is still in the Navy Reserve so serves both the Country and this community. Lieutenant Bill Brobst retired in July and Jeff Hollis was promoted to Lieutenant. Jeremy Wright was hired and is doing a great job. He came to Rocky River from East Cleveland and has been a good addition. Evelyn Briggs is retiring Tuesday of next week. The Chief stated that Evelyn has been his work wife and feels like he is going through a divorce. She knows his lifestyle, his schedule and plans for him. She is going to be very much missed. Shelly Sollars from Safety-Service will be Evelyn's replacement and the Chief is looking forward to working with Shelly. In 2020-2021 the Chief does not anticipate any retirements.

In 2020, the Chief discussed replacing the hoses and nozzles on the fire trucks. They do a great job but there is better technology. A large diameter hose provides thousands of gallons of water per minute. The City of Rocky River is fortunate that it has a very good water system and that has been reflected in the ISO rating. Other than the fire truck, the biggest project to take on is SCBA purchases. These are air packs the firefighters wear on their backs when encountering IDLH environments. Chief Lenart will be applying for a FEMA Fire Grant in the amount of \$225,000 - \$250,000. Rocky River would need to pay 10% of that.

Chief Lenart said that 2020 started out as a very busy flu season early in the year. The station had already hit 100 runs over the same time in 2019 and at the same time COVID-19 rolled in. The volume of runs were cut in half. There has not been a reduction in the billing yet because of how insurance companies do not want to pay and drag it all out. Chief Lenart stated that the billing company is worth every cent they are paid. Life Force Management has been very good

to the City of Rocky River and very good for the department. The runs did fall off and he expects his revenue to decrease. For the year in 2020, revenue was projected at \$560,000. Currently it looks like the year will finish up at \$455,000, so at a \$100 – \$110,000 decrease. The fire department is seeing many COVID patients right now. The runs for the month of November were almost an all-time high at over 300 runs. The ambulances are going quite often. The mutual aid will probably be down. The Chief has had six positive COVID employees within the fire department this year. Four men were lost on one shift. The department has done all kinds of advance steps as in using electro static sprayers twice a day, rescue squads are disinfected after every run, and everyone wears a N95 mask, face shields and gowns when there is a red flag call. The department is fortunate that it has only had six so far and the department was able to manage. Three of the employees were a-symptomatic and three were very sick with two of them still not having their sense of taste or smell back. The medical directors do not see the virus as getting any better anytime soon. The medical directors think the infection will spread and they do not know if the vaccine will get out in time to slow the infection spread down with the winter months coming.

- Mr. O'Donnell asked what the cause of the Hilliard Blvd. fire was. Chief Lenart said he has never been given a cause on that fire. The Fire Marshall left it as undetermined and he thinks the insurance companies are all pointing fingers at each other due to trades doing a lot of finger pointing. There was so much destruction; the Chief did not think they would be able to find the cause. This was the largest fire in Cuyahoga County this year and was the largest fire ever in the City of Rocky River. It was a learning experience for everyone. It did go exceptionally well and the firefighters did all the right things. That was a \$10,500,000 fire loss and on Friday of that same week notice was received that the department moved from an ISO Class 4 to an ISO Class 2.

Mr. Hunt thanked the Chief and stated that he always looks forward to getting the Fire Department update. It is much appreciated and thanked Chief Lenart for his service.

Safety Services

The Service Division and Capital Improvements Division, represented by Director Snyder, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Shepherd.

Mr. Shepherd discussed the four-page handout reflecting the summary of the major capital improvements anticipated for 2021.

The Safety-Service Department consists of three full-time employees in City Hall. The rest of the Service Department has 49 full-time employees, which is two less than last year. There are two current vacancies that have not been filled in 2020 primarily because of budget concerns and COVID. It is questionable that these positions will be filled in 2021. There were no major retirements. Shelley Sollars, who is the Public Works Coordinator, is transferring to the Fire Department this December and this position will be filled.

The first category is Capital Expenditures Major Requests: This is interesting because the list of items totaling \$905,000 were under the budget for 2020, none of which were purchased. The 2020 expenditures totaling \$1,575,000 were not purchased this year. This shows there has been

a reaction to budget concerns because of COVID and as discussed Capital Projects are more difficult to turn around because there is bidding processes, engineering and all types of preliminary work and approval, so it doesn't make sense to hold back.

Major Capital Expenditures show Sewer Rehabilitation including Morewood Pkwy - water main, sewer, resurface; Malvern/Telbir - water main, resurface; Erie/Fairhill/Nelson Park - water main and resurface.

