

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 22, 2021

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. Moran

Absent: Mr. Klym

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

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Furry, that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of February 8th be waived, and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye
Furry – aye	Morris – aye	Moran – aye
6 ayes		0 nays

PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor updated Council regarding movement with federal and local funding that will potentially impact the city. In the proposed Federal Relief Package, there is a portion for state and local governments in the amount of \$350 billion. This is direct funding to communities of all sizes with the formula based on the per capita amount. This funding has flexibility for revenue losses that could be used for the Senior Center, Recreation Center, Rentals, etc. to cover some of the losses or at least strengthen fund balances. The criteria will be finalized by the Treasury Department by mid March. There is also a Federal Recovery Package with infrastructure money that the Mayor will keep Council informed on.

The Mayor discussed the State Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 proposed by the Governor. The House and Senate will review it and add modifications followed by a conference committee that will finalize the State Budget. Some of the highlights are: \$10,000,000 for local law enforcement for body cameras; \$8,000,000 to reduce violent crimes; and \$1,000,000 to support and enhance recruiting and hiring of peace officers. There will be approximately \$1 billion dollars in onetime investments: \$460,000,000 to small businesses. i.e. hospitality and lodging; \$20,000,000 for new businesses; \$450,000,000 for local communities broken down to \$250,000,000 to be used for broadband deployment and \$200,000,000 for key local infrastructure projects. The Transportation Budget has been released but the Mayor does not have the highlights. \$50,000,000 has also been set aside by the Governor to promote the state of Ohio for visitors, new business, etc.

A ReadyNotify was released last Friday with a gentle reminder regarding clearing snow off sidewalks. Thursday night all of the mains and secondary sidewalks were plowed by the city, but there were still

issues with some residential and commercial properties. The city received complaints that residents were not able to walk to their destinations.

The Mayor informed Council that the auditors are on site at City Hall and will be meeting in Council Chambers.

The Mayor is pleased to announce that the City of Rocky River was awarded the Tree City USA for the 36th year in a row. More notably than that, for the third year the city was awarded the Growth Award. This award is given by the Arbor Day Foundation for entities that go above and beyond the Tree City USA criteria. The City of Rocky River was one of those cities largely due to the Chamber of Commerce Tree Planting and Scavenger Hunt and the Oak Wilt Seminar/Workshop. Dave Arendec also received the “Tree Risk Assessment Qualification” by the International Society of Agriculture, which is a credential that Rich already holds. Congratulations to Dave, Rich and others for all of their great work.

Director Snyder discussed the two grants he is working on for the Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Director Snyder stated that in 2019 the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission released the Cuyahoga County Climate Action Change Program. As part of that, one of the ways to help is to increase Urban Canopy cover. Between 2011-2017, the City of Rocky River lost 4.8% of overall canopy cover. Rocky River has made strides and will continue with these two grants. The first grant is a partnership grant with Fairview Park and Westlake for planting approximately 50 trees at Tri-City Park. Fairview Park will submit the application along with materials supplied by Director Snyder. The requirement for this grant is at least 10% public match with the total cost of the grant being approximately \$30,000, which is about 50 trees. The second grant to the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission is to aide the city in attaining funds to plant trees at no cost to residents on private property. An area of need, based on the lack of tree canopy cover, includes the streets of Carmen, Dale, Forestview and Northview. The newly planted trees will be planted and monitored by the city for two years at a total project cost of \$33,000 along with a local match of \$7,000. The grant application deadline is this Friday with the award date of April 1st. If Council has questions, please call Director Snyder.

The Mayor noted that the 4.8% canopy loss was covered by the Plain Dealer in respect to Lakewood/Rocky River and much of that loss was on private property. At that time, there were significant storms including Super Storm Sandy, where the cities lost many large beautiful trees.

- Mr. Furry asked how much of the 4.8% is public verses private. The Mayor stated it is a significant amount on the private side. In the last five years, the city has planted over 1,200 trees with the free tree lawn program. Mr. Snyder said that the city lost 47 acres of total canopy coverage between 2011-2017. The city sits at 30.9% and the average for the county is 34.7%. The total possible canopy is 46.1% and the goal he would like to reach is 35%.

