

**CITY OF ROCKY RIVER**  
**March 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, Mr. Shipp,  
Mr. Sindelar, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Furry

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION:**

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Morris that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	Shipp – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – abstain	Furry - aye	
6 – ayes	1 – abstain	0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Hunt that the reading of the minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	Shipp – aye
Morris – abstain	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
6 – ayes	1 – abstain	0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

The Mayor discussed that the State Legislature is working on Senate Bill 104, an opposition testimony will happen on Wednesday. This Bill limits the authority of local governments to regulate short term rental, Airbnb’s and VRBO’s. This Council along with the administration worked long and hard on the city’s legislation which became model legislation for other communities. The City of Rocky River does not allow short term rentals meaning 30 days or less in residential areas. It is different if there is office zoning. The city does require rental inspections. The city controls it and the city has not had any issues since the time Council passed that legislation. Enforcement has been non-existent because people have paid attention to that. This Bill causes a great deal of concern. The Mayor imagines that these legislators have not had Airbnb’s next to them in their neighborhoods because they can get out of control with people coming and going at all hours and throwing parties. The City of Bay Village had a couple of awful situations. The City of Rocky River’s situations were not as extreme, but did have issues in Ward 1 and Ward 4 that were very disruptive to the neighborhoods. The administration is looking at this closely and providing feedback. The Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers are taking an aggressive approach to oppose this legislation or getting it modified. Please assert your feelings about it as Council worked hard to establish that legislation and the city would like to see it remain in place.

The Mayor congratulated Director Snyder and Maureen Nakonek for being the recipients of the 2025 Community Recycling Awareness Grant for \$6,000.00 from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Congratulations.

The Mayor mentioned that the street sweeper has been circulating through Rocky River for the last three weeks. Streets like Center Ridge have had sidewalks cleared of debris along with clearing the curb gutters, aprons and bridges, et cetera.

The Mayor announced that the nets for pickle ball and tennis are going up within the next two weeks.

The Senior Center is hosting many festivities this Friday for St. Patrick's Day. There is a concert being given by the new Barleycorn at 1:30 p.m. and a luncheon prior to the concert.

The Mayor had an opportunity to be at the School Board Meeting where Dr. Schirg's contract was approved as the new superintendent for Rocky River Schools. He will be starting later in the summer, but he will be attending various meetings in Rocky River. The Mayor extended a welcome to him from City Council and the administration and he immediately and enthusiastically said that he cannot wait to be working with the Mayor and the city on things that benefit the community and residents.

- President Furry had a question regarding the short-term rentals. Does this conflict with the city's home rule status. The Mayor responded that that is exactly what it does. They want to limit municipalities authority to set any restrictions for the operation of Airbnb's, VRBO's and short-term rentals. What the city is asserting on is that Ohio is a home rule state and Ohio should remain a home rule state. There have been many affronts to home rule status, this being the latest. This was attempted once before and it was resoundingly defeated and removed, but it is back again.
- Mrs. Morris asked what bill it was again. The Mayor reiterated that it is Senate Bill 104.
- The Mayor said that Nickie Antonio, the State Senator representing Rocky River would love to hear from anyone on the issue. The Mayor has talking points that might be helpful if anyone is interested.

**LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RECEIVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,000.00 AND ADMINISTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Hunt said this has been discussed for a couple of weeks. This resolution would authorize the receipt of grant funds in the amount of \$132,000.00 that would be part of a \$165,000.00 Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This would be for a consultant to work in conjunction with a larger scale similar Comprehensive Safety Action Plan from the County to look at the City of Rocky River and see recommendations to improve on safety, traffic, pedestrian and bike safety. This will be read for a third time in a couple of weeks.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Sindelar moved to amend Ordinance No. 11-25 by substitution of the exhibit to include the reimbursement of \$401,160.00 from the Cleveland Division of Water's Suburban Water Main Renewal Program.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp – aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 11-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC., FOR THE PARKLANE DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$942,851.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said that the breakdown of the costs was discussed last week. There are issues at this location with the catch basins. Two catch basins will be replaced and six catch basins will be adjusted to the grade of the street and the final course of asphalt. Mr. Sindelar described the importance of this due to the age of the infrastructure and the difficulty as casings for these are no longer available. In the continued obligation of keeping infrastructure going and the foresight of in-depth repairs, it is a matter of cost and a matter of getting it done correctly. Mr. Sindelar said that 25 contractors were asked to bid and only four were received. Fabrizi Trucking has done a good job for the city and historically has been responsive. Mr. Sindelar said this will be read for a third time in two weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 12-25** **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**  
**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF STORM AND SANITARY SEWERS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this was introduced and discussed last week. Fabrizi is a familiar name to the city. This is an annual budget item which has been appropriated for emergencies that may happen. This is an agreement with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving for emergency repair of storm and sanitary sewers not to exceed \$150,000. This amount is lower than it has been in previous years.

**ORDINANCE NO. 13-25** **BY: DAVID W. FURRY**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADJUSTMENT OF SEWER RATES PAID TO THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICES FOR THE VALLEYVIEW SEWER DISTRICT**  
**1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mr. Furry said this is an annual ordinance and dates back to 1956. This service is for approximately 102 homes east of Wooster. These residences are serviced by the City of Lakewood as it is less expensive to send to Lakewood than to build a pump station to send to the City of Rocky River's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lakewood's sewer rates are higher than Rocky River so the city subsidizes these

homeowners' rates, so everyone in Rocky River pays the same mcf. Mr. Furry is expecting three full reads.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if it is 102 homes. Mr. Furry said it is somewhere north of 100. The Mayor explained the charge is based on water usage. The Mayor said that the City of Rocky River charges \$38.00 an mcf to residents. The City of Lakewood charges \$118.35 per mcf. Mr. Furry added that the City of Rocky River's rates will be increasing sometime soon, but not to the amount of the City of Lakewood.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **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"**

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said that because of the name of a consent agenda, it foreshadows the Council to consent to this agenda so he will not go in depth on this. This has been discussed for several weeks and there is a theme with the work with Fairview Park. The Gateway Project will be coming from the west to make the entrances more welcoming and a less sterile environment by the commercial areas.

##### **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"**

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said that similarly this has been discussed for several weeks with little discussion. This is another project with the City of Fairview Park and costs are distributed or broken up based upon the percentage of property that lies within the boundaries.

##### **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**

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mrs. Morris said this is a requirement for the Ohio EPA as part of the MS4 annual report. As it states the city can participate in the P.I.P.E. Program which is the Public Involvement and Public Education at the cost of \$6,000.00 a year. This is an annual ordinance.

##### **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**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mrs. Morris stated that this is a companion to 6-25. This allows the city to participate in an agreement with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District regarding storm water pollution prevention and technical assistance at a cost of \$13,080.00. This can be renewed at the same cost next year. This is helpful to the city for property greater than 1 acre and technical guidance for those less than 1 acre. They most recently have inspected Jan Dell and are assisting in consultation with the Senior Center.

**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**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mr. Shipp said this has been discussed several times. Ms. Kathryn Kerber addressed City Council about this initially. This is to authorize an application for funding via grant for the trail behind the Senior Center.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Furry moved to pass Resolution Nos. 4-25, 5-25 and 8-25 and Ordinance Nos. 6-25 and 7-25 seconded by Mrs. Morris and Mr. O'Boyle.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
7 – ayes		0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** President Furry discussed the Liquor Permit on Petro To Go which is the Hilliard Shell Station at Wooster and Hilliard. The gentleman had 50% interest and now will have 100% interest. He was an existing owner. Chief Lichman performed a records search for any issues. City Council approved this Liquor License request.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** President Furry wished Councilman Sindelar a happy birthday.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Mehul Gala, 18451 East Shoreland Ave. asked about Resolution 10-25. He appreciates this being proposed and is excited that this is being moved forward in the community. He is asking how this will work with other things that are in play right now like the Urban STK and the Chief of Police's Traffic Calming Program. He said it would be nice to see some of this money used to some demonstrative types of research were the city tries some things out and pilots some things on a small scale to see what works on a larger scale.