Capital Pavement is the Wooster resurfacing from Wooster Pkwy to Carolyn; the 2021 Streets Program and Detroit/6A resurfacing of marginal/crosswalk improvements, which was just addressed by City Council.

Capital Sidewalk lists the projects pending.

Capital Land Improvement shows the Service Garage sewer/paving, tree lawns trees/public land improvements including tree lawn replacement on identified streets, landscape installments in the Hilliard median and landscape installments at Memorial Hall/Fuel tank replacement and the City Hall Marquee.

Capital Parks Improvement is the Shoreland Neighborhood Park, noting a pending grant award.

Capital Building which includes the City Hall elevator, City Hall entrance and the Memorial Hall generator.

Miscellaneous Capital lists crack and joint sealing, sewer televising and emergency sewer.

Outside Funding for 2021 – Projected Grants/Funding Awarded all listed

Grants/Funding Submitted or Planned – Grants listed

2020 Outside Funding Received totals \$359,580.50

Future Horizons Projects: over a long-term basis

- Oak/Collver waterline/sewer/resurfacing, 2022-2023
- Bradstreet's Landing (Interpretive Boardwalk/step revetment/parking lot/Spencer Creek/Shelter; 2022-2026
- Spencer Road sewer/resurfacing 2022
- Center Ridge (remaining signalization/resurfacing/right-of-way improvements, 2024-2026

Included in the information Council received, Director Snyder put together a flow chart for the Service Department. It shows the various departments within the Service Department and the lead man for each department. It consists of Signal, Streets, Rubbish 1, Rubbish 2, Parks, Sewer and Garage.

Director Snyder is optimistic about all the projects, but there were many projects in 2020. He considers what was accomplished with everything going on, very successful. He believes that

2021 will have many big projects also. There are big things in the works with Morewood Parkway, Bradstreet's Landing, the beginning phases of Center Ridge, paving of the marginal and crosswalks and paving of Wooster between Wooster Parkway and Carolyn. Director Snyder stated that it is great to be able to make these improvements in the midst of everything that is going on. This is a good team and things are getting done. Many of these projects going on are the first step. A budget does not mean that everything is going to get done, but are wish lists and planning tools. Keeping an eye on the city finances and how certain grant applications proceed comes into play to decide what ends up getting done.

- Mr. Klym asked about the Oak/Collver project and funding. Director Snyder said that the funding was held up. The city was not sure if the OPWC would fund it. The primary source of funding is a loan through OPWC. Once the project is complete, the city will pay that amount back over thirty years. The city discovered a couple months ago that the funding was coming through in the amount of about \$3,000,000. The city did continue with fieldwork and engineering and will begin this project next winter. Morewood will run 2021-2022 and Oak/Collver will be bid in December 2022 and construction April 2022 through July of 2023. The city will also receive funding from Cleveland Water for this project.
- Mr. Klym asked about the Wooster resurfacing moving on into Fairview Park. Mr. Snyder said that this is being funded by NOACA and also applied for a County 50/50 grant to cover a portion of it. The city will be receiving just over \$1,000,000 for the resurfacing of Wooster between Wooster Parkway and Carolyn. Mr. Snyder spoke with Fairview Park about the potential of continuing this to Lorain but it was not something Fairview Park could commit to at this time.
- Mr. Klym stated that the generator at Memorial Hall has been discussed for quite a while. The Mayor said the city has approximately \$240,000 banked from NOPEC that will be used for the generator at the Civic Center. Mr. Snyder has set up a contract with a firm for the engineering for that. They are working on the design and Mr. Snyder expects to see that after the first of the year. NOPEC is also opening up their grants and the city will apply for \$60,000 additional dollars for this as well. Mr. Klym asked if the idea behind the generator is to use the Civic Center as a shelter facility if needed. The generator will cover the Civic Center and Memorial Hall as a backup generator but with the potential of that being a Red Cross Facility.
- Mr. Snyder said that 264 trees were planted with only 45 trees were removed. The City has applied for a Tree City USA designation. The Urban Forest continues to grow. The addition of David Arendec as the Service Commission has done a lot for the service in the city. Just recently this past year a John Lauer, a new lead supervisor was brought in for the Parks Department. John is from Cleveland Heights and has been a great addition. The Parks Department is doing a good job and providing good service to the community.
- Mr. Shepherd asked about the refuse semi-tractor listed under major requests. This is a replacement of a 2001 semi-tractor. One of the great assets the city has is the transfer station and an important part of that is the ability to take refuse and yard waste out of the transfer station. The equipment there is running all the time. The transfer station made

four trips with leaves recently in one day. Having equipment that is reliable is very important.