The Mayor stated that Bradstreet’s Landing steel sheeting is 70% completed. 3200 tons of aggregate will be delivered soon. QCI is releasing construction updates on a weekly/bi-weekly regarding Bradstreet’s Landing.

Bids were opened for the 6A Project, which is the Lake/Clifton/Blount/Beachcliff ODOT project. There is an apparent low bidder and a construction administrator bid that are being reviewed by ODOT and Michael MacKay, the city engineer.

Wally Pattison was named Senior Volunteer at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon last week. Mr. Pattison has contributed countless hours in countless ways to the Senior Center during this challenging time. A huge congratulations to Wally Pattison.

If anyone is seeking guidance on COVID vaccines, the Senior Center has been very successful in securing times and locations for individuals. Please contact Deb Huff or Candace Miele, the Social Worker at the Senior Center.

- Mr. Moran asked Director Snyder if the new arborvitae trees at Tri-City Park are included in the tree count. Director Snyder said they are included. Westlake, Fairview Park and Rocky River will all share in maintaining the trees at Tri-City Park. Mr. Moran mentioned that there is a tree damaged by the weather in the back southwest parking lot that needs attention.

LAW DEPARTMENT: Mr. O'Shea stated that a predator living on River Oaks Drive has moved away after receiving a restraining order signed by Judge John Russo. This case will be dismissed shortly.

The Mayor stated that the Development Code update continues. All of the comments will be drafted in a document and given to the Cuyahoga Planning Commission as well as City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Morris mentioned that she attended a Design Review Board Meeting this week and a Sushi Restaurant will be opening at the former Pearl of the Orient site.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PENDING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 8-21 **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF A PROPOSED SHORE STRUCTURE AND APPROVAL OF A LAKE ERIE SUBMERGED LANDLEASE FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR) ADJACENT TO PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 302-09-004 AT 21468 AVALON DRIVE, ROCKY RIVER, OHIO
3rd READING

Councilwoman Morris stated that this is an erosion control revetment and ODNR requires the City of Rocky River to give permission on the revetment work at this address. Mrs. Morris moved for passage of Resolution No. 8-21, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 9-21 **BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BROOKSIDE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. AS THE PRIME CONTRACT FOR LANDSCAPING OF THE POLICE STATION FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$106,710.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
3rd READING

Mr. Hunt said this has been discussed since the middle of January. This authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Brookside Construction Services for the landscaping at the new police station in the amount of \$106,710.00. Four bids were received and this was the lowest and best bid that included irrigation installation. The material received from Bowen indicated good references and Brookside performs good quality work. Mr. Hunt moved for passage of Ordinance No. 9-21, seconded by Mr.

Furry.

Vote: Hunt – aye
Furry – aye
6 ayes

Shepherd – aye
Morris – aye

O'Donnell – aye
Moran – aye
0 nays

PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 10-21

BY: THOMAS J. HUNT

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GDOT DESIGN LLC FOR FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE STATION FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$209,999.97 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”

2nd READING

Mr. Hunt stated that this will be discussed for two more weeks. This is the final bid package for the new Police Station. This is for the furniture, fixtures and equipment. Council discussed this at the last meeting and the contract amount is in the amount of \$199,999.97, which is below the estimate of \$255,000. The funds for this will be paid out of the Donations and Bequests Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-21

BY: MICHAEL P. O'DONNELL

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COSTS TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER FOR COLLECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO AND AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

1st READING

Mr. O'Donnell stated that this is a resolution to certify the special assessments on Exhibit A to the County Fiscal Officer for unpaid property maintenance costs as of December 31, 2020. The city has provided maintenance services for the three properties listed on Exhibit A. The owners have been billed these amounts but no payment has been received by the city totaling \$917.00. This will allow the city to collect this money by placing a lien on the individual property owners tax bill. If any payments are made, the resolution will need to be amended to reflect payment.

- Mr. Moran asked if these are the same properties as last year. Mr. Thomas concurred.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Mr. Moran stated that at next week's meeting Monique Smith, the new State Representative, will be in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council