- The Mayor said that first scope work needs to be developed for the consultant to provide the study. The city will align with what the County is doing as they are providing some of this work. On this end, everything the city is doing needs to be a part of that plan locally. The city has already invested in several things and wants to see it leveraged with this plan. The full scope is yet to be determined but it will align with what the County is doing and the city will take into

consideration all the things the city is doing with OHM, the Neighborhood Traffic Calming, et cetera.

Mr. Gala thanked the Mayor for letting them be a part of this process every other week. It is fun to see how all this comes together. Mr. Gala thanked everybody.

**Ms. Lisa Judge, Volunteer on the Bike Rocky River Leadership Committee:** Bike Rocky River is a Chapter of Bike Cleveland and is their newest chapter, one of seven. She has been a resident of Rocky River since 2012 in Ward 3 and a cyclist through Rocky River over 20 years. In the summer of 2024, Bike Rocky River embarked on a Community Survey. The survey was distributed via flyers with QR Codes on Community Bulletin Boards, Bike Shops, Community Events and Community Social Media Forums. Between May and September, the survey generated 309 unique responses. 88% of the respondents were Rocky River residents with all four wards represented equally. Ward 3 had the most responses and the least responses from Ward 2. In the survey the top reasons people responded to riding a bike in Rocky River were for health and exercise, then fun and social reasons. The question of what prevents you from biking in Rocky River more often, the top two answers were the absence of bike lanes and/or paths followed by not comfortable riding on the road. What would influence you to ride more in Rocky River, respondents answered more dedicated bike lanes separated from motor traffic on major streets followed by more paved off-street paths and a close third, more identified bike routes. They believe these data points and qualitative features of the responses show a strong interest and pent-up demand for safer cycling options in Rocky River such as the Clifton/Lake Project. Thank you for listening.

**Robert Organ, Lakewood Resident:** Mr. Organ said he primarily rides his bike for transportation and does not drive unless he absolutely must. There are several businesses in Rocky River that he would love to come and visit. He spoke in support of the Clifton/Lake Road Project and moving forward with this project. He feels that a lot of cyclists probably would not use that regularly because it is on the edge of the city and not connected to anything else, but he feels this is a once in a generation opportunity to improve the bike infrastructure here in Rocky River and Lakewood. As this is done, it would make it so much easier for the two communities to be more integrated than they already are. There are a lot of people that live in Lakewood that enjoy businesses here in Rocky River and likewise. Mr. Organ use to teach in Rocky River and coached Cross Country and Wrestling and having the kids out on the streets running for their workouts was stressful at times. He would love it if he could get to Rocky River more easily to frequent many of the businesses. The Lake/Clifton connector is the first step in making that a reality. He urges Council to push that forward.

**Cassandra Organ, Lakewood Resident:** Mrs. Organ serves as a Board Member of Bike Lakewood, one of the other chapters of Bike Cleveland and is a friend of the awesome group of residents of Bike Rocky River. She wants to share her support for the Lake/Clifton connector project. She hopes to celebrate the teamwork between the two cities in creating a safe multi-use path to connect our communities and make it easier for people to join in active transportation. This important project is mutually beneficial to both cities as residents can more safely travel outside of a car to the many wonderful amenity shops, restaurants and other local businesses that both of these great cities have to offer. She rarely drives and they are not alone in that. This provides more equitable access to things in our communities. It doesn't feel safe to bike to Rocky River due to a lack of bike lanes and so much traffic that it feels scary at times to share the road on a bicycle. This project takes valuable steps in changing that and improving the infrastructure. Undoubtedly it will also encourage many others to choose to travel along this dedicated separate path that helps to connect and protect our most vulnerable road users. Thank you for all the efforts being put into this project. She is excited to hear more as it progresses and see everything put into action.

