

## CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 10, 2025

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

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. O'Boyle,  
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mr. Shipp

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Furry introduced Kathryn Kerber to discuss the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF)/Recreational Trails Program Grant. Ms. Kerber held a meeting prior to the City Council Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. and she would like to give City Council an overview of this evening's meeting. Ms. Kathryn Kerber, Director of Planning and Community Development, is working on applying for a grant for a trail and is looking for public input. Ms. Kerber explained during her power point presentation that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund is up to \$500,000 or 75% of the project cost for long-distance trails and connectors and the Recreational Trails Program Grant is for shorter trails, links and loop trails up to \$150,000 or 80% of the project cost. Ms. Kerber will present this to the Parks and Recreation Commission Thursday morning and to Senior Council next Wednesday. The initial cost estimate for the trail is \$200,000. This project qualifies for both grants and Ms. Kerber will apply for both with the same application in the amount of \$150,000.

- Mr. Furry asked how this trail qualifies for a long-distance trail. Ms. Kerber explained that it does qualify for a long-distance trail according to the grant specifications and is also a good connector trail for the COTF.
- Mr. Furry asked about the time frame. Ms. Kerber said these grants can take a while to get the contract signed so there is some flexibility in that. Once the contract is signed, there are 15 months to finish the project. Mr. Snyder said that it should be implemented in 2026 or 2027 based on their fiscal year.

### MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Sindelar that the reading of the minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Legislative Meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

|       |              |                 |               |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Vote: | Hunt – aye   | Gallagher – aye | O'Boyle – aye |
|       | Morris – aye | Sindelar – aye  | Furry - aye   |
|       | 6 – ayes     |                 | 0 - nays      |

**PASSED**

### MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor wished Ms. Kerber congratulations on completing the first of three meetings regarding the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund/Recreational Trails Program Grant. A big thank you to

Director Snyder for the recent repaving investment on that trail which is a positive for the work that Kathryn is doing now.

The Mayor respectfully asked City Council to suspend the 72-hour notification rule and place Ordinance No. 9-25 on this evening's agenda. There was a catastrophic failure of one of the refuse packers. This purchase is in the budget to replace this year but not until later in the year. Unfortunately, it is either a new engine or a new refuse packer. Director Snyder found a new Leach Refuse Collector that is on the ground and has been bid through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing and meets the city's specifications. The administration expects it to be read three times prior to passage.

The Mayor discussed the city's bid limit. The Ohio Revised Code Section 9.17 became effective October 3, 2023, and the city follows the state bid maximums for competitive bidding. Prior to the above date, the amount was \$50,000; effective October 3, 2023, the state increased the bid limit to \$75,000 with escalators included. The bid limit is now \$77,250, which includes the escalator. Each year there will be an escalator of 3% to keep up with inflation.

The Mayor reported that the city's barn is full of salt. Service Commissioner Sam Rosario is making sure to order salt well in advance and is receiving shipments. The City of Rocky River is maxed out thanks to all the deliveries.

The Mayor continued last week's discussion regarding the Hilliard Road Bridge. Director Snyder is having a committee meeting this Wednesday regarding the bridge. Currently, the estimated cost for the Hilliard Road Bridge is projected to be \$87 million for a full tear down and rebuild. There is an alternate for \$81 million. This will be funded by Cuyahoga County and ODOT. The city will pay a small portion of this as there could be some improvements or changes by the city at the west end of the bridge. The Mayor will have more of an update in two weeks after Rich meets with the committee.

The Mayor announced that Director Snyder is finalizing the speed cushion acquisition for a section on Beachcliff, Northview Road between Center Ridge and Hilliard Blvd. and East Shoreland. These will be considered demonstration projects. The city crews will put them in and take them out. The city will see how effective they are but believe they will be extremely effective. The sets will arrive soon. The city also has Street Calming, the neighborhood traffic calming program that was designed by Rich and Chief Lichman. It has been updated slightly to reduce the traffic flow numbers, so the city can capture more streets within that program.

The Mayor announced two programs that are being held this month. The Great Estates Program will be held this Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall in the Civic Center. Guest speakers will be Judge Gallagher, Brian O'Malley from the County and Joseph Rosalina and Gabriella Russo Rosalina will be speaking from an attorney's perspective on the legal implications. There are 100 individuals registered currently. This has been on the city's website along with a ReadyNotify that was sent out. All are welcome to attend. The second program is the Heritage Home Loan Program which will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Letters have gone out to residents and the Mayor has received some great feedback from residents who are pleased that the Heritage Home Loan Program is now available for residents. This program is through the Cleveland Restoration Society and is a reduced home loan product along with technical assistance, if needed, for homes that are 50+ old. Today, this program makes a lot of sense as there is a great deal of investment along with many more homes that are 50+ in the city. A big thank you to the Cleveland Restoration Society and the banks that support this program.