- Another item is the fuel tank replacement. The fuel tanks on City Hall Campus are three years away from the warranty expiring. Once the warranty expires, all the liability falls upon the city. It is anticipated that these tanks will be replaced by above ground tanks at the Service Garage. There is approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel and unleaded gas. In an above ground system the city could have one single above ground system at the Service Garage that would be accessible for use by police, fire, service as well as the schools that currently use the tanks at City Hall. The cost on that would be less than \$200,000 where a major repair to the underground tanks could cost that in a second.
- Mr. O'Donnell asked if the city would be pulling tanks. Mr. Snyder said they would eventually need to be removed. It depends what is done with the area. He believes they can be stored underground for a period of time, but if anything ever needs to be done, they will need to be removed.
- Mr. Moran asked about the lifts at the transfer station. Mr. Snyder said there were some steel welds that broke on the refuse side recently and a contractor has made those repairs. The Service Garage staff does a good job with preventative maintenance at the transfer station. The yard waste side was checked at the same time.
- Mr. Moran asked about the Kubota's. Mr. Snyder said that evaluating refuse goes on all time. Mr. Snyder did not budget to replace any Kubota's this year. The city is always looking to pick the best piece of equipment. A Cushman unit does not offer heat or air conditioning. It does appear that Kubota's are the best piece of equipment out there. Mr. Snyder was able to have a new company do the outfitting to reduce the overall cost and it seems to be working out well at an overall reduced cost. The city has seven Kubota's that are functional. On any given day, there are 4-6 scooter drivers out. The Mayor added that Council is aware the city is always evaluating the refuse and recycling system in the city. The city has a very expensive system and the Mayor understands that the residents deeply value the way the refuse is picked up but it needs to be looked at closely. The city has engaged once again with the Cuyahoga Solid Waste Districts at what alternatives make sense for the community and what the cost associated with that is and continues doing projections. The cost of landfill and the cost of recycling being higher than throwing items in the landfill is very concerning and there is something wrong with that equation. The pressure is on to take a closer look. The Mayor applauds Rich for working with the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District. Council will be hearing in 2021 regarding potential alternatives and the cost associated with it.
- Mr. O'Donnell was around when the city switched from the Cushman to the Kubota and he supported that although he does not remember it being this expensive at \$30,000 each. He wonders if a pick-up truck would be a better option for that kind of price. Cushman's were \$13-\$14,000 each but there were issues with those being road worthy. They did not have what Rich has done for Kubota's. Cities that have a similar refuse pick up all use Kubota's now. The mechanics like the Kubota's because they are easier to repair. Base price on a Kubota is \$16,000. Part of the problem is the administration wants to evaluate

new options but once another piece of equipment is brought in it means different materials, different parts, etc. There is something to be said about redundancy.

- Mr. Klym agrees with the administration in continuing to evaluate how the city does trash removal because the City of Rocky River does it differently than most cities. Along those same lines, Mr. Klym would like electric vehicles to be evaluated and added to the fleet. Mr. Snyder has submitted a grant for charging stations that hopefully the city will receive. Mr. Klym is not seeing any electric vehicles in the budget and feels it is something the city needs to consider. The city should continue to monitor the impact on the environment within the city. Mr. Klym has mentioned in the past about idle lock ignition systems to help the vehicles idle less and help save fuel. Mr. Snyder is expecting the results for the grant for the charging station by mid-January. He is onboard trying out an electric vehicle. The Mayor said that one of the vehicles does have an idling management system on it. Mr. Klym said that he is talking about a different system that controls the amount of idling and controls the amount of power usage.

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Snyder for the presentation. Mr. O'Donnell also thanked the Mayor and asked her to extend Council's thanks to all the Directors for their hard work on the budget. This will conclude the Finance Committee Meeting and Mr. O'Donnell thanked everyone for their time. Mr. O'Donnell moved to close the Finance Committee Meeting, seconded by Mr. Shepherd.

Mr. Moran thanked Mr. O'Donnell. The outlines provided have been very thoughtful and complete. It continues to educate all of us. Thank you to Mayor Bobst for working with the Directors and thank you to Director Thomas for being here for all of us and being here for clarification. Thank you too to Director Snyder for all his hard work.

Vote: Mr. O'Donnell – aye Mr. Moran – aye Mr. Hunt – aye Mr. Shepherd - aye
4 ayes 0 nays **PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Michael P. O'Donnell, Chairman
Finance Committee

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council