**Ryan Reihm, Lakewood Resident:** His statement was read by Mrs. Organ. He is a member of Bike Lakewood and rides his bike everywhere and is very active at events that are planned with Bike Lakewood. He wrote that as a neighbor and former resident it is in the best interest of Rocky River's small businesses to have a safe route from Lakewood to Rocky River. Right now, his choices are limited as the Detroit Bridge can be anywhere from safe for a cyclist to outright hostile. Clifton is awkward and drivers are prone to speeding across it. The initial purpose of this bridge was a highway. With 90 a stone throws away, it is no longer needed. This is a great opportunity to open Rocky River to Lakewood residents looking to bike to its businesses. Less cars means less pollution, less noise and fewer parking problems.

**Mr. David Nash:** is on the Board of the Rocky River Green Team and a co-founder of Bike Rocky River but more importantly he has lived in Rocky River for almost three generations. He feels that the Lake/Clifton connector is a once in three generation opportunity and a relatively small investment given all the other sources of funding for the Lake/Clifton Bridge replacement and connector project. He feels it is a no-brainer. He appreciates the collaboration with Council and the administration in listening to us, project participating, giving advice and educating them on how to work together in a productive fashion. Is there a timetable for taking up legislation for this project and if so, what is it and how can they help the city go through that process. The Mayor responded there is not a time frame currently. The administration has spent the last few weeks confirming the funding. There were a lot of changes federally and in confirming funding she received one answer from NOACA and a different answer from the County. As soon as the administration can determine what that is, then it will be up to this Council to make that decision and then move forward. Mr. Nash asked if having this Council act is the last legislation needed to have the project move forward. The Mayor said that Lakewood has approved their \$1.4 million and the County has and the City of Rocky River heard most recently that the funding is secured and here with no issues, but she also heard that the funding remains to be seen. When legislation is drafted to support this, there will be caveats in the legislation regarding if the other funding doesn't come through. Mr. Nash said he understands and understands the uncertainty in today's political environment. Director Snyder heard most recently that the money is there and the Mayor has made a call to NOACA to confirm. Mr. Nash said that during the County's presentation in February, the timetable to go out for bids is in August of this year. That is also Director Snyder's understanding. The Mayor stated that this project is a very small portion of Rocky River. The City of Rocky River shares the bridge narrowing and then a very small portion of the trail which goes past the Marian Ramp. The Mayor received notification from ODOT that the Marian Ramp is in the queue for a full rehab or more likely a removal in 2033. The city will repeat the Marian Ramp studies, but that is a bit of a game changer for the city. The city is doing engineering 4 or 5 years from now for a project that would take place in about 2033. The Mayor said that these are all the considerations and it is more than \$.5 million in investment in a very small stretch where the city may be potentially taking down a ramp with many marginals, et cetera. The Mayor said it could still work but it is a consideration. Mr. Nash said that his understanding of the County's plan is that the current connector that is in the drawings will work regardless of whether the Marian Ramp is there or not. The Mayor said that it goes around the ramp. There is probably a more seamless way to put it in if the ramp wasn't there, but that is years from now. There are other things that must happen when the ramp comes down in terms of that intersection or that terminus in the city. The Mayor is happy to speak to Mr. Nash after the meeting. Mr. Nash wants to be sure he hears the Mayor clearly. He hopes he is not hearing that we are going to wait until 2033. The Mayor said it must be designed in a way that the city is not throwing good money after bad. She does not think spending \$.5 million on something that will be ripped up in a few years would be wise. Mr. Nash thinks that in his point of view and the stakeholders he represents, doing the \$.5 million is a no-brainer to get this project started and eventually the multi-purpose trail going to the western border. We know it won't be soon.

Mr. Furry said that there will not be a City Council Meeting next Monday in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The next meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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David W. Furry  
President of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council