The Mayor announced that Chief George Lichman received a wonderful accolade. Chief Lichman has been named "Reviewer of the Year for 2024" from the Library Journal. The Library Journal is a journal that librarians review to decide what books will be purchased for the library for borrowing purposes. Chief Lichman mainly reviews crime novels. Chief Lichman works in law enforcement, fighting crime during the day and reads it in the evening. He does a great job and holds sessions at the public library.

- Mrs. Morris asked if there would be a multi-use trail along the Hilliard Road Bridge. The Mayor and Director Snyder said yes on the south side. The city has been talking to ODOT and NOACA regarding funding.

**LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE**

President Furry said that as the Mayor explained, Ordinance No. 9-25 was walked in this evening. Mr. Furry moved to waive the 72-hour notification rule, seconded by Mrs. Morris and Mr. Sindelar.

|       |              |                 |               |               |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Vote: | Hunt – aye   | Gallagher – aye | O’Boyle – aye |               |
|       | Morris – aye | Sindelar – aye  | Furry - aye   |               |
|       | 6 – ayes     |                 | 0 - nays      | <b>PASSED</b> |

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF FAIRVIEW PARK AND ROCKY RIVER REGARDING THE STORY ROAD AND ELDORADO DRIVE CULVERT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this has been discussed for several weeks and there has been little to no discussion. Mr. Sindelar moved for passage of Resolution No. 1-25, seconded by Mr. Furry and Mr. Hunt.

|       |              |                 |               |               |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Vote: | Hunt – aye   | Gallagher – aye | O’Boyle – aye |               |
|       | Morris – aye | Sindelar – aye  | Furry - aye   |               |
|       | 6 – ayes     |                 | 0 - nays      | <b>PASSED</b> |

**ORDINANCE NO. 2-25** **BY: PAUL SHIPP**  
**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A TWO (2) YEAR AGREEMENT FOR FULL SERVICE VENDING WITH METROPOLITAN VENDING COMPANY FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

President Furry said that Councilman Shipp has discussed this for several weeks. The city makes a little profit from the vending machine company. This is more to fulfill the need to purchase snacks while at the Recreation Center and Ice-Skating Rink.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW OUR AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) FOR THE NOPEC 2025 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this is to renew an agreement with NOPEC to provide the city with grant funding or reimbursement for energy efficiency and energy infrastructure updates. This program incentivizes the city to make more efficient, green changes and NOPEC reimburses the city for these projects based on how many residents are in their program. This will have one more read.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF FAIRVIEW PARK AND ROCKY RIVER REGARDING THE CENTER RIDGE ROAD GATEWAY PROJECT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Councilman Sindelar pointed out that there are several ordinances between the City of Rocky River and the City of Fairview Park. Mr. Sindelar said this shows a good job on both administrations that the cities can work together to get things done for their residents. This resolution refers to the Center Ridge Gateway Project. This has been worked on for some time and it is slowly coming to fruition. The biggest thing to note is that the focus is on making the area more welcoming, including work on traffic signals to make it a more walkable area. Mr. Sindelar added that the grant funding is 55% of the project. Mr. Sindelar said that it is the administration doing their due diligence and doing a great job of bringing the tax dollars back into the city. This will have two more reads and discussions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF FAIRVIEW PARK AND ROCKY RIVER REGARDING THE RESURFACING OF HIGLEY ROAD, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this is in line with what he is discussing. This project is in the 2025 Paving Program and in coordination with Fairview Park. It is infrastructure that is needed and it handles not only concrete and curb repairs but brings the area into ADA Compliance which is very important for residents at large and how they travel through the city.

**ORDINANCE NO. 6-25** **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER REGARDING STORM WATER POLLUTION EDUCATION FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH TERM, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mrs. Morris said that this MOU for twelve months will not exceed \$6,000. The CSWCD provides important Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) programs that are required by the current municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit for the City of Rocky River. Criteria for the PIPE Program is to identify stormwater pollution concerns, have measurable goals, reach a variety of audiences, actively involves potentially affected stakeholder groups and evaluates the program's success. All of this must be reported to the Ohio EPA annually as part of the MS4 Annual Report.

**ORDINANCE NO. 7-25** **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER REGARDING STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH TERM, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mrs. Morris stated that along with the Education piece, the city also receives storm water pollution prevention technical assistance for a 12-month term at a cost not to exceed \$13,080.00. Cuyahoga SWCD assists the city with inspection of all stormwater control measures for all construction projects with a disturbance greater than 1 acre. They will also provide guidance for any projects less than one acre in size as requested by the city. These activities are outlined as part of the Minimum Control Measures (MCM) section as MCM 4 and MCM 5 for the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Also, please note this MOU includes an option to renew in 2026 at the same rate. Services offered are planning, technical landowner follow up, administrative support including an annual report, project file management, mapping of facility locations, data and assistance with MS4 reporting as requested. This is a helpful program as it assists the city in maintaining its EPA status and assists with larger projects when needed.

- Mr. Snyder added that they are required to assist the city with anything where there is a disturbance greater than 1 acre, but the city utilizes their services for less than an acre. They are being extra helpful

with the Jan Dell property improvements. The city felt that with their high level of expertise this would be a great opportunity for them to get an extra set of eyes on that improvement project for the city. The Mayor added that they follow up on projects also. They want to be sure that the measurers stay compliant. They keep logs of all the times they are out and inspecting detention and retention from the Hamlets to Center Ridge. It is a very close relationship with a price of slightly over \$13,000. It is an amazing MOU.

**RESOLUTION NO. 8-25**

**BY: PAUL SHIPP**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND HER DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND AND/OR THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT FOR A SENIOR CENTER TRAIL  
1<sup>st</sup> READING**

President Furry said this was discussed by Director Kerber at the beginning of this meeting. This will have three full reads.

**ORDINANCE NO. 9-25**

**BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE (1) NEW 25 CUBIC YARD LEACH REFUSE COLLECTOR FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$279,950.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"  
1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mrs. Gallagher thanked Council for waiving the 72-hour of notification. The Mayor briefly gave background on this in the Mayor's Report. The city's 2009 Leach Refuse Collector with 16,550 hours on the engine and 147,258 miles on the chassis has experienced serious mechanical issues involving the compression and combustion to the cooling system which requires a whole new engine. After assessing the issues, the Lead Mechanic Sinito does not recommend the replacement of the engine due to other significant issues with rust on the frame, suspension beam, leak in air cooler, exhaust leak and rear brake replacement. This ordinance allows the Service Department to purchase a new 25-cubic yard Leach Refuse Collector from Best Equipment Company, at a cost not to exceed \$279,950. The procurement is through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program. It is important for this collector to be replaced as soon as possible and Best Equipment has the above unit available for delivery pending the approval of this purchase.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked what year the new collector is. Mr. Snyder said it is 2024. Mrs. Gallagher asked what would become of the old collector. Mr. Snyder said it will most likely be sold in as is condition on gov.deals.
- Mr. Furry asked if it is the same size Packard? Mr. Snyder said that this will be smaller as the 29 yards are becoming an obsolete size because they cannot be run on the roads when they are full.
- Mr. Sindelar said that it is almost always cost prohibited to replace an engine unless you are restoring a classic car. Mr. Snyder said this has almost 150,000 miles on the chassis as well with a lot of rust.
- Mr. Hunt asked if this should be passed sooner than in three full reads. Mr. Furry said that he'd like to wait until the next Legislative Meeting to pass this ordinance.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** President Furry said there will not be a City Council Meeting next Monday in honor of President's Day. The next City Council Meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sindelar congratulated the Rocky River Girl's Basketball Team for winning the inaugural conference championship and celebrated by cutting down the nets. Congratulations to Jamey Pfahl, head coach of the Girl's Varsity Basketball Team.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Mehul Gala, 18451 East Shoreland Ave. began by saying he has been a cyclist for over twenty years and has lived in Rocky River for the last eight. The Rocky River Green Team's Safe Streets Committee introduced him to the efforts to educate the local government about the need for improved cycling infrastructure in this community. Through this group, he has also learned a lot about other sustainable programs in the area and met some of the nicest people in our community. Additionally, we have created a chapter of Bike Cleveland called Bike Rocky River. Bike Rocky River and the Green Team's Safe Street Committee have met with Mayor Bobst, Director Snyder, and Director Kerber to discuss improving cyclists' and pedestrians' access to our city's roads. He attended last week's city council meeting and listened to Trevor Hunt and Matt Hils speak about the proposed Lake Road-Clifton Boulevard Corridor Improvements. It has gotten him so excited about what this city is open to as far as modernizing and beautifying this fantastic city. Matt did a great job of communicating the benefits of bicycle infrastructure in communities like ours. Those benefits include improved safety for those not in a car, a stronger local economy through connected tourism, improved physical, mental, and emotional health, a healthy environment, and above all, better non-vehicular access to community assets. Big projects like this should face extreme financial scrutiny. Additionally, once-in-a-lifetime projects like this should not be dismissed either. The \$13.6 million project spanning Lakewood and Rocky River requires our community to contribute only \$540k. That is less than 4% of the total cost of the project. What a value to modernize, safeguard, and beautify a part of our city. My friend Matt Miller, manager at Eddy's Bike Shop in Rocky River, Ohio, shared a quote from Brent Toderian: "You can't justify a bridge by the number of people swimming across the river." The quote highlights a crucial point: you shouldn't base the need for infrastructure on the current low usage. If the lack of that very resource is the reason usage is currently low, few people might bike along these roads because there's no safe and dedicated space for them. Justifying the cost based on the number of current cyclists would be a flawed approach. Instead, the focus should be on the potential demand and engagement this new infrastructure will unlock. For these reasons, he strongly supports this and any other similar project in this city and encourages the city to move forward as presented. He's excited to see this project's positive impact on our city. Thank you.

Mr. Furry adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

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David W. Furry  
President